



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 6, 2009

IAM Leaders Discuss Priorities with US Transportation Secretary –



U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood (second from left) with (L to R) Tony Padilla, TCU/IAM Assistant National Legislative and Political Director, Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., and TCU/IAM International President Robert Scardelletti.

General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr., and leaders of other transportation unions met this week with new U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to discuss the priorities of the nation's transportation workers. The discussion took place at the annual winter meeting of the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department. GVP Roach and Secretary LaHood discussed the IAM's unique partnership with New York City's Aviation High School and the potential advantage of creating similar programs nationwide.

Other topics discussed with Secretary LaHood included OSHA protections for flight attendants, increased inspection and standards for foreign repair stations that service U.S. aircraft and reforming flight attendant duty time to address dangerous fatigue. Secretary LaHood ensured the IAM will have the access to his office that his immediate predecessor did not provide. A follow-up meeting between the IAM and Secretary LaHood is being scheduled. In discussion with Congressman Oberstar, GVP Roach stressed the need for President Obama to quickly appoint fair-minded individuals to the National Mediation Board (NMB). "Under the previous administration, the NMB had become a tool corporations used to silence workers," said Roach. "With the transportation industry rapidly changing, immediate change is also needed at the NMB."

Read Full Article: http://www.goiam.org/publications/imap/imap_03_03_2009.htm

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 may soon get a face lift. H. R. 912, "*Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act*" - Amends the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 with respect to hours-of-service requirement airline flight crews must meet to be eligible for leave under such Act. IAM flight attendant members have had access to FMLA over the years due to negotiated language in their contracts. This contract language is being used as a model for changes to the current law that will provide all U. S. based flight attendants access to FMLA. Track the status of this bill via this link: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-912>

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 who have not attended the previous conferences in order to gain a wider audience. Space is limited and priority will be given to those who have not attended before, 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 will be offered at the Houston base in the Continental & ExpressJet crew rooms beginning March 11 - 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.



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

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

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