



District 142

Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream • CommutAir

Weekly Update



The Update Message from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers representing Flight Attendants in the 2339 Local Lodges

Friday, June 20, 2008

Continental and United Announce Alliance –



Less than two months after Continental Airlines rebuffed United Airlines' merger overtures, the two airlines have announced a comprehensive global alliance. The airlines issued statements indicating they developed teams to achieve significant cooperation on frequent flier programs, lounges, facility utilization, information technology and procurement. The airlines' statement read, "This work was assisted by the efficiency opportunities identified and relationships developed during the parties' earlier merger discussions." Specifics of the cooperative agreement have not been released. The Machinists Union has contacted both carriers demanding all details of the agreement so we can assess the impact on workers at both airlines. "Alliances like this are just mergers on the installment plan," said IAM General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. "Integrating programs and technology today will make

it easier for the airlines to complete a merger tomorrow. The IAM will remain vigilant in our fight to block mergers that hurt employees."

IAM / Continental Micronesia Airlines Update – The Company announced on June 13, 2008, that it will be closing Saipan and suspending flights out of Guam to Bali, Hong Kong and Manila. Since the announcement, the Union has been in discussions with the Company concerning this reduction in flights. The Company advised the Union that it will be offering EOP (Early Out) and COLA (Company offered leaves) programs. They also said that bid line hours will be reduced. Management will be conducting meetings explaining the downsizing, reduced hours, and offered programs starting June 16, 2008. Your Local Committee will be in attendance. We will keep you advised of all future developments.

ExpressJet Airlines Update – As a result of the carriers June 11, 2008 request for cost reductions from all labor groups on June 13, 2008, we sent a detailed request for pertinent financial information. This will allow for a more appropriate and hopefully productive discussion. We are awaiting a response from the carrier regarding our information request.

Good News Regarding the National Pension Plan's Funded Status – In August 2006, President Bush signed into law the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA'06), the most significant legislation affecting pension plans since the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Beginning this year, each plan must report its funding zone - Red Zone, Yellow Zone or Green Zone - to the IRS. The trustees of Red and Yellow zone plans must take corrective action to improve the plan's financial health and must tell participants, contributing employers and sponsoring unions about their condition. **Green zone plans, like the IAM National Pension Plan (NPP), are judged to be in excellent financial health. And while we are not required to report that to you, we thought you would like to hear the good news about the NPP.** To qualify for the Green Zone, a plan must be at least 80% funded and meet certain other conditions. **We are delighted to report that, as of January 1, 2008, the National Pension Plan is solidly in the Green Zone. Its PPA'06 certification filed in March with the Internal Revenue Service shows a funded status of 113%.** A recent survey by The Segal Company, a leading national actuarial consulting firm, revealed the results of actual 2008 PPA'06 certifications for 232 calendar year multiemployer pension plans like the IAM National Pension Plan. Based upon the results of the survey, the 113% funding level for the IAM National Pension Plan falls within the top 20% of all 232 plans surveyed. The Plan's funding status will be reviewed annually as required by PPA'06. While our goal is to remain in the Green Zone, there are a number of variables, including market volatility, which are beyond our control and can affect the Plan's status from year-to-year. We are committed to maintaining the solid funding of the IAM National Pension Plan on a consistent basis in order that it may deliver on its promises to all participants and their families for a secure retirement. We will continue to work diligently toward that goal and we look forward to communicating further good news about the NPP as conditions warrant. Please feel free to contact the Fund Office if you have any questions. Sincerely, The Board of Trustees

Crewmember Self-Defense Training – Following meetings between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Machinists Union, The TSA and the Federal Air Marshal Service are now offering Crew Member Self-Defense Training (CMSDT) in the Houston, TX and Newark, NJ areas. The techniques presented in this course are easy to perform and effective when applied correctly – something that is critically important when you must respond quickly. **Regardless of your physical size or fitness level, anyone can learn and execute these defense techniques quickly, efficiently, and effectively.** Participation is voluntary, but your Union representatives encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity! We are pleased to advise you that the TSA has reported a marked increase in participation in the self defense training classes and therefore they have added additional training dates for May and June in the Houston area. Spread the word with your co-workers and challenge them in joining you to attend this training course. In the Newark area - Essex County College Police Academy 250 Grove Avenue Cedar Grove, NJ 07009, **June 26, July 1, 10, 17, 24, August 5, 12, 19, 27** - Contact: Rocco L. Miscia (973) 877-4352 Email: miscia@essex.edu or Mary Beam (973) 877-4350 Email: beam@essex.edu and in the Houston area – Lone Star College - North Harris 10041 Regal Row, Suite 170 Houston, TX 77040, **July 15, 17** - Contact: Deb Pruitt (281)260-3598 Email: Debra.L.Pruitt@nhmccd.edu.

We would like to encourage all members to attend your Local Lodge business meeting. Each Local Lodge must have a quorum to conduct business. The following is a schedule for upcoming meetings:

Newark: Tuesday, July 8, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

Cleveland: Thursday, July 10, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

Houston: Tuesday, July 15, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

Guam: Wednesday, July 16, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.