



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

**Friday, October 9, 2009**

**2009 Bi-Annual District 142 Convention** will be held in Kansas City, Mo., on October 19 -22, 2009. The convention will be called to order on Tuesday morning, Oct. 20, and it will adjourn on Thursday, Oct. 22. This gathering will be different from previous conventions. In addition to reports from Grand Lodge and District officers, we will hold breakout sessions followed by reports from several of our committees. Committees in action include the Education Committee, the Legislative Committee, the Communications Committee and the Ground and Flight Safety Committee. Delegates will choose the breakout sessions in which they want to participate. At the convention's breakout sessions, the leaders of these committees will report on what they have done over the past year. Session participants will then discuss issues they want their committees to address in the next two years. At the end of the session, each group will approve the report that will be read to the entire convention. This participation by the delegates will benefit our entire membership and create more active committees. Delegates will return to their local lodges, many of which don't have these committees, and help them improve service to their members.

**H1N1 Makes a Strong Comeback** – Health experts expect the H1N1 to become much more wide spread in several areas of the United States. Fortunately, the seasonal flu has not been a factor to date and now is the time to take precautions to help prevent yourself and co-workers from becoming ill. Get your flu shots as soon as they become available. Wash your hands often, sneeze into your sleeve, remember to use gloves when picking up trash, use the sanitizer's that are provided for you and if you are sick, please stay home and don't pass it onto your co-workers. While H1N1 could mutate aggressively into a deadly pandemic killing millions, Dr. Margaret Chan of the World Health Organization, now admits that well into the flu season in the Northern Hemisphere that H1N1 has apparently not mutated. With that being said, if you suffer from a compromised immune system or have a chronic illness or are pregnant, you should take extra precautions and consult your doctor at the first sign of any flu like symptoms. If each of us does our part it will go a long way in slowing the spread of the flu and H1N1.

**National Group Protection Insurance will be offered** at the Houston and Newark bases in the Continental & ExpressJet crew rooms October 13-16, 22-27 and November 4-7, 2009. Underwritten by American Bankers Life Assurance Company, you can elect to have accident; cancer; critical illness; or universal life insurance coverage for yourself and/or your family members. There will be representatives in the crew rooms to explain the coverage being offered for IAM members. Flight Attendants from all bases transiting through Houston during this time are welcome to enroll.

**Not All is Quiet with Continental / United Merger** – While there has not been much press coverage on Continental and United Airlines merger talk recently, the group representing the airlines interests has been actively seeking ways to break the airline unions through extensive lobbying efforts. An example of these efforts is the recent push by the Air Transport Association (ATA) to make it easier for airlines to decertify unions representing their employees. This association is constantly attempting to undermine the gains made by employees that were achieved through collective bargaining. These are the same employees that have time and again saved the airlines and flying public from disaster when needed.

**ATA Wants Union Decertification Made Easier** – A trade group for U.S. airlines urged the National Mediation Board in a letter this week to make it easier for airline workers to decertify a union, if the panel makes it easier for workers to approve a union. The issue is at the heart of a dispute involving the world's biggest airline operator, Delta Air Lines Inc. Unions that represent flight attendants and ground workers who worked for Northwest Airlines before it was bought by Delta want the NMB to allow unions to be elected to represent workers at the combined carrier based on a majority of those who vote. The current rule requires a majority of the entire work group to vote for a union for it to be certified. That means not voting is tantamount to voting 'No.' The Air Transport Association said that if the rule is changed, the election ballots should include an option for workers to decertify a union. Elections involving Delta's two largest work groups have not yet been scheduled. Pre-merger Northwest was heavily unionized, while pre-merger Delta was largely nonunion, except for its pilots and some small work groups. Pilots at the combined carrier have already resolved representation and seniority issues. Edward Wytkind, president of the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, said Thursday that the ATA's request is just a distraction. "They don't really have an argument," Wytkind said in an interview. "The facts are completely on our side." He said that if given a chance under fair standards to vote for a collective bargaining representative at the combined Delta, "the workers I believe will chose to maintain collective bargaining rights." But a lawyer for the ATA said in Wednesday's letter to the NMB that changing the voting rules would effectively deprive employees of their right to choose not to be represented unless the NMB were also to adopt a formal decertification procedure. "We contend that the failure to do so would be a gross violation of the Railway Labor Act," the lawyer wrote.

URL: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hCWRGx0zHPPxj8oIIICqL0DDcdAD9B74M200>

**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, October 13, 2009, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Houston:** Tuesday, October 13, 1:00 p.m. at Houston Airport Marriott Hotel  
*Meeting one week early due to conflict with DL142 Convention*

**Guam:** Wednesday, October 28, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room  
*Meeting one week later due to conflict with DL142 Convention*

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