

Northern Light

Northwest Airlines Update

Your Family's Quality of Life

"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as 'right-to-work.' It provides no 'rights' and no 'works.' Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining... We demand this fraud be stopped."
Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King spoke these words almost 50 years ago. His message was on point then, and is so very real today.

For over half a century, your union, the IAM, has safeguarded job security and ensured safe working environments and benefits to preserve the quality of life for you and your family. Our ability to object to unfairness, to have a voice against injustice and to have a neutral third party which decides an issue of discipline or termination is all at risk. These measures do not exist at Delta because there's no one to voice your objections to!

Delta would have you believe a Union isn't necessary at the "New Delta." For example, the March 11, 2009, Internal Memo from the Delta Domestic ACS/CARGO Seniority Integration Committee that stated their version of what would be a fair and equitable method of combining seniority, station seniority—what happened to system seniority? Is this how we start the new Delta relationship? By unilaterally deciding without giving us a voice or a vote! This would not happen with a collective bargaining agreement.

As you have witnessed in your work locations, this new management team has prevented and denied you and Delta employees the opportunity for your Union to be present to address the concerns of our current and future members. Ask yourself why? Why aren't you given the opportunity of having fair, open dialogue? When the time comes, participate and vote! Vote IAM! And don't be fooled.—General Chair Richard Suarez

Many of our friends and coworkers have taken the early out and have already left. Others are departing throughout the year. We would like to wish them all the best in the future.—General Chair Ruth Dorsty

Up "CLOS" and "CRASS" Seniority and Staffing

Sarcasm- (noun) cutting language remarks that mean the opposite of what they seem to say and are intended to mock or deride an individual or corporation (Merriam-Webster Dictionaries).

This article is to *thank* the Company(s) for two recent internal memorandums that have helped our organizing efforts tremendously. The first one, dated March 11, 2009, concerns a recommendation (read "warning") on what could happen to seniority if there is no union. The concept is called C.L.O.S., which, the way I see it, is an acronym for "Certainly Losing Our Seniority." I know everyone has read this memo as it's still being talked about everywhere; whether to vote for the IAM or not. They are now telling us they WILL vote for a union because this was the 'final straw.'

Vote union and let ALL of your time count as it gets negotiated and YOU have some input. There's an old saying, "Seniority stinks...until you get some; then it's not bad." Words to vote by.

Memo two, dated March 19, 2009, concerns C.R.A.S.S. (Creatively Addressing Station Staffing needs). Regular readers know I love 'corporate-speak' and oxymorons. CRASS may be *both* and inadvertently sarcastic. The definition of CRASS? *...so thoughtless, vulgar, and insensitive as to take all refinement or delicacy* (source: Encarta Dictionary). This memo warns of "quickly adjusting our capacity" (read staffing) *again*. It tells us that some stations are overstaffed while some are *understaffed* (see airlines-Northwest) and attempts to tell us how they are going to rectify this (i.e., staffing people at both carriers have screwed up again and "every attempt is being made to avoid involuntary furloughs.") In addition, who is going to fix this? The same people that got it wrong in the first place?

Bottom line? Fewer airplanes mean fewer people working them. That means probable layoffs or, at best, a transfer of work to somewhere you don't currently live. Neither is real fun. It makes me wonder what the definition and meaning of "no frontliners will be laid off as a result of this merger" means...—General Chair J Scott Peterson



NWA cont.

DTW—City Captain Pamela Ollie and the DTW grievance committee have distributed the IAM pins to the Gray Book employees and Women in Union pins to our sisters on the ramp.

Second steps were heard the week of April 6 with Andy Zarras, and those answers should be back soon.

ATL—We as an organization are moving forward with the Delta organizing drive. All NWA and Delta employees should go to the District website www.iam143.org or call the District 143 hotline (800) 392-6554 to get the weekly information made available to you so you can stay current on the organizing process.

To all NWA employees, don't fall for RUMORS. Get your information from your Union representatives.

Delta employees, ask for and complete an Authorization Card to have a say in your future.

Thanks to all for the cards and get well wishes during the time I was hospitalized with a broken foot. Family is always there when you need them!

See you out there organizing.—*General Chair Sharon Caldwell*

It's Our Time

I don't believe you will find many union workers in the investment banking business or mortgage lending business; and if I'm not mistaken, our current ills can be at least partially traced back there, along with corrupt CEOs and officers with their multimillion dollar salaries and bonuses that seem intent on finding any way they can to deny their workers respect and fairness.

Brothers and sisters, to repeat a slogan first used by Delta management, "IT'S OUR TIME." Make no mistake—it can be our time. It's our time to stand up and be counted. Let's keep our pensions, our vacations, our sick leave policies, our lower cost medical insurance, and the many other benefits that our members have fought so hard for through the years. **VOTE UNION YES—VOTE IAM!!!**—*Safety & Health/Community Service Director Wayne Childress*

Alaska Airlines Update

Workers' Compensation Board of Alaska

Recently, Alaska Airlines printed information about an appointment to the State Workers' Compensation Board of Alaska. IAM Local Lodge 601 President Kiana Peacock was, in fact, that appointee. The Company announcement read, "Anchorage CSA wins Alaska board appointment." Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin appointed Kiana Peacock to the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board recently. Peacock, of ANC, has been a customer service agent for Alaska Airlines since 1994. The Compensation Board's 18 members are selected from four major areas of the state, with half representing labor and half representing management. Peacock serves as president of the IAMAW Local 601 in ANC, and is a shop steward for the Union. Peacock graduated from Kotzebue High School in 1990, and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1994. She was appointed a labor representative to the board's South Central Alaska panel.

Just as LL601 is lucky to have Kiana's leadership, so too is the Workers' Compensation Board. Congratulations and thanks to Kiana for her continued dedication to the IAM members and the citizens of Alaska.

March Arbitration Hearing

A case involving a discharged COPS operation agent was presented on March 18-19, 2009, in SEA. The case was completed with two days of testimony. The parties are now awaiting the arbitrator's ruling. The case was filed in JNU. GC Nan Otto presented the case and was assisted by SEA chief steward Celeste Klima and union board member Kiana Peacock. Everyone's assistance was greatly appreciated.

Calendar

April 28—COPS and RSSA negotiators met in SEA.

May 12—Ramp lockout arbitration session in Sacramento.

June 10-11—Arbitration dates for contract dispute cases.

July 15-16—Arbitration dates for discharge case-ANC COPS cargo case

August 16-20—Transportation Conference

September 23-24—Arbitration (case to be determined).

RSSA Article 18 and COPS Article 17

Is your station in compliance with RSSA Article 18 and COPS Article 17? Do you know what these articles involve? Demand these articles be followed to the letter! Your life could depend on it

Lastly, congratulations to everyone for their work achievements in assisting the passengers during the volcano eruptions. Take a moment to enjoy the Spring season. As the spring break travelers enjoy the sun, and refresh their spirits, so should you. You've earned it!—*General Chair Nan Otto*