

Northern Light

FMLA

The Department of Labor has published its final rule on Family and Medical Leave providing military family leave and updates to the regulations. To view this information, please visit the District 143 website at www.iam143.org.—*General Chair/Human Rights Director Bill Holloway*

Alaska Airlines Update

LL 601 Stewards Training

On Tuesday, February 10, Local Lodge 601 welcomed its new IAM local union representatives to its union meeting, after which everyone enjoyed a meal and got to know their union colleagues from across the state.

LL 601 Officers provided training for the IAM committees, chief stewards and stewards on February 11-12 in Anchorage. There were attendees from Nome, Kotzebue, Fairbanks, Barrow, Bethel and Anchorage. The various representatives were from the CSA and Ramp groups and the Stores Agent classification. There were participants from both Alaska Airlines and Northwest/Delta.

LL 601 provided training via Grand Lodge Trainer Monica Silbas. Her one-day seminar provided an overview of the IAM's structure—local, district and Grand Lodge. Monica educates with humor, patience and high energy. Her insights to the history of the IAM and the struggles of labor were presented with practical references and passion.

The IAM's safety departments were also in attendance on the first day of class. International Representative Steve Rice spoke about the one million dollar government grant to the IAM to develop training for hazardous material issues. This grant money will be shared with the airlines who have employees who are IAM members. Also in attendance was District 143 Safety Director Wayne Childress, who generously offered his insights and help as he began his service as the District's new Safety Director on assignment in ANC.

I was honored to present, along with LL 601 President and Chief Steward Kiana Peacock and RSSA Committee Chair Jeff Lemon, an advanced stewards class. Both Kiana and Jeff were former IAM contract negotiators. Some of the subjects that were covered were grievance paperwork, various union positions (such as the ones at a local lodge), AS coalition meetings, the new DC duties and the arbitration process.

NWA/DL steward and LL601 Legislative Representative Joseph Newberry made a brief presentation about how politics affect us, the new legislation being proposed and how to get involved in the political process in Alaska. We ended with a Q&A session about anything and everything.

District 143 would like to thank all the officers of LL 601 for getting everyone together and then taking care of us! The food, hospitality and genuine friendship towards all made learning easy and fun. I personally look forward to assisting our newly trained officers as they complete their steward duties. I truly appreciated meeting everyone—*General Chair Nan Otto*

FMLA Matrix Absence Mgmt.

Alaska Airlines will now have a new vendor to administer FMLA effective April 1, 2009: Matrix Absence Management Inc. You will be requested to call Matrix within two hours of your start time if able. This now follows the collective bargaining agreement.

Stewards Meetings

The first meeting for stewards will be in Seattle Reservations on February 25, 2009, with a conference call available to outline station stewards. More meetings will follow in Boise Reservations and Phoenix Reservation offices.

System Regulations

On December 31, 2008, Alaska Airlines posted an article entitled "One Less Rule." As a result of confusion of some of the rules in System Regulations Sec. 2.120., Alaska has adjusted, for clarity, Rule 6.

Another change is that the rules regarding drug and alcohol use and possession under section "Personal Conduct" have been removed. The rule now refers to the more comprehensive "Alcohol and Drug Use" policy found under section 2.450. Please visit Alaska's website for these changes. Please print and post for all to read.

Review Your Files

Beginning of 2009 is a good time for all employees to review all files with the Company, up to and including your Supervisor Record of Discussion.—*General Chair Jackie Fay*

