



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, September 5, 2008

**The 37th IAM Grand Lodge Convention convenes in Orlando, Florida on September 7, 2008,** and delegates will be faced with a series of critical decisions. Delegates have been nominated and elected in a transparent and democratic process. I emphasize the word democratic because very few unions actually give their members a chance to set the direction of their union for decades to come. But the IAM does. “Always has, always will.”



**The IAM Constitution guides us. It guarantees that our members’ voices will be heard.** Loud or soft, aggressive or passive, thought-provoking or pragmatic – those voices will be heard at the Convention as delegates decide what kind of union our members want. In the three decades since we altered our dues structure, much has changed. Recognizing the depth of those changes is critical to our survival. We are one half the size we were then; we negotiate 5,000 fewer contracts now than in 1976; and yet, the challenges we face seem even greater. How will we battle more sophisticated, globally-based adversaries across the negotiating table? How will we fight more powerful foes with their aggressively anti-union tactics in organizing drives? How will we dominate the political and policy arenas with fewer members? How will we protect our members from the ravages of government and corporate indifference, if not antipathy? In the weeks and months ahead, you will decide what kind of union you want to belong to. And that is your right and obligation as a member of a democratic union. You can stay up to date with the Convention Highlights at this link: [www.goiam.org/iamglc2008/](http://www.goiam.org/iamglc2008/)



R. Thomas Buffenbarger  
International President

**Union Negotiators Continue Talks with ExpressJet Management** – Union negotiators met with the company September 4, 2008 in Houston, Texas to continue discussions regarding ExpressJet’s request for concessions and both sides exchanged proposals. Both parties have agreed to continue meeting and the union is determined to negotiate a resolution that will preserve our members work and limit any negative impact. We will keep you advised of developments as they occur.

**CommutAir Flight Attendants Face Relocation or Termination** – The Union has been receiving reports that the flight attendants are being told that they must move to the new domicile in EWR or face termination. The Union is monitoring the situation and will be addressing this issue in negotiations when we meet later this month. All of our IAM flight attendant agreements have sections entitled “System Furloughs, Base Reductions, and Base Closures”. These sections spell out specific rules that must be followed when the Company enforces involuntary displacements to another base. Some of these rules address moving and relocation expenses and how seniority must be honored when displacing a flight attendant. Your Union is aggressively seeking many of these provisions for the CommutAir Flight Attendants, many of the same provisions most unionized flight attendants enjoy in the industry. Our years of experience and expertise in negotiating industry leading flight attendant agreements will help pave the way to successfully negotiate a collective bargaining agreement that the flight attendants at CommutAir will overwhelmingly ratify. If you know of a fellow flight attendant that is not receiving our bulletins please refer them to the District 142 website which is [www.iamdl142.org/fa](http://www.iamdl142.org/fa). Also please feel free to attend the Local Lodge Union meeting every second Thursday of the month at 1:00 P.M. Thank you for your continued support and solidarity.

### **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:**

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

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

**November** 6, 11, 20, 25

**December** 2, 9, 18

#### **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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> due to conflict with the Grand Lodge Convention.**