



**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, August 1, 2008



### **Flight Attendant Survey Coming to your Crew Room Soon**

The IAM has launched a Flight Attendant survey so that you can provide honest and anonymous feedback and suggestions to your union. Members make our union strong, and your ideas and evaluations will help us better represent Flight Attendants. Computers will be available to take the survey in the Continental and ExpressJet crew rooms in EWR, IAH and CLE from August 4 thru August 17, 2008. In order to improve on the best representation in the industry, we are asking for your help. This survey is just one step in our efforts to demonstrate the IAM's

continued commitment to the Flight Attendants. Participating in this survey will help us to better serve our members. **The survey can be accessed via the internet at the following website address, beginning August 4, 2008: <http://www.go142.org>**

**ExpressJet Update** – Meetings will begin on August 11, 2008 to discuss the carrier's request for economic relief in light of significant operational losses and the recently negotiated CPA with Continental Airlines. No economic changes can occur without Membership approval (ratification). Updates will be provided as this process proceeds.

**Newark Inflight Security Breach** – The Union has recently been informed by the company that security procedures in Newark "SIDA" areas have been breached. Your Union representatives want to remind our members that all persons in a SIDA area must have their I.D. badge visible and above the waist on their outermost garment. Anyone entering a SIDA area must be challenged if their I.D. is not visible. Avoid personal fines by complying with these standards. Authorized personnel, including Flight Attendants, may ask to see your I.D. if it is not displayed properly. Recently a terminated employee from one of Continental's subsidiary's acquired pieces of an Inflight uniform and entered a restricted SIDA area in Newark and was able to list themselves for travel using a computer that had not been logged off of properly. The individual in question was arrested. Remember to challenge anyone without a properly displayed I.D. badge.

**The Coalition of Flight Attendant Unions** which meets quarterly, met on July 30 – 31, 2008 in Memphis, Tennessee. The meeting was hosted by the United Steel Workers Union which represents the Flight Attendants at Pinnacle and Colgan airlines. The agenda items included a legislative review, and a report from the working group on a coordinated message. This group has been working on a mission statement for the coalition, as well as ideas for a unified group message, to airline executives letting them know we are working together on issues that affect all coalition members. Mary Schiavo, former Inspector General of the Department of Transportation, gave a presentation entitled "**What Really Happened on 9/11**". Thomas Nesthus PHD and Katrina Avers PHD from the Federal Aviation Administration, Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI) gave an update on the Flight Attendant fatigue study. Not surprisingly, ATA filed an objection to proceed further with the fatigue study. The coalition discussed airline mergers and acquisitions, negotiation updates, and aggressively pursuing reciprocal jumpseat agreements with other carriers. The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled in December 2008 and will be hosted by the Transport Workers Union.

**Congress Warned of Possible Pension Defaults** – The IAM warned Congress this week that a Delta Air Lines/Northwest Airlines merger would jeopardize workers’ pensions and the stability of the government’s pension insurance system. “Northwest’s 12,500 IAM-represented employees are the only group at the airline with an active defined benefit pension plan,” said Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., at a House Health, Education Labor and Pension Subcommittee hearing on the impact the proposed merger will have on workers. “Our members’ pension plan is at risk if the merger is approved.” Noticeably absent from the hearing were the CEO’s of both companies. “The fact that Richard Anderson and Doug Steenland chose not to attend the only hearing that focused on the merger’s impact on employees’ shows how low a priority employees are in the merger,” said Roach. The airlines instead sent individuals who claimed they were unqualified to answer several of the Committee’s questions. In addition to the potential loss of the current pension plan for Northwest’s 12,500 IAM members, the merger puts the solvency of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) into question. If the combined giant airline fails and needs bankruptcy court protection, the frozen company-sponsored pension plans could be forced onto the PBGC. This would burden the PBGC with more than \$15.6 billion in additional liabilities on top of its \$13.1 billion deficit for fiscal year 2007. “Northwest’s IAM-represented employees have enjoyed the benefits of a secure union work environment for more than 60 years,” said Roach. They labored for the day when they could retire with dignity and financial security. The ill-advised Delta-Northwest merger will jeopardize everything they have worked for while destroying two once-great airlines and threatening the solvency of our nation’s pension insurance agency.”



The IAM’s complete testimony is available at [www.goiam.org/mergers](http://www.goiam.org/mergers).

### **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:**

**August** 5, 12, 19, 27

**September** 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**October** 7, 14, 23, 27

**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@nhmccd.edu](mailto:Debra.L.Pruitt@nhmccd.edu)

**Class dates:**

**August** 7, 12

**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, August 12, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Cleveland:** Thursday, August 14, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive.

**Houston:** Tuesday, August 19, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd.

**Guam:** Wednesday, August 20, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room.