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Weekly Update



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

Friday, August 29, 2008

Take Action to Block Northwest/Delta Merger – The IAM Transportation Merger Team is urging members nationwide to get involved in the fight to block the proposed Delta-Northwest merger. **“It is extremely important that IAM members contact their elected representatives in their District offices during the Congressional recess,”** said Transportation General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. “Elected officials will be in their district offices from Labor Day



weekend, through September 7th, providing excellent opportunity for IAM members to meet with their representatives. If you can't make a personal visit, then we urge you to phone or email your representatives. We must keep pressure on Congress while they are in recess.” Contact information for elected officials can be found on the IAM's Merger Watch page at www.goiam.org/mergers. The site also provides a pre-written email that can be customized and sent to your representatives as well as talking points to help engage and educate your representatives on the issues important to workers.

What to Remember this Labor Day – The following is a Labor Day 2008 message from International President Tom Buffenbarger. This Labor Day is a worthy occasion to remember Labor's friends and Labor's foes. Labor's friends would never think of crossing a picket line. They worry when they hear about factories closing and jobs being shipped overseas. They get angry when they hear about roads, bridges and buildings falling into disrepair. They are the men and women who built this country and feel a keen and personal responsibility for its well being. There will be great speeches this Labor Day. There will be moments of silence for those who gave their lives, and much praise for the accomplishments, the sacrifices and the basic value of work and working people. On this Labor Day, there will be picnics and parades, barbecues and baseball, rest and recreation. The nation will pause to honor the builders and the bakers, the movers and shakers, the plumbers, policemen, machinists and music makers. We must also remember the public figures and elected officials who stood with Labor on the picket lines, at the bargaining tables and in the congressional hearing rooms where laws are fashioned that can give so much or take so much away. It is there too we find Labor's foes. They toil on behalf of countries and corporations with no allegiance to work or workers, only to greater profits, quicker profits and greater access to more of the same. They too will relax from their efforts on Labor Day. They will consume good food and fine wine and gather strength for their next assault on workers' health care, workers' pensions, workers' rights and even workers' lives. They may even find time to pray, that the upcoming election does not change the advantage they have enjoyed for the past eight years. They have good reason to worry. This year, on Election Day, we can not only remember Labor's friends and Labor's foes, we can reward them both accordingly. It is an opportunity too good to miss.



Summer brings with it rumors of attacks on the U.S. homeland – Currently, we are hearing unconfirmed word of plans in place for jihadists to be dispatched from Pakistan to conduct coordinated suicide attacks against soft targets in as many as 10 U.S. cities. This year, the rumors seem to be emerging a little later and with a little less fanfare than last year, when we saw a number of highly publicized warnings, such as that from Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and a National Intelligence Estimate saying al Qaeda was gaining strength. Last year also brought warnings from a former Israeli counterterrorism official that al Qaeda was planning a simultaneous attack against five to seven American cities, and of a dirty bomb attack against New York. These warnings were followed by the Sept. 7, 2007, release of a video message from Osama bin Laden, who had been unseen on video since October 2004 or heard on audiotape since July 2006. Some were convinced that his reappearance — and veiled threat — signaled a looming attack against the United States, or a message to supporters to commence attacks. However, in spite of all these warnings — and bin Laden’s reappearance — no attack occurred last summer or autumn on U.S. soil. As we discussed last October, there are a number of reasons why such an attack did not happen. We are currently working to collect more information regarding this summer’s rumors. So far we cannot gauge their credibility, but they pique our interest for several reasons. First is the issue of timing, and second is the ease with which such attacks could be coordinated. **Read full report:** http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/2008_threat_season_heats

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."

Crewmember Self-Defense Training	
Newark Area Essex County College Police Academy 250 Grove Avenue Cedar Grove, NJ 07009	Houston Area Lone Star College - North Harris 10041 Regal Row, Suite 170 Houston, TX 77040
Contact: Rocco L. Miscia (973) 877-4352 Email: miscia@essex.edu Mary Beam (973) 877-4350 Email: beam@essex.edu	Contact: Deb Pruitt (281)260-3598 Email: debra.l.pruitt@lonestar.edu
Class dates: September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 October 7, 14, 23, 27 November 6, 11, 20, 25 December 2, 9, 18	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.