

Flashpoint

Why Would Richard Anderson Fabricate Untruths?

As many of you are aware, the IAM recently completed the largest organizing blitz to date for Delta Air Lines employees. Hundreds of our brothers and sisters participated in a week-long organizing drive wherein we were able to access thousands of employees through phone banks and door knocking. These venues provided employees of Delta Air Lines an opportunity to have open conversation, without fear of retribution, about the many positive things that the IAM has to offer each of them.

Simply because of the effectiveness of our "blitz," former Northwest Airlines, and now Delta Air Lines, CEO Richard Anderson slandered our successful effort by stating allegations that we have frightened their spouses or children and, in some cases, blocked their driveways, preventing them from leaving. These allegations are just another example of how desperate Delta Air Lines has become in their effort to remain non-union.

I can assure each and every one of our members that our conduct was beyond professional, and our visits were welcomed by Delta employees. In fact, many of those whom we met with were thankful that we drove all the way to their home to have candid discussions with them about the union advantage without fear of retribution from management. Similar messages were echoed by Delta employees who received phone calls from members of the IAM.

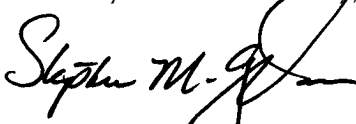
Stories of workplace oppression, ever-changing policy and procedures, and an executive management team philosophy that has changed from people before profits to profits before people saturated almost all of our conversations. These are stories that apparently Delta CEO Richard Anderson is not willing to report for public consumption; rather, he is willing to harm the reputation of every hard working man and woman who believes in the lawful right to join a union.

Richard Anderson's comments and the comments of his long-string puppets come as no surprise. Instead, we anticipated prior to our "blitz" that they would fabricate stories of disrespect and bullying in the mere hope of continuing to create a divide-and-perpetuate angst amongst all Delta Air Lines employees—which is you. His comments are hideous and should only highlight the effort and the lengths that Delta Air Lines will go to battle unionization.

I question that if our actions are so egregious and employees are so upset with our visits, then why would Delta management want to stop us? The only answer that I can offer is because we are having great success! We don't need to scare children, spouses or employees; they are scared enough of Delta Air Lines management's rhetoric.

I encourage everyone to talk to your Delta counterparts—regardless if management tells you not to. You have a right by law to do so. Encourage them to meet with our brothers and sisters, encourage them to sign an election request card. There is a common thread that runs through all of our organizing stories—the ability to draw strength from suffering, the determination to not just advance our own lives, but the lives of others as well. This is what makes Union sisters and brothers so extraordinary—that we not only refuse to be victims of injustice and oppression—we also refuse to be bystanders.

Fraternally and in solidarity,



Stephen M. Gordon
President/Directing General Chair

