



District 142

Continental • ExpressJet • Micronesia • Gulfstream • CommutAir

# Weekly Update



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

**Friday, July 16, 2010**

## **NTSB Cites Heroism by IAM Flight Attendants**



*Regina Ressler*



*Al Felipe*



*Pam Howard*

In a report released this week, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) cited high winds as the probable cause for the crash of Continental Flight 1404 at Denver International Airport on December 20, 2008. The NTSB also credited the IAM-represented Flight Attendants for the successful evacuation of all 110 passengers and crew from the burning aircraft.

“This accident was nothing short of a holiday miracle,” said NTSB chair Deborah Hersman at the Washington, D.C. meeting held to announce the results of the board’s investigation. Hersman called the actions of the Flight Attendants on Flight 1404 “a shining example of the things that went right that evening.”

The scene inside the aircraft was described in vivid detail in a 2009 Denver Post [article](#) published immediately following the accident. “Windows were melting and popping. Passengers were screaming, ‘we’re gonna burn’ and ‘it’s gonna explode,’” said Continental pilot Richard Lowe, who commended the cabin crew for taking command of the situation.

Despite injuries sustained in the crash, the three IAM Flight Attendants, Pam Howard, Al Felipe and Regina Ressler, calmed panicked passengers and directed the evacuation through exits that were not engulfed in flames.

The three Flight Attendants, who are members of Local 2339H in Houston, TX, were honored at the 2009 IAM Transportation Conference in New York with the first IAM Joint Air Transport Safety Committee Excellence in Safety Award.

### **ExpressJet Flight Attendants:**

**The contract screening committee met recently in MCI** and reviewed contract proposals. Your negotiating committee, consisting of Base Chairs Nicole Washington-Fears – (CLE), Michael Becerra – (EWR), Dana Fremont – (IAH) and Lisa Kelley – (ORD), and General Chairs Kate Romanusky and Randy Hatfield, will be meeting at the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center in August to begin preparation for negotiations. We will keep you updated as we move through the process.

**The Union and the Company met this week to address Scheduling concerns.** We urge you to continue to forward your concerns to your local representatives so that they may be addressed with the company.

**The Company advised that some flight attendants still have not requested** their choices to restore days off lost in February. Any flight attendant who is still waiting for days off to be restored must email Gary Cerrato, at [gary.cerrato@expressjet.com](mailto:gary.cerrato@expressjet.com), **before July 31**, and provide him with two choices for each day to be restored.

**ORD:** The union continues to pressure the company regarding the use of the flight attendant jumpseat on our own aircraft, however, the company reports that it has so far been unable to secure any co-operation from United.

### **NMB Re-issues Final Rule for Representation Election Procedure**

The NMB's final ruling allows airline and rail workers to elect unions under the same democratic standards used in other union and political elections in America: a majority of those who cast a vote will decide the outcome. No longer will non-voting employees be counted as NO votes. No longer will employers be able to simply keep voter turnout low as a means to trample on employees' right to freely choose whether to unionize.

Effective July 1, 2010, the Board's voting procedures for representation elections will change to add a "No" option and to provide that the majority of votes-cast will determine the outcome of an election. The new procedure will only apply to applications received on or after July 1, 2010.

"This change from the NMB is long overdue. Elections should be democratic and allow for the majority to decide. TCU is pleased with the ruling," said TCU International President Bob Scardelletti.

URL: <http://www.goiam.org/index.php/tcunion/recent-articles/7525-nmbrelease>

### **Take the 'Ask a Working Woman' Survey**

Working women in America have a golden opportunity to answer the age-old question; "What do women want?" by taking the [2010 Ask a Working Woman survey](#).

The survey, conducted by Working America and the AFL-CIO takes just minutes to complete and provides an opportunity to describe how you feel about your job, how the recession has affected your family and what you expect the next five years will bring.

Add your voice to tens of thousands of other women to make sure decision makers and the media hear what you have to say. We hear so much from pundits and economists telling us what to think. It's time to tell them what working women actually think.

URL: <http://www.goiam.org/index.php/imap/latest/7574--take-the-ask-a-working-woman-survey>

**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:

**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

**Newark:** Tuesday, August 10, 2010, 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel

**Cleveland:** Thursday, August 12, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at 669 North Rocky River Drive