



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, December 19, 2008

Continental, United discuss more partnering to build revenue – Continental Airlines' budding alliance deal with United Airlines isn't a merger, *but sometimes it sounds like one*. Top executives from both airlines have met several times to discuss cooperative cost-saving measures since June, when their alliance was formed after Continental opted to remain independent in April to end rampant merger speculation last winter and spring. The carriers are discussing how to mesh their frequent-flier programs, purchasing, information technology and even airport lounge networks and other facilities, Mark Erwin, Continental senior vice president for corporate development and alliances, said Monday. They also are discussing areas like catering, which already is a moneymaking venture for Continental, the only major U.S. airline to still have an in-house operation. **Although both Continental and United are moving forward as separate companies, even the corporate lingo sounds merger-ish.** "We think there are significant revenue synergies, particularly from a connecting perspective with our strong New York hub but also through Houston," Erwin said. But it's not a merger. By combining forces where they can, the airlines can get some benefits without "experiencing a lot of the disruption" that a formal marriage can cause, said Bob Mann of R.W. Mann & Associates. On Monday, Continental filed final comments with the government aimed at securing antitrust immunity with United and other carriers that belong to the Star Alliance, which would allow them to coordinate schedules and other matters. Continental is in the process of leaving the SkyTeam alliance, led by Delta Air Lines, now the world's largest carrier after its merger with Northwest Airlines. Continental has asked the U.S. Department of Transportation to let it join an antitrust-immunized alliance already consisting of United, Lufthansa, Air Canada and six other carriers. Erwin said Continental, which recently announced nonstop service starting next November between Houston and Lufthansa's global hub in Frankfurt, Germany, said it still aims to switch alliances by the end of 2009. With Monday's filing, which Continental didn't immediately make public, Erwin said Continental would like to see quick approval of the immunity request.

URL: http://www.chron.com/CDA/archives/archive.mpl?id=2008_4678453

ExpressJet Flight Attendants, please be aware of hotel policies re: *smoking and incidentals*. The company contracts with hotels to have non-smoking rooms available. If you need a smoking room, please ask for one when you check in. If you smoke in a non-smoking room, there is a minimum cleaning charge of \$250. The cleaning charge is passed on to the company and then will be passed on to you by the company. Prevent the company from getting involved by paying for all of your incidental charges (room service, movies, long distance tel. calls, internet charges, etc.) prior to check out. As always, please contact your Hotel Committee Chairperson for any concerns. Forms are available in each crew room.

The officers and staff of Air Transport District Lodge 142 wish our members and their families a Happy Holidays.

The Union continues to work with the appropriate parties to improve the commute time at IAH employee lot to Terminal "B". If you find it is taking longer than 30 minutes to get from the parking lot to the Terminal "B" crew room, please advise your Union representatives. Please provide specific times, i.e. the times you entered the parking lot, got on a bus, arrived at "E", how long it took you to clear Security, was the employee line open in Terminal "E", and how long it took you to get from Terminal "E" to "B". If you chose to take the underground train to "B", please let us know this and how long it took. Please be aware of your commute time and plan accordingly.

ExpressJet flight attendants currently do not have access to several features on CCS and on XJT.com and the company is aware of the problem. The company is working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible.

Keep Up Pressure for Employee Free Choice Act – Corporate interests are already ramping up their campaign to derail the Employee Free Choice Act in the 2009 Congress. IAM members should keep up the pressure to get their Senators and Representatives in Congress to co-sponsor and vote for the bill. Take Arkansas Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D). She seems to think it's not necessary for the men and women of her state to earn more money and receive better benefits. The Associated Press reports Lincoln is considering voting against the Employee Free Choice Act. The senator told reporters she doesn't feel there's a need right now for the legislation, which would ensure that workers have a free choice and a fair chance to form a union "I find Senator Lincoln's views regarding a bill that would protect the wages and benefits of America's hardworking men and women inconceivable," says IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. "According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the state of Arkansas's average weekly wage ranks 44th in the nation. It appears to me the men and women of that state need as much economic help as they can get. Union membership is the best way to preserve family-wage jobs and benefits and a right that every American should have." IAM members can help pass the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) by signing a card to support EFCA and click here to send a message to your Senators and Representative to urge them to co-sponsor the legislation in the 2009 Congress. EFCA "Million Member Mobilization" cards were sent to every IAM local and district lodge in the country. Signed **cards** should be returned to local and district lodge representatives, who will then forward them to their respective territory offices. For information about the Employee Free Choice Act, including a fact sheet and other background information, click [here](#). To sign an online version of the AFL-CIO card, click [here](#).

The Weekly Update Message will not appear next Friday. It will return on Friday, January 2nd, 2009. Until then, we will notify you of any important developments by bulletin or special updates on the District Lodge 142 website: www.go142.org

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:

Cleveland: Thursday, January 8, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

Newark: Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

Houston: Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd

Guam: Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room