



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, January 16, 2009



Public Support Strong for Employee Free Choice Act – Support for free choice remains strong, despite anti-worker campaigns aimed at disarming U.S. employees of their right to unite for better wages, better working conditions, and better health care. A new [survey](#) shows 78 percent of those polled support the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) – legislation that protects workers who wish to form a union. The survey covered individuals from across the country and across party lines. Even after the barrage anti-Free Choice Act ads, seventy-four percent of those who identified as moderate or liberal Republicans were in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act. The report also shows 64 percent of those polled support strengthening penalties against companies who illegally intimidate or fire workers trying to form a union. And, 61 percent favor binding arbitration if a company will not agree to a first contract. “I am not at all surprised by the numbers,” says IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. “In today’s economy, where companies are wheeling and dealing their numbers at the expense of their employees; forcing them to submit to low pay and less than adequate health care coverage. It’s high time workers get to do some negotiating of their own.” Don’t forget to sign a “Million Member Mobilization” card to support The Employee Free Choice Act. The AFL-CIO will present the cards to President-elect Barack Obama and the new Congress to demonstrate the widespread support for stronger laws to protect the right to choose a union and bargaining a first contract free from unfair employer tactics. Cards were sent to every IAM local and district lodge in the United States. Signed [cards](#) should be returned to local or district lodge representatives who will then forward them to their respective territory offices. For information about the Employee Free Choice Act, including a fact sheet and other background information, click [here](#). To sign an online version of the AFL-CIO card, click [here](#).

District Lodge 142 would like to recognize the first responders, especially the flight attendants on US Airways flight 1549 for performing flawlessly during and after an unplanned “water ditching” emergency and facilitating the safe rescue of all passengers on-board. Job well done! The District 142 Flight Safety Committee dispatched a full team to the site and they are at the scene. They are pulling the aircraft from the water today and the investigation will begin once the aircraft is out of the water. The Flight Safety Committee has a person assigned to the following teams – powerplants, systems, structures and aircraft records. The NTSB is holding their organizational meeting this afternoon at 1pm. It is at this meeting where we will be officially granted party status.

Flight Attendants may elect to receive a commuting expense in lieu of parking at her/his domicile. Continental and Micronesia Flight Attendants may elect to receive \$30.00 per month and ExpressJet Flight Attendants may elect to receive \$35.00 per month. More information is available in your contract. Please reference "**Parking**" in the index section of your contract.

DHS Reminds Visa Waiver Program Travelers of ESTA Requirements went into effect Monday, January 12, 2009. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would like to remind travelers from all Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries that they are now required to obtain approval through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to traveling to the United States. This requirement, now in effect, applies to all eligible citizens or nationals traveling under the VWP. ESTA is a web-based system, initially launched in August 2008, that determines the preliminary eligibility of visitors to travel under the VWP prior to boarding a carrier to the United States. To date, more than 1.2 million ESTA applications have been received, and more than 99.6 percent of applicants have been approved, most within seconds. "All VWP customers traveling to the U.S., including CO co-workers, their eligible pass riders and buddy pass riders, will be required to hold ESTA approval prior to boarding a flight to the U.S. This requirement applies only to nationals who are passport holders from one of the VWP countries." This is for all travel, including space available, positive space, and travel on other airlines, to the U.S. More information may be found at <http://www.continental.com/web/en-S/content/travel/destination/international/ESTA.aspx>

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:

2009

January 22, 29

February 5, 12, 24, 26

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:

2009

February 3, 18

March 10, 19

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, January 20, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd

Guam: Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room

Newark: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

Cleveland: Thursday, February 12, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive