



**District 142**

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# Weekly Update



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

## Friday, March 13, 2009

### **District Lodge 142 will hold its Fourth Annual Flight Attendant Conference April 13**

thru 16, 2009. This year's conference will focus on a variety of subjects, some of which have been addressed in previous conferences, as well as a special Negotiations module. We are looking for flight attendants that are interested in learning more about their union. Space is reserved for each local lodge, so don't be left out, sign up today. Contact your District General Chairperson or base



committee at any base grievance desk and secure your place at this conference. Time to register and conference slots are limited, so don't miss out. We look forward to your participation and input at the conference. Travel will be on Monday, April 13, Conference dates will be Tuesday/Wednesday April 14 and 15, 2009. On Thursday April 16, 2009 (departure day) we will visit the IAM headquarters before continuing onto the airport for travel back home.

### **National Group Protection Insurance is currently being offered** at the Houston base



in the Continental & ExpressJet crew rooms thru March 17, 2009. Dates and details are being finalized for a visit to the Newark base this April. 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. District Lodge 142 will notify our members when National Group Protection

representatives will be coming to your base for enrollment. Flight Attendants from all bases transiting through Houston during this time are welcome to enroll.

**The time for contract negotiations is near** and your union representatives would like to remind members that representatives are always available to answer your questions regarding the negotiation process. Don't let the negotiation process be undermined by rumors and mis-information, but rather ask your representatives for the facts. We invite members to stop by any union desk in your crew room or attend a monthly union business meeting to address your concerns. *Remember, as negotiations approach, no agreement will be signed without a ratification vote by the membership.*

## Employee Free Choice Act Introduced in Congress – The Employee Free Choice



Act took a big step toward becoming the law of the land Tuesday, March 10, 2009 as Representative George Miller (D-CA) and Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced the legislation in the House and Senate. “American workers need help now and the Employee Free Choice Act is an important step to rebuild America’s middle class and make an economy that works for everyone,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. “We must ensure that Congress listens to working families and passes the Employee Free Choice Act.” Recent polling by the

AFL-CIO shows 73 percent of the public supports the Employee Free Choice Act, despite an intense corporate campaign of distortions and falsehoods. The Employee Free Choice Act makes it easier for workers to join unions and bargain for better wages, benefits and a secure retirement, strengthens penalties for employers who harass, intimidate or fire workers who try to form a union, and provides for arbitration if an employer does not bargain in good faith for a first contract. The Employee Free Choice Act has enough support for a simple majority passage in the House and Senate, but faces a filibuster in the Senate. A filibuster takes 60 votes to end and corporations are pouring millions of dollars to pressure key legislators not to support the bill. “President Obama has pledged to sign the Employee Free Choice Act if it reaches his desk,” said Buffenbarger. “It’s time to call, write and email Congress and let them know it’s time for American working families to be listened to.” Click [here](#) send a message to Congress to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

**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, March 17, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd

**Guam:** Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room

**Newark:** Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel  
LL2339-N business meeting has been changed due to a scheduling conflict with the Flight Attendant Conference that is taking place on April 13 - 16, 2009.

**Cleveland:** Thursday, April 9, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive