



District 142

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# Weekly Update



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

## Friday, November 14, 2008



**IAM Convention Delegates Approve New Financial Plan** – Just as delegates to the IAM Convention in 1976 approved the Program for Progress that saw the union through more than three decades, delegates at the 37th Grand Lodge Convention ensured the IAM has a sound financial

base to carry the union into the future with the resources necessary to take on corporations and hostile governments. *A university professor described the IAM at Boeing as “the wrong union to mess with” in the New York Times and an aerospace industry analyst called the IAM “one of the last unions with any power in this country.”* The action delegates took will ensure the IAM will be described in such terms for years to come. Delegates lined up at the microphones to express their strong feelings on both sides of the issue, but all expressed their commitment as trade unionists. IAM President Tom Buffenbarger gave an impassioned address on the responsibility all members have to keep the union strong for the next generation. “My father was at the 1976 Convention, and I know the fathers of many of you in this room were there, too,” declared Buffenbarger. “I want to see a great union for our children and grandchildren – that’s what we’re here to do today.” The approved proposal takes into account the needs expressed by delegates and lodges to keep the current method of calculating the Grand Lodge per capita tax largely intact. To keep the IAM financially strong, delegates approved a one-time increase of \$4.00 in the 2009 Grand Lodge per capita tax. Coupled with the normal weighted average estimated increase of 3.02 percent, or 78 cents, the total increase for 2009 is \$4.78, or the equivalent of just 2.76 cents per hour. There will be a normal increase of an estimated 80 cents in 2010. In 2011 there will be a one-time increase of \$2.00 in the per capita base rate and then annual increases will be pegged to the Consumer Price Index. Also, provisions remain for the International President to grant special dispensations in certain circumstances. “It doesn’t matter what position you took, your character and strength were outstanding,” said Buffenbarger. *“We are one union of one mind with a common cause of taking care of the brothers and sisters throughout the union.”*

**CommutAir Flight Attendant Negotiations** – Negotiations will resume the week of November 17th, 2008. Information regarding additional meeting dates for December will be announced once the dates are finalized. Please continue to encourage your fellow flight attendants to provide the Union their contact information. As future developments occur you will be advised.

## Complete the Survey; Benefit All Flight Attendants –

Over the next few days, you may receive a survey from the Federal Aviation Administration on crew duty, rest, scheduling, health, alertness, and fatigue. At the direction of Congress and the President, the FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI) in Oklahoma City is sending surveys to approximately 23,000 U.S. flight attendants in the months of November and December and will analyze and report participant responses next year. The survey may be completed online or by returning the paper version mailed to you. **Only a few flight attendants from each airline will be selected, so it is very important that you respond if you receive the survey.** The IAMAW encourages you to complete and return the survey. Your honest and confidential feedback will help government, industry, and employee representatives make the best possible decisions to ensure the safety and health of flight attendants and the traveling public. In accordance with scientific sampling protocol, all data will be completely anonymous, and the IAM will not know who is chosen to participate in the survey. Participation is strictly voluntary but is strongly encouraged. Thank you for your support as we continue to enhance the safety of the flight attendant profession.



### Crewmember Self-Defense Training

#### Newark Area

Essex County College Police Academy  
250 Grove Avenue  
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

#### Contact:

Rocco L. Miscia (973) 877-4352

Email: [miscia@essex.edu](mailto:miscia@essex.edu)

Mary Beam (973) 877-4350

Email: [beam@essex.edu](mailto:beam@essex.edu)

#### Class dates:

#### 2008

November 20, 25

December 2, 9, 18

#### 2009

January 8, 15, 22, 29

February 5, 12, 24, 26

#### Houston Area

Lone Star College - North Harris  
10041 Regal Row, Suite 170  
Houston, TX 77040

#### Contact:

Deb Pruitt (281)260-3598

Email: [debra.l.pruitt@lonestar.edu](mailto:debra.l.pruitt@lonestar.edu)

#### Class dates:

#### 2008

November 25

December 9, 18

#### 2009

January 6, 15

February 3, 18

March 10, 19

**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:

**Houston:** Tuesday, November 18, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd

**Guam:** Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room

**Newark:** Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Cleveland:** Thursday, December 11, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive