



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

**Friday, April 3, 2009**

**New FAA minimum crew rest requirements for flight attendants and pilots** on ultra long-range flights hits a roadblock due to airlines' lawsuit. American Airlines, Atlas Air, Continental Airlines, Evergreen International Airlines, JetBlue Airways, United Air Lines and US Airways were the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) decided to withdraw the proposed amendment to the operations specifications on ultra long range flights based on comments received from the airlines in recent months. The FAA says it will continue to work with airlines over the next year to "gather data that will help us determine the safety requirements for these flights," FAA said, adding that it "believes that it is in the best interest of passenger and crew safety for airlines to use an FAA-approved fatigue mitigation program based on the latest science to reduce the risk of fatigue to flight crews." The airlines claimed that the new requirements would "impose substantial burdens and costs" on them and impede their operations. The union will continue to monitor any further developments regarding ultra long range crew rest regulations and we will keep our membership advised.

**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.

**A New Bidding Screen for Continental Flight Attendants to Debut** April 15, 2009. All flight attendants will be required to use the new screen to bid from April 15 through April 21 or 22 (base dependant). If you would like to practice using the new bidding screen the company has provided a sample or test screen that may accessed via the crew room computers. You can access the sample version by clicking on the link for CCS Line Bidding Beta (an icon on the Windows desktop of the crew room computers). [For more information about this new bidding screen, please refer to Inflight Administration bulletin 09-39, dated March 25, 2009.](#) If you have questions, please contact your supervisor or Inflight Administration at 800-421-1789.

**National Group Protection Insurance will be offered** at the Newark base in the Continental & ExpressJet crew rooms April 7 – 13, 2009 and again on April 22 – 28, 2009. Underwritten by American Bankers Life Assurance Company, you can elect to have accident; cancer; critical illness; short term disability; 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 Newark during this time are welcome to enroll.



**The number of passengers boarding U.S. airliners is expected to plunge 7.8% in 2009, according to a U.S. government forecast.** The Federal Aviation Administration has predicted for the near-term every segment of the aviation business will be diminished. A projected 8.8% drop of in passenger levels would return the major airlines to passenger levels that were last seen in 1995. Regional airlines could see a drop in business of 4.5%, reflecting volumes they had four or five years ago. Airlines fighting to survive are cutting low-revenue flights, filling planes to capacity and eventually will increase rates. Industry analysts agree with FAA predictions of a terrible 2009 -- but differ with the agency's projection that a turnaround is only a year away, and that passenger levels will rise a steady 2% to 3% per year through 2025. The FAA has predicted the number of airline passengers would surpass the 1 billion-per-year mark in 2016, a landmark that won't be reached until 2021, five years later, the FAA said. "I think business travel is down," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said. "I think leisure travel is down, and I think people are just deciding if they don't need to fly... if they can drive, that will be the alternative. But it's all as a result of a very lousy economy that all of us are facing." Other industry analysts and consultants believe that the FAA forecasts are too optimistic and that growth in the airline sector will be much slower over the next few years.

**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.](#)