

IAM

August 13, 2009

Northwest Airlines

#09-04

Air Transport District 143

Flashpoint

IAM Files for Representation Election

As you may have heard by now, earlier today the IAM filed an application with the National Mediation Board (NMB) requesting a determination that Northwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines are operating as a single carrier for representational purposes for fleet service (Equipment Service for pre-merger NWA members), flight simulator technicians and plant protection classifications.

The NMB will decide shortly whether or not a single carrier exists for each of the classifications we filed for and, following that determination, the IAM will submit evidence of sufficient interest in Union representation for the NMB to conduct elections. This process can take weeks or months; there is no set time table for the NMB to determine when or if elections will take place.

Sisters and Brothers, this is our historic moment. This is our chance to win change that we can believe in. With today's announcement, each and every member and the membership of tomorrow must become engaged in the upcoming representational election as a prelude for positive negotiations — a process that allows us to control our collective destiny. We must ensure membership participation in conjunction with our upcoming representation election efforts in order to render results that would realize membership hopes and ambitions within our applicable class and crafts. It remains imperative that our members and the membership of tomorrow to exert maximum efforts towards participation in any representation election while encouraging our coworkers to do the same. To do nothing is simply not an option. Don't let fear control your future.

As we rapidly approach our opportunity to rewrite the history books of labor, each of us share the responsibility of being an active participant in the process — the very process that will determine our futures. A process that will determine whether we will keep a defined pension benefit plan, sick time, occupational injury time, vacation time, guaranteed part-time hours, 40-hour work week, and so on.

All of the aforementioned were not given to us by the good graces of our employers; rather, they were negotiated by us at the negotiating table. We cannot forget what retirees and senior employees had to persevere so that we could have a better future, better benefits, and a better retirement. And now we have an opportunity to do the same. We control our destiny.

In the coming weeks, information will be forthcoming regarding the NMB single carrier process, as well as material you will need to be educated on the election process and the ramifications of your vote. Remember, when it comes time to vote, protect yourself and your family with a collective bargaining agreement. Vote YES.



UNION LABEL



09-014

In Solidarity,

Stephen M. Gordon
President/Directing General Chair

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