



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

Friday, March 20, 2009

IAM Welcomes Key Labor Board Appointments – President Obama is moving swiftly to restructure key government agencies once dominated by anti-union appointees from the Bush Administration. Federal agencies like the National Mediation Board (NMB) and National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) play key roles in overseeing labor relations for millions of workers. At the National Mediation Board, which has jurisdiction for workers in the railroad and airline industries, President Obama has nominated Linda Puchala as an NMB member. Puchala currently serves as a senior mediator with the NMB and is the former president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA. The NMB will play an important role in any representation elections resulting from the pending merger between Delta and Northwest Airlines. Click [here](#) to send a message to your Senators to confirm Ms. Puchala. In January, President Obama nominated Wilma Liebman as Chairwoman of the National Labor Relations Board. Liebman's appointment renews the once anti worker-controlled agency and revitalizes its mission and responsibility of protecting workers' rights. Liebman has eight years of experience on the board, as well as several years experience at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. She began her legal career as an NLRB staff attorney, and has also served on the legal staff of two unions. "The sweeping changes at the National Mediation Board and National Labor Relations Board are proof that elections make a difference," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. "These nominees will restore much-needed balance and fairness at these agencies and they will put the priorities of America's working families first."

Union representatives and ExpressJet management met March 18, 2009, initiating a quarterly roundtable event, to discuss and resolve issues pertaining to the flight attendant group. The company briefed the union on the current state of the business and the union addressed several topics including payroll, scheduling, computer access, jumpseat issues, including transportation (bus) issues at IAH. Frank discussions were held and progress was made in the areas of payroll and scheduling. Please let your union representatives know of important topics that you feel should be discussed at future meetings. In addition, the Union and the Scheduling/Planning Department will meet monthly to address any scheduling/planning concerns. The union is working with the company to resolve known issues and we encourage members to notify your union representatives of your concerns immediately.

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.

COBRA Subsidy Available for Laid-off Workers – Laid-off workers can now get help paying for their health care coverage that is offered through Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). COBRA is a federal law that allows most laid-off workers to continue their health plan coverage at group rates. Until now, workers have had to pay the entire premium. For many newly jobless families, the cost has been too high. President Obama's economic stimulus bill includes a 65 percent premium subsidy to help eligible workers keep their health care coverage under COBRA. Workers who have been laid off since September 1, 2008, are eligible for the 65 percent subsidy. Premiums would be discounted by this amount and the worker would be required to pay the remaining 35 percent to maintain their health care coverage. The subsidy is available for a maximum period of nine months, and is only applicable to premiums paid after February 17, 2009. The subsidy is not retroactive to previously paid COBRA premiums. Workers who have other group health coverage options, such as through a spouse, or Medicare, are not eligible for the subsidy. COBRA benefits are unavailable if the employer shut down or no longer offers a group health plan. The new law also gives qualified individuals a "second chance" to elect COBRA coverage if they turned it down previously. The plan is required to notify laid-off workers of a second COBRA enrollment period by April 18. Additionally, laid-off workers can change to a plan that costs less than their original plan, if it is offered to active employees. For more information, visit the special Department of Labor website at www.dol.gov/cobra.

National Group Protection Insurance will once again be offered at the Houston base in the



Continental & ExpressJet crew rooms March 26 thru April 1, 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.

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, 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

Houston: Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at 15710 JFK Blvd

Guam: Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room
LL2339-G business meeting has been changed due to a scheduling conflict with the Flight Attendant Conference that is taking place on April 13 - 16, 2009.