

January 28, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Our union, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, has more contracts open for negotiations this year than at any other time in AFA history. As we eagerly await our vote for union representation at Delta, we have high hopes that we'll keep our right to collective bargaining, and we'll soon have our own opportunity to work with Delta flight attendants to negotiate our joint post-bankruptcy contract¹.

In light of all of this, I am very pleased to announce that our union has been able to retain the services of SuzAnne Balzer as a consultant to assist our union with current and future negotiations.

As members of our union probably know best, SuzAnne comes to us with a wealth of experience. She has in-depth knowledge of flight attendant contracts, scheduling, and airline operations. Of course we know her from her most recent position as Director of Contract Administration at Northwest Airlines, where she was involved not only in negotiations, but also served as a point of contact for AFA-CWA contract questions and concerns. She's also been the Director of Flight Attendant Scheduling Operations at Northwest, and has served in many other positions at Northwest that enhanced her knowledge of airline operations.

What many of you might not know is that SuzAnne started her career as a flight attendant and a unionist. She was formerly an AFA LEC President in MSP at North Central Airlines (which later became Republic) prior to Republic's merger with Northwest Airlines. At Republic, she served on the AFA Negotiating Committee as well as the System Board of Adjustment for arbitrations, was the Scheduling Committee Chairperson, and worked on local grievances. Suzanne earned her BA in Labor Studies from Antioch University.

A number of times over the years we've said goodbye to union leaders who left to work in management. Well, today one of them "came home" to our union - SuzAnne Balzer. She will be a tremendous asset to our union, considering she has about 40 years of combined union and company experience.

Onward and upward,



Janette Rook
Northwest MEC President
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA

¹ For a brief discussion about what happens to our current Northwest contract, as well as the subsequent negotiations at Delta for a single agreement covering both groups that is dependent upon the outcome of the representation election, please click [HERE](#).