



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

Friday, June 18, 2010

Continental Flight Attendant Negotiations Update

Negotiations resumed this week with meetings June 14, through June 18, 2010.

Several proposals were exchanged and progress continues to be achieved. Numerous sections remain to be addressed including economic issues.

The Negotiating Committee will continue to focus and address the areas of concern presented to us by the membership through proposal submissions

Our goal remains simple, another industry leading contract with job and pension security.

The Union encourages all members to access the District 142 website at www.go142.org for the latest negotiation news and www.FAmergermatters.org for accurate and reliable merger information.

ExpressJet Flight Attendants:

District Lodge 142 President-Directing General Chairperson Tom Higginbotham served Section 6 Notice to ExpressJet Airlines on June 2, 2010, requesting dates to commence negotiations. Click [here](#) to view the letter.

UAX flying: Flight attendants working a UAX pairing which begins with a deadhead from IAH are not required to check in at the IAH crew room. Flight attendants should go directly to Terminal A and arrive at the gate 30 minutes prior to departure.

The FAA is conducting random manual inspections: The Union encourages all ExpressJet flight attendants to make sure that your Inflight manual is up-to-date. Revision 42 is the most current update.

Final call for restoration of February lost days off: The company wants to restore all February lost days off before the end of June, 2010. If you have not yet requested restoration of your February lost days off, please send your email to Gary.Cerrato@expressjet.com providing him with your two choices for each day to be restored.

Flight Attendant Merger Matters – The IAM has created a special flight attendant merger website, www.FAmergermatters.org. This site will provide the latest merger-related updates as the proposed merger between Continental and United moves forward. You can print information about the merger, submit comments and sign up to automatically receive emails updates when new information is added to the site. We encourage all flight attendants to visit this site often.

Machinists Call for Airline Industry Re-regulation

June 18, 2010 - After two days of Congressional hearings into the proposed merger between United Airlines and Continental Airlines, many in Congress are questioning whether further airline consolidation is in the best interest of employees, passengers and taxpayers.

“United and Continental are repeating a strategic move that many airlines before them have made but that has brought sustained success to none,” said House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) who cautioned the airline’s executives that he would draft legislation to re-regulate the airline industry if the Department of Justice approved the United-Continental merger.

“Hardly a day passes where I don’t walk out on the (house) floor that someone asks me, ‘When are we going to re-regulate the airlines?’” said Oberstar after the first of three hearings on the proposed merger.

General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr., who was the only labor leader to be invited to speak at all three hearings, repeated in his testimony the IAM’s call for re-regulation. “The Machinists Union opposed de-regulation in the 1970’s and have been calling for re-regulation ever since,” said GVP Roach. “It is clear that airline deregulation has failed to deliver on its promises of a stable and profitable industry. The argument of industry instability that United and Continental are making to support their merger is the same argument for re-regulation, with a major distinction – more than 30 years of airline consolidation has proven that mergers have not helped the industry.”

“Some industries are too vital to our nation’s commerce to be allowed to regulate themselves,” added Roach. “One just needs to remember the billions of taxpayer dollars that went to bail out the financial industry and millions of barrels of oil floating in the Gulf of Mexico to recognize that some industries are too essential to the United States’ economy to be left to their own destructive ways.”

The airline industry generates \$1.4 trillion in economic activity and contributes \$692 billion dollars per year to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

This week there were two separate Continental crews injured in hotel van accidents, one in Quito and one in Orange County. Unfortunately, there were numerous injuries from being tossed about inside the vans, that they were unable to finish their trips. These events bring to light hotel van safety habits that need improving. We are diligent about using seat belts on the airplane, and we know "*click it or ticket*" when we are in our cars. It's time to think road safety on our layovers. It only takes a second to buckle up, and you are worth the effort.

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:

Cleveland: Thursday, July 8, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

Newark: Tuesday, July 13, 2010, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

Houston: Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at Houston Airport Marriott Hotel

Guam: Wednesday, July 21, 2010, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room