



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

Friday, November 20, 2009

NMB Rule Change is Historic Opportunity for Unions – With the looming prospect of additional consolidation in the airline industry, workers at United, Continental and all carriers need to understand how a rule change proposed by National Mediation Board (NMB) would dramatically increase their chances of retaining their contracts, retirement benefits and seniority rights. The IAM is encouraging all members and family members to contact the NMB and support what could be the biggest and most positive change to U.S. labor law in decades. Representation elections are most often the result of a successful organizing campaign at a non-union facility; however, they can also be required by the NMB following a merger of union-represented carriers to determine if the merged carrier will be union or non-union. Under the proposed rule change, union representation elections will be determined in the same way that American voters choose their presidents, senators and state legislators - by a majority of voters who choose to cast ballots. By contrast, current election rules count non-voters as “no” votes and dramatically increase the possibility of decertification, giving employers the opportunity to unilaterally dictate wages, benefits and working conditions in an “at will” environment. Airline executives and their corporate allies are mounting an intense campaign against the rule change, which would close a loophole they hoped to use to de-unionize large portions of the highly unionized airline industry. With progressive issues like health care, the Employee Free Choice Act and regulation of the financial industry mired in partisan wrangling, the NMB proposal to strengthen voting rights for transportation workers stands out as a golden opportunity to quickly achieve positive change for workers in an industry that desperately needs it. All IAM members are strongly urged to submit comments supporting the voting rights of air and rail workers. Family and friends are also encouraged to submit comments - all members of the public are welcome to submit comments. Instructions on how to submit comments electronically, or download a pre-written letter to sign and return, or how to submit your own personal comments are available at <http://www.goiam.org/nmb>.

ExpressJet announced this week that they were successful in their bid for United Airlines (UAL) flying. There are three components to the CPA; a short term component beginning December 1, 2009, utilizing three aircraft; increasing to a two year term utilizing 11 aircraft and a three year term also utilizing 11 aircraft. A further 10 aircraft will be required for the summer season, 2010, bringing the total to 32 aircraft. We will be flying out of Denver, Chicago and Dulles. The Union is making every effort to answer your questions about the new CPA, however much of the information is not yet available. We will keep you updated as new information becomes available. *Congratulations to our flight attendant group - your professionalism during previous UAL contracts played a big part in landing this contract!* **Reminder:** December 2, 2009 is the last day to add family members for pass travel. Please make sure that you follow all instructions for adding your family members.

Flight attendants are a step closer to qualifying for benefits under the Family and Medical Leave Act (**FMLA**) that IAM flight attendants have enjoyed because of their contract for many years. The Senate approved a measure recently clarifying the intent of the FMLA law that will cover airline flight crews. The current law provides eligible employees up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for family emergencies or after the birth of children. Employers with 50 or more employees are generally covered. Because flight crews don't work a traditional 40-hour week they were considered excluded under the original law. The House already passed similar legislation earlier this year. House members are expected to pass the Senate's version of the bill before the end of the year. Union officials believe it is likely a bill will be ready for President Barack Obama to sign by year's end.

Crewmember Self-Defense Training

New York Area

Borough of Manhattan Community College
70 Murray Street
14th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Contact:

Christopher Viteritti
(212) 346-8419
Email: cviteritti@bmcc.cuny.edu

Class dates:

2009
November 27, 29

Houston Area

Lone Star College
10041 Regal Row, Suite 170
Houston, TX 77040

Contact:

Deb Pruitt (281)260-3598
Email: debra.l.pruitt@lonestar.edu

Class dates:

2009
November 27
December 3, 22

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, December 8, 2009, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

Cleveland: Thursday, December 10, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

Houston: Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd
December Monthly Union Meeting to be Held at LL Office

Guam: Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room