



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 8, 2008



### Survey Seeks Flight Attendant Feedback –

The IAM Transportation Department has launched an online survey to give its Flight Attendant membership an opportunity to provide honest and anonymous feedback and suggestions to their union. Computers for taking the survey are available in the Continental and ExpressJet crew rooms in Newark, Houston, and Cleveland until August 17, 2008.

**Continental Micronesia Flight Attendants** and any Flight Attendant who doesn't take the survey in a crew room will have access to it online from the District 142 website, [www.go142.org](http://www.go142.org) through August 31, 2008. "IAM Flight Attendants have the best contracts in the industry and this survey is just one step in our efforts to demonstrate the IAM's continued

commitment to the Flight Attendants," said General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. "Flight Attendant participation in this survey will help us to better serve our members."

**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.

**Worker Pensions Funding Executive Benefits** – Without much notice, many companies are quietly financing their executives' retirement benefits and pay by tapping the pension plans of their workers. An article published Monday in *The Wall Street Journal* says there are a number of companies in recent years who have moved hundreds of millions of dollars of obligations for executive benefits into the pension plans of their rank-and-file workers, allowing them to capture tax breaks meant for pensions of regular workers. The practice can adversely impact rank-and-file workers by draining assets, making the pension plans more likely to fail.

**Continental Airlines Announces Flight Attendant Furloughs** will not be necessary due to the large amount of COLA requests submitted. Please refer to Continental Airlines Inflight Administration bulletin 08-90 dated August 7, 2008 for more information about COLA awards.

**101 Facts on the Status of Workingwomen** – The facts in this report tell a fascinating story about women and their role in the workplace and society. While women have made progress in several areas, some facets of the workforce are changing much too slowly. The wage gap has narrowed by only a half a penny a year for the past 40 years. The gap between median earnings of full-time, year-round workers has women's earnings currently 77% of men's, in 2006. At this rate, it will take another 40 years for women to reach wage parity with men, and over the course of a working lifetime, the average woman loses approximately \$523,000 due to the wage gap. *101 Facts on the Status of Workingwomen* gathers data on the status of women in the labor force including: the wage gap; women entrepreneurs; women in the Fortune 500 & 1000; women in the government; women and higher education; women's buying power; women and philanthropy; women and families; women and care giving; domestic violence and the workplace; women and retirement; and women's health.

Download a PDF of the Report: <http://bpwusa.org/files/public/101FactsOct07.pdf>

**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.

### **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** 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

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#### **Class dates:**

**August** 12

**September** 16, 18

**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.