



**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, December 3, 2010

### **United Flight Attendants Attend IAM Merger Summit**

*December 3, 2010* – At the request of a number of United Airlines Flight Attendants, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) held an Organizing Summit at the Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in Hollywood, MD on December 1-2, 2010.

The purpose of the meeting was to launch a joint informational campaign to educate the Flight Attendants of United Airlines and clarify information that has been disseminated throughout the newly merged airline regarding the IAM, and to officially launch the "IAM United" organizing campaign.

The group was given the opportunity to learn about the IAM's proud history and legacy, and the world-class resources available to every member of the union. Several top leaders of the IAM District 142 presented various aspects of the union's structure and its mission to protect and represent its workers.

"The IAM has a long and proud history of representing Flight Attendants and other workers in the airline industry," said IAM District 142 President Tom Higginbotham. "Continental Flight Attendants currently enjoy one of the best contracts in the industry as well as the benefits and full support of the IAM. We look forward to sharing those resources with United Flight Attendants and working with them to secure the best contract for the combined group at the New United Airlines."

### **Jet-lagged and forgetful? It's no coincidence**

For air travelers, jet lag is a minor annoyance from which most recover within a few days, perhaps with the help of a melatonin pill. For people who repeatedly cross time zones, such as flight attendants, the effects have been shown to be more serious. Flight attendants and rotating shift workers – people who regularly alternate between day and night shifts – have been found to have learning and memory problems, decreased reaction times, higher incidences of diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and cancer, and reduced fertility. The World Health Organization lists shift work as a carcinogen.

**Read Full Article:** <http://www.physorg.com/news/2010-11-jet-lagged-coincidence.html>

## Tell Washington to Pass the FAA Bill

Airline flight crew safety, workers impacted by outsourced foreign repair and Fed-Ex workers need it done. It's time for a strong show of courage to do the right thing!

Congress has returned to Washington after the elections for its "lame duck" session, and this is the last chance to pass a strong Federal Aviation Administration bill during this session of Congress. As the main safety and investment bill for the aviation industry, its workers and the flying public, this legislation, which has been delayed in Congress 16 times, is absolutely critical.

The bill goes a long way to address health & safety and rest issues for flight crews, it begins to address very dangerous safety and security conditions existing with rules governing foreign repair stations and it deals with an outrageous situation where one employer, Fed-Ex has a special deal in labor law harming hundreds of competitors and making unionization extremely difficult for it's employees.

If the bill fails to reach completion by the end of the year, lawmakers will have to start over from scratch next year. Further delay in passing a strong and comprehensive bill is simply not an option. This legislation will create at least 300,000 jobs and make needed investments in air traffic control modernization and airport improvements. It would also enhance aviation safety for both workers and the flying public and tackles important labor-management and worker rights issues that have gone unaddressed.

This bill must not be allowed to die. Please write to your Representative and Senators to urge them to pass a comprehensive aviation safety and investment bill this year.

### Take Action:

<http://capwiz.com/iamaw/utr/1/KDRPNRUYBH/OSTHNRUYUK/6181571406>

**Cleveland:** Thursday, December 9, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

**Newark:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Houston:** Tuesday, December 14, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at Houston Airport Marriott Hotel

**Guam:** Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room

We encourage all members to access the District 142 website at [www.go142.org](http://www.go142.org) for the latest negotiation news as well as accurate and reliable merger information.

Please visit [faMergerMatters.org](http://faMergerMatters.org) for the latest merger information for IAM Flight Attendants.