



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 15, 2008



NMB Proposes Anti-Union Rule Change – In an openly anti-union gesture, the National Mediation Board (NMB) announced its intent to change its rules and procedures governing airline mergers. The proposed change says that when “there is a certified representative on one of the affected carrier(s), but no certified representative on the other, the Board will exercise its discretion and extend the certification only where there is more than a substantial majority, as determined by the Board. Authorization cards may only be used to supplement the showing of interest necessary to trigger an election; they may not be used towards getting a certification extended.” Of particular note is the fact that this proposed change only applies when a carrier whose employees are unrepresented merges with a carrier whose employees are represented. This reflects the precise scenario involved in the intended Delta-

Northwest merger. It appears the Board is attempting to change its merger procedures after the announced Delta-Northwest merger in an effort to undermine union representation. Under the current procedures, whenever there has been a merger between an unrepresented and a represented group and the represented group has a majority, the NMB has extended the certification of the representative. The proposed change signals a deviation from its decades-long precedent without any demonstrated need or justification for such a change. The only effect of such a change is to make it significantly more difficult for employees to maintain their representation after a merger and help keep Delta Air Lines largely non-union. The IAM has been at the forefront of the fight opposing this change and will continue to push for a public hearing on this very important rule change.

ExpressJet Talks – This week discussions were held with the carrier regarding their request for financial relief in light of the new CPA with Continental Airlines. Discussions will continue next week. Changes to the Agreement can only occur with membership ratification.

Counterfeit Email – In a letter to the IAM Flight Attendant membership, which is being mailed next week, District Lodge 142 President Directing General Chairperson (PDGC) Tom Higginbotham addresses the subject of phony unsolicited email that is being sent to Flight Attendants. [Click here](#) to read the letter from PDGC Tom Higginbotham or visit the District Lodge 142 website www.go142.org to view/download the letter.

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 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."

Air Canada Forced to Suspend Layoffs – Under pressure from the IAM and other unions, Canadian Labour Minister Jean Pierre Blackburn denied Air Canada's request for a waiver that would have allowed Air Canada to lay off more than two thousand of its employees November 1, 2008 without implementing a joint union-company committee prior to the layoff. This committee will now have an opportunity to study how to alleviate the impact of the cost cutting measures. The IAM wrote to the labour board in mid-July objecting to the application by Air Canada and gave reasons why it should be denied. The IAM's main interest in this issue is the labour adjustment program offered by the federal government which is covered in part three of the labour program and not included in the Air Canada collective agreements. The Minister agreed with the IAM's position and stated that there are not enough grounds to grant the airline a waiver. He also ordered the department's officials to monitor the events to ensure that all Air Canada employees to be laid off as part of these cost-cutting measures receive benefits provided under the Canada Labour Code.

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

Mary Beam (973) 877-4350

Email: beam@essex.edu

Class dates:

August 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@lonestar.edu

Class dates:

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:

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

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

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