



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 26, 2008



**The IAM establishes a Disaster Relief Fund** – The IAM has established a Disaster Relief Fund to assist members that have been affected by Hurricane Ike. This program has been designed to help members who may not have adequate insurance coverage and for those which have not qualified for FEMA aid. Please let members you know, that have suffered a loss due to this disaster, that they should go to [www.iamdl142.org](http://www.iamdl142.org) and click on the “**IAM Disaster**

**Relief**” graphic to reach our assistance web page and from there they can view/print the “**Hurricane Ike Damage Assessment**” form. After completing the form, it should be given to any IAM union representative at their base or Local Lodge. The completed form may also be faxed to the District Lodge 142 offices at **816-455-4793**. Also available on this page is updated information for members regarding federal, state and local aid assistance, POD supply distribution locations, etc.

**Hurricane Relief Update** – After visiting hurricane-devastated areas in south Texas, IAM Representatives are now asking that donations of food and clothing be sent to: Local Lodge 2198, 6640 Long Pointe Rd., Houston, TX 77059. “This location is much closer to the area affected,” said Southern Territory GVP Bob Martinez, who is touring the area and meeting with members. “We’ve had a lot of members affected and many of them have lost everything.” Monetary donations in any amount can be sent to the IAM Disaster Fund, in care of the Community Services Department, 9000 Machinists Place, Upper Marlboro, 20772.

**CommutAir has Block Hours Reduced by Continental Airlines** – The Company has announced that due to the turmoil in the airline industry, Continental has reduced the block hours given to CommutAir. In turn they need to reduce the staff by 12% and will be furloughing employees. The entire industry has endured these cut backs and furloughs and many employees have had to face losing their jobs. The IAM contracts in the airline industry all have sections with furlough language that spells out what must happen when a company faces a potential furlough of its employees. Many flight attendant contracts include language that offers voluntary leaves of absence before the company may involuntarily furlough an employee. Your Union is trying to negotiate all of these provisions for the flight attendants at CommutAir. The process can be lengthy but we are working to negotiate provisions to protect the flight attendants at CommutAir. Thank you for your continued support.

**Machinists Respond to NWA Shareholder Vote** – IAM members were an unmistakable presence both inside and outside meetings today in New York and Atlanta, where shareholders of Northwest Airlines voted to approve the airline’s merger with Delta Airlines. Carrying signs that said “Save My Airline from Another Bankruptcy,” and marching in the shadow of a large inflatable rat, the morning rally in New York drew honks of support from passing motorists and thumbs up from pedestrians on their way to work. The IAM opposes the proposed merger as a debt-laden, job-killing boondoggle with the potential to bankrupt the combined enterprise. “The Machinists Union believes Northwest and Delta will be unable to successfully combine their businesses without adversely impacting customers, suppliers, employees and shareholders because of the two airlines’ vastly different corporate cultures and mismatched aircraft fleets,” said Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., who took part in the New York protest. “The same lack of regulation that unhinged our financial markets has created cyclical havoc in the airline industry for the past 30 years, leading to countless airline bankruptcies,” said Roach. “The government must stop treating symptoms and start curing the illness plaguing the airline industry. Mergers will not help troubled airlines; sane federal regulation of the industry will.” More information about the Machinists Union and the proposed Northwest/Delta merger is available at [www.goiam.org/mergers](http://www.goiam.org/mergers).



### 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** 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:**

**October** 24, 28

**November** 11, 25

**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:

**Cleveland:** Thursday, October 9, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

**Newark:** Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Guam:** Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room

**Houston:** Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd