



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

**Friday, June 4, 2010**

**IAM, PBGC Discuss UAL/Continental Pensions**

Machinists' Union representatives recently met with acting director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) Vince Snowbarger and his staff to discuss the impact a merger between United Airlines and Continental Airlines could have on employee pension plans.

General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr., District 141 President Rich Delaney, District 142 President Tom Higginbotham and members of the IAM's legal and strategic resources departments described the importance of preserving our member's defined benefit pension plans and retirement security.

"This meeting was part of a continuing process to address our membership's concerns," said GVP Roach. "The IAM will take whatever steps necessary to protect our members."

Continental ramp service, stock clerks and public contact employees all participate in a Continental company-sponsored defined benefit pension plan, while their IAM-represented counterparts at United participate in the multi-employer IAM National Pension Plan (NPP). Continental's IAM-represented flight attendants also participate in one of Continental's defined benefit pension plans and have negotiated the IAM NPP as a contingency plan. United flight attendants do not currently have a defined benefit pension plan.

"The Machinists Union will not allow pensions to become a causality of this merger," said Higginbotham.

"Pensions are not a reward," added Delaney. "Our members have earned their pensions over a period of decades."

The PBGC supplied general responses to the IAM's questions, but would not address UAL/Continental specifically. They did, however, advise that we should discuss any proposals concerning pensions with the PBGC before any agreements are reached. As the merger proposal moves forward, the IAM and PBGC will remain in touch to discuss developments that may occur.

**Flight Attendant Merger Matters** – The IAM has created a special flight attendant merger website, [www.FAmergermatters.org](http://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.

**ExpressJet Flight Attendants:**

**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 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](mailto:Gary.Cerrato@expressjet.com) providing him with your two choices for each day to be restored.

**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, June 8, 2010, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Cleveland:** Thursday, June 10, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive

**Houston:** Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at Houston Airport Marriott Hotel

**Guam:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room