



District 142

Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream • CommutAir

Weekly Update

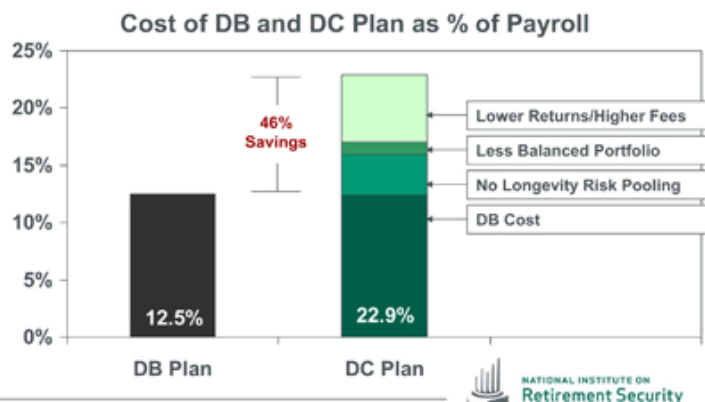


The Update Message from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers representing Flight Attendants in the 2339 Local Lodges

Friday, August 22, 2008

Defined Benefit Pensions: More Effective, Cost Less – Defined-benefit pension plans not only provide the same level of retirement income as more risky defined-contribution plans, they do it at a much lower cost. A report released last week by the National Institute on Retirement Security (www.nirsonline.org) shows that defined-benefit pension plans provide the same level of retirement income at a 46 percent lower cost. The study, “A Better Bang for the Buck: The Economic Efficiencies of Defined-Benefit Pension Plans,” shows defined-benefit plans have certain built-in features that make them the most fiscally efficient way to provide retirement income. “The analysis is somewhat of a myth buster when it comes to conventional wisdom on the cost of retirement plans,” said Beth Almeida, report author and Executive Director of the National Institute on Retirement Security. “The analysis clearly indicates that the qualities inherent in DB plans – particularly, the pooling of risks and assets – fuel their fiscal efficiency. Importantly, the report provides a new lens for policymakers, employers and employees, who are struggling to ensure adequate retirement income with the fewest dollars possible.”

Cost of DB Plan is Almost Half the Cost of DC Plan



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IAM Representatives Discuss Economic Solutions with ExpressJet – Meetings occurred August 11th through the 13th and August 20th and 21st to discuss the carrier’s request for economic relief in light of substantial operational losses and the recently negotiated CPA with Continental Airlines. The Union committee consists of representatives from CLE; EWR and IAH bases as well as General Chairpersons from the District Lodge. The committee is seeking solutions that will be in membership’s the best interest. Meetings will continue next week on August 26, 2008.

Counterfeit Email – In a letter to the IAM Flight Attendant membership, mailed this 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. The survey is available online at 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."

Flight attendants may just have the worst job around these days. "I think it's pretty irrefutable -- things have gotten tougher," said Eric Kaufman who has been flying with Continental Airlines for the past eight years. Continental still serves complimentary food and beverages on its flights. The airline also provides passengers with blankets and pillows at no charge, so its flight attendants have escaped -- at least for now -- some of the flier outrage over excessive fees. But earlier this year, the Houston-based carrier joined many of its competitors and began charging passengers for checking more than one bag. The new fee led to a surge in the number of carry-on bags, which had dropped after the federal government began prohibiting passengers from carrying liquids onto planes in 2006. Nevertheless, Michael Boyd, an airline industry expert from Denver, said the work has become a lot tougher. "It's a much harder job than it was a year ago," Boyd said. Boyd predicts the public's growing annoyance with the airlines and the difficulties that creates for flight attendants could translate into demands for higher pay during contract negotiations. "I could see the flight attendants making the argument, Hey, it's tough out there," Boyd said. "So, we want some compensation."

Read Full Story http://www.nj.com/business/index.ssf/2008/08/jet_lagged_for_flight_attendan.html

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 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:

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

Houston: Tuesday, September 16, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd

Guam: Wednesday, September 17, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room

Cleveland: Thursday, September 18, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive
Date changed from September 11th due to conflict with the Grand Lodge Convention.