



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, January 22, 2010

**Continental Airlines recently sent out notification** that each cabin crewmember must review and sign-off on a new company “Drug and Alcohol” policy. There can’t be a recommendation for any member to sign a policy of which the Union was not consulted, nor made aware of any changes to a company policy that will affect the IAM/Continental Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The Union’s position is that any negotiable item/s affecting members should be addressed during the current contract negotiations. The implementation of this new “Drug and Alcohol” policy and mandatory sign-off by crewmembers may very well be a violation of the Railway Labor Act. When a Section of the CBA is opened by either party, changes can’t be made unless agreed to by both parties via negotiations. In addition, any required reading and/or training will fall under Section 6 (**Required Meetings and Training**) of the CBA, stating that each crew member will be paid 1 hour of flight pay for the required training.



The IAM and District 142 are proud to welcome our newest members, ExpressJet Airlines Flight Attendant Classes **10-01** and **10-02**, graduating January 29, 2010, **Congratulations!**

**A Cautionary Tale for Employees** – watch out for the phrase **"we prefer to remain independent"** which usually ends up meaning, “the companies are in fact merging and you find out about the merger while reading a USA Today on one of your layovers”. The IAM continues to oppose any form of an airline merger. When employees hear or read about airlines not wanting to merge, watch out, the other shoe is about to drop! Don’t be fooled by “Non-Answers”, these qualifiers are never a good thing for the membership.

**United CEO expects another industry merger** – There will be another airline merger in the next two years, United Airlines CEO Glenn Tilton predicted Thursday, noting that close airline partnerships on international routes could pave the way for further consolidation. But Tilton, who has long advocated mergers, wouldn't say directly if he expects Chicago-based United to be a party to any deal-making. Analysts think that is likely. United's efforts to closely link operations like ground handling and computer systems with Continental Airlines and the close venture the two are forming to share flying across the Atlantic and Pacific easily could lead to a full financial merging of the two companies. Continental executives have indicated that while they would prefer to remain independent, they would be open to a deal if Delta Air Lines proves a formidable competitor after absorbing Northwest Airlines. Delta would gain added muscle if it succeeds in wooing Japan Airlines from American Airlines, as observers and insiders expect. But American CEO Gerard Arpey vowed Wednesday to "vigorously" contest any effort by Delta and JAL to gain antitrust immunity in order to coordinate pricing and flight schedules. United and Continental, meanwhile, have a jump on their competition. They already have asked federal regulators for antitrust immunity for a joint venture they intend to form with Japan's All Nippon Airways. Tilton acknowledged he was glad not to be part of the JAL drama and relished the prospect of seeing United's two largest competitors distracted by a protracted battle for the ailing Japanese flag-carrier. "I'm delighted to be on the sidelines," said Tilton, speaking at a luncheon of the Wings Club, whose members are rooted in the airline industry.

URL: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-biz-united-tilton-jan21,0,5324797.story>

**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, February 9, 2010, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Cleveland:** Thursday, February 11, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

**Houston:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at Houston Airport Marriott Hotel

**Guam:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room