

Our Voice on Capitol Hill

Northwest Airlines Master Executive Council Government Affairs Committee

Association of Flight Attendants – CWA, AFL-CIO

Your MEC Government Affairs Report Card – and Milestones since we joined the AFA-CWA

The AFA-CWA Government Affairs department at the International under the guidance of Shane Larson, Director of Government Affairs and your NWA MEC Government Affairs Committee along with Government Affairs activists from every airline represented by the AFA-CWA meets with and lobbies members of federal and state law-makers in order to advocate for issues that will improve the lives of all flight attendants. We are dedicated to a goal whereby improvements to our careers can be secured through legislative actions, avoiding having to negotiate for them.

Our main purpose is to advocate through the legislative process for a better future for all flight attendants oftentimes in collaboration with our company's Government Affairs department. The following is a compilation (although not a complete one) of activities beginning in 2006 and prior to the AFA-CWA winning representation at NWA. The reason for going back this far is to show how the AFA-CWA Government Affairs department effort not only works for those flight attendants that it actively represents, but for all flight attendants everywhere.

We should all be very proud of our accomplishments as we move forward to an even greater challenge and opportunities to advocate for our careers with the strength of over 21,000 flight attendants when we join the ranks of the new Delta.

February 2009

AFA-CWA TESTIFIES ON CAPITOL HILL FOR FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL. The International President of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA), Patricia Friend, testified this week before the House Aviation Subcommittee to address issues involving the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill. The FAA reauthorization is important because the bill determines how FAA programs are funded every three to four years. The bill currently contains seven flight attendant specific provisions.

February 9, 2009

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) applauded the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Airline Flight Crew Family and Medical Leave Act by a unanimous voice vote. Congressmen Tim Bishop (D-NY) and Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI) sponsored the legislation that will clarify the intent of the original Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and finally provide all flight attendants equal coverage under this statute.

February 2009

AFA-CWA asks Congress to help with appointment of National Mediation Board. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard agrees to send a letter subsequently signed by eighty-six Representatives from both side of the aisle to President Obama urging him to appoint a new fair-minded National Mediation Board. In addition individual letters were sent by Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI) and Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA).

February 2009

NWA MEC Government Affairs committee receives legislation that will be introduced in the Minnesota legislature to change a statute that will grant unemployment benefits to participants of SLIP leaves.

January 2009

Labor Department Grants AFA-CWA Request: Flight Attendants Classified as Essential Employees. Flight attendants scored a major victory this week when the Department of Labor responded to AFA-CWA's formal comments and reclassified the flight attendant occupation to its rightful place. The DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics maintains a Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) system in which every occupation is assigned to a certain category.

December 2008

Locals 97, 98 and 99 sign on to Brief of Amici Curiae to Support Application Against CA-PROP 8. An injury to one is an injury to all. Believing that taking away the civil rights of one group takes the rights away from all of us, our NWA-AFA local Councils 97, 98, and 99 have joined with the AFL-CIO and dozens of other labor unions in support of a petitioner's challenge now before the California Supreme Court in an effort to overturn California's controversial Proposition 8, which won a narrow victory this past November outlawing gay marriage.

December 2008

AFA-CWA Sets Legislative Agenda for the 111th Congress

The AFA-CWA Legislative/Political Policy Committee met in Washington DC the first week of December with every MEC Government Affairs Chair from all the AFA-CWA represented airlines to discuss our legislative agenda for the 111th Congress. The 111th Congress will be sworn into office on January 6th, 2009 and we are ready to hit the pavement and visit our old friends and make some new ones on Capitol Hill. With a majority in the both chambers and a working families friendly administration we are hopeful that our issues will get through this Congress. With your help we know that we can accomplish what we have not been able to for the past eight years during one of the most labor-unfriendly administrations in history. Our legislative priorities will include:

- Support for the NWA/DL Representational Election
- FMLA
- FAA Reauthorization Bill
- Bankruptcy Reform Bill
- Employee Free Choice Act
- Healthcare Reform
- Employee Non-Discrimination Act

November 2008

Fatigue Study is mailed to approximately 23,000 flight attendants. The AFA-CWA was instrumental in guaranteeing funds for this study.

November 2008

NWA MEC Government Affairs Committee is coordinates a round table discussion facilitated by Rep. Betty McCollum to discuss legislation to change statute that will extend unemployment benefits to SLIP leave participants.

August 8 – 22, 2008

With the collaboration of the NWA Government Affairs department a voter registration information campaign was very well received by our members at all nine bases at Northwest Airlines. Volunteers from the Government Affairs Committee manned tables and provided members with information on how to vote this November.

August 2008

The Stonewall Democrats pass a resolution on behalf and in support of the Northwest flight attendants fighting to keep their 60-year plus history of collective bargaining.

July 30, 2008

Congressional Hearing Focuses On Effects That Delta/Northwest Merger Would Have on Employees. - The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) testified before a Congressional subcommittee on the effects the proposed merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines would have on the thousands of employees who are key to the combined carrier's success and viability. Joined by experts from across the industry, AFA-CWA International President Patricia Friend

testified and fielded questions from members of the House Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee in order to focus on the labor issues surrounding this merger.

July 23 – 24, 2008

Government Affairs activists and MEC officers travel to Washington DC to meet with MN Congressional delegation to discuss unemployment benefits for SLIP leave recipients in MSP and secured support from all members if the delegation except one.

July 2008

Government Affairs activists meet with Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) to get his support for MN SLIP leave recipients.

July 17 - 18, 2008

MEC officers and Government Affairs activists hold meetings at the MN state level on behalf of SLIP recipients in MSP to try and secure unemployment benefits.

July 21, 2008

Government Affairs activists and MEC officers meet with MN lawmakers on behalf of SLIP leave recipients in MSP.

July 10, 2008

Association of Flight Attendants Remains Dedicated to Equal Rights. - The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) Board of Directors unanimously backed a resolution opposing a California proposition that, if passed, would define only marriage between a man and a woman as valid in the state. The Resolution was presented by Kate Day, NWA Local 98 President.

July 9, 2008

Association Of Flight Attendants Endorses Barack Obama For President -
The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) Board of Directors unanimously endorsed Barack Obama for President of the United States. Over 200 flight attendant leaders voted by acclamation to support Senator Obama's bid during AFA-CWA's 35th annual meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

July 9, 2008

NWA MEC Government Affairs Chair Albert Garcia is again nominated and confirmed for a position on the AFA-CWA International Legislative Policy Committee.

May 21, 2008

Flight Attendants Oppose 'Pilots Only' Security Screening Set To Begin This Summer-
The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) reiterated their concerns regarding a special Transportation Security Administration (TSA) initiative that would allow over 75,000 pilots to avoid being screened like other aviation employees. The pilot only screening is scheduled to begin testing this summer.

May 20, 2008

Flight Attendants One Step Closer To FMLA Coverage - Flight attendants are one step closer to qualifying for coverage under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act, H.R. 2744, by a wide margin of 402 to 9. For 15 years, flight attendants and other airline employees have had difficulty qualifying for FMLA coverage due to the Act's language that makes it extremely difficult for employees with unique timekeeping methods to meet the defined minimum number of hours worked.

May 15, 2008

Delta Flight Attendant Election Receives Intense Scrutiny In Congressional Merger Hearing -
In a Congressional hearing regarding the impact of the proposed merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, members of the U.S. House of Representative's Subcommittee on Aviation grilled Delta CEO Richard Anderson on his

failure to declare neutrality in Delta flight attendants' union representation election. Delta flight attendants are in the midst of a vote seeking to become members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA). The election and the overall effects this merger would have on employees at both carriers were a major focus of the seven-hour hearing, dominating much of the question-and-answers periods. Your Government Affairs activists were present at this hearing.

May 8, 2008

Flight Attendants Testify: Without Unions Delta/Northwest Merger Poses Threat To Middle Class Jobs. - Before the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety and Security, the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) testified that the potential merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines could have devastating effects that reach far beyond economic concerns. The proposed merger threatens to initiate the unraveling of the entire industry, destroying middle class jobs in the process. Your Government Affairs activists were present at this hearing.

"As we stand at the edge of a great change in this industry, it is important that we begin the debate, discussion and dialogue on what kind of national aviation system we want." *said AFA-CWA International President Patricia Friend.* "This country has lacked a rational aviation policy since deregulation and our industry is being driven by the marketplace, leaving virtually no protections for airline workers. Delta management is trying to destroy the few protections employees do have through their collective bargaining agreements by using this merger as an opportunity to destroy unions. If management is successful, they will have the ability to remake the entire airline industry and destroy airline jobs as a stable and secure middle class career once and for all."

May 5, 2008

Rene Foss NYC Government Affairs Chair and MN resident testifies in front of the MN State Senate advocating for NWA flight attendants – Subject, the DL/NW merger

April 2008

NWA Government Affairs activists join other AFA and hundreds of CWA members in Washington DC for the CWA Legislative Conference.

April 29, 2008

Delta Flight Attendants Brief Congressional Leaders On Management's Voter Suppression - Delta Air Lines flight attendants met with dozens of Congressional offices regarding Delta management's aggressive voter suppression campaign during the current AFA-CWA representation election. As flight attendants entered their second week of voting, management continues to ramp up their tactics of intimidation and interference, pushing flight attendants not to vote for the union.

April 29, 2008

Rene Foss NYC Government Affairs Chair and MN resident testifies in front of the MN State House on behalf of NWA flight attendants in the DL/NW merger.

April 23, 2008

AFA-CWA To Testify At Congressional Hearing On Delta/Northwest Merger – On Thursday, April 24 the announced merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines came under Congressional scrutiny when the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) International Vice President Veda Shook testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. AFA-CWA's testimony focused on the effects the pending merger will have on flight attendants and other employees, and potential solutions to the worst aspects of the merger. Representing the over 8,000 flight attendants at Northwest, and currently conducting an election at Delta to represent the over 12,000 flight attendants, AFA-CWA was one of the only airline employee voices at the hearing. Your Government Affairs activists who hand delivered a petition to Richard Anderson signed by both DL and NW flight attendants asking him to remain neutral attended the hearing.

April 22, 2008

U.S. Senators Urge Delta And Northwest To Include Employees In Upcoming Merger-

In a letter to the CEOs of Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, 26 U.S. Senators urged both parties to "demonstrate a genuine commitment to cooperative labor relations" and to remain neutral in future union elections, particularly for Delta

flight attendants who begin voting for AFA-CWA representation on April 23.

After meeting with Chairman John Conyers (D-MI), a letter drafted by the Chairman and co-authored by Rep. Keith Ellison and signed by various House leaders was also sent to Richard Anderson on behalf and at the request of NWA Government Affairs activists and DL flight attendants activists.

April 17, 2008

AFA-CWA Applauds Congress For Initial Efforts To Ban Cell Phone Usage In Flight -

Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), along with nine bipartisan co-sponsors, introduced legislation that would prohibit airline passengers from making or receiving cellular phone calls during commercial flights. The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA), has long advocated for formal legislation that would continue the current Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) ban on in-flight cell phone use. AFA-CWA International President Patricia Friend issued a statement in support of H.R 5788, the HANG UP Act (Halting Airline Noise to Give Us Peace Act).

April 10, 2008

AFA-CWA Asks Congress To Clarify FMLA Coverage For Flight Attendants -

Flight Attendant Jennifer Hunt, a member of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA), testified before the House Education and Labor Committee on how the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) excludes flight attendants and the devastating effect that has on working families. It is often difficult for flight attendants to qualify for FMLA coverage due to their unusual work schedules and the specific requirements of the law. Ms. Hunt was denied FMLA leave with her airline in 2007 after her husband, who had recently returned from serving 15 months in Iraq, was diagnosed with cancer.

April 3, 2008

AFA-CWA Applauds Congressional Committee For Upholding FAA Oversight -

As frontline safety professionals, flight attendants have a vested interest in all aspects surrounding airline safety. The Congressional hearing regarding the lack of oversight by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reaffirms claims made throughout the years by the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA). Patricia Friend, AFA-CWA International President, issued a statement in response to the marathon hearing.

December 19, 2007

Congress Passes Two Key Flight Attendant Provisions - U.S. flight attendants benefited greatly from the omnibus bill passed by Congress due to two important provisions that were included. Unlike DL CEO Richard Anderson's claim that DL was instrumental in the inclusion of this provision, it was the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) Government Affairs department that worked closely with several key Congressional leaders to ensure that seniority protections for aviation employees and funding for a follow-up fatigue study were included in the comprehensive bill. Delta had NOTHING to do with this provision in the bill.

December 17, 2007

AFA-CWA Gets Congress To Support Seniority Protections For Flight Attendants.

November 5, 2007

Flight Crew Hospitalized For Poor Air Quality - AFA-CWA Again Calls For Further Study Of Issue

October 2007

NWA MEC Government Affairs Chair Albert Garcia is confirmed as a member of the AFA-CWA International Legislative Policy Committee at the annual Board of Director's meeting in Phoenix AZ. This 5-member committee is tasked with planning and executing our legislative agenda for all members represented by the AFA-CWA.

September 25, 2007

Flight Attendants Help To Introduce Bankruptcy Reform Legislation

September 20, 2007

Groundbreaking FAA Authorization Promises Gains For Flight Attendants - There are several important provisions included in the FAA Reauthorization that AFA-CWA has repeatedly requested for years. For the first time in over 30 years, a requirement for workplace safety and health protections for flight attendants was finally recognized. Flight attendants suffer numerous occupational injuries and illnesses while working aboard commercial flights at rates several times higher than those for all private industry workers, yet are not covered under Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.

The FAA Reauthorization also states that the FAA must institute a HIMS, or "Return to the Cabin" Program, that will allow flight attendants an opportunity for rehabilitation after testing positive for drug or alcohol abuse. The House also instructed the FAA to complete studies on flight attendant fatigue and continue sampling and analyzing onboard cabin air. The FAA must also initiate a study of actual onboard temperatures to determine if regulations are necessary to mandate standard temperatures onboard aircraft.

Protection for seniority integration in case of an airline merger was also included. This provision will help to ensure that, in the event of an airline merger, all employees are treated fairly and one group is not stapled to the bottom of the merged seniority list. Additionally, the bill mandates that airlines must notify passengers upon ticket purchase if their aircraft is subject to pesticide spraying.

September 19, 2007

AFA-CWA Calls For Aviation Policy Reform To Help Repair Broken System

September 6, 2007

AFA-CWA Urges End to Abuse of Bankruptcy Law

July, 2007

NWA MEC asks management to implement check-off for FlighPAC.

July 26, 2007

AFA-CWA Works With Congress To Improve Aviation Safety

July 12, 2007

AFA-CWA Outraged By Recent FAA Decision That Allows Airline to Circumvent Regulations

June 13, 2007

AFA-CWA Joins Congressional Leader In Introducing Flight Attendant Friendly FMLA Language - As a result of thousands of calls and letter sent to Congressional leaders from our members the bill (HR2744) passed the House 402 to 9. The companion bill is currently in the Senate. We hope to see it go to the floor for a vote before this Congressional session is over.

June 6, 2007

AFA-CWA Raises Awareness of Flight Attendant Fatigue In Congress

June 5, 2007

Coalition and AFA-CWA Join Together To Urge Congress To Enact Serious Aviation Policy Reform

June 1, 2007

Flight Attendants Advocate for Passenger Rights

May 25, 2007

Working Families rally against Executive Greed

April 2007

NWA Government Affairs activists lobby Capitol Hill

April 21, 2007

Northwest Flight Attendants Receive Bipartisan Support From Capitol Hill - Congressional leaders are submitting letters to the National Mediation Board (NMB) encouraging them to release both parties from further talks.

"Management clearly has little or no motivation to negotiate substantive changes with the flight attendants because the NMB refuses to start a 30-day cooling-off period," said Patricia Friend, AFA-CWA International President. "Couple that harsh reality with the fact that the Northwest flight attendants are still working under court imposed work conditions, and have twice voted down previous tentative agreements, and we have a situation that could not more clearly define an impasse."

Those concerned with the progress of negotiations between AFA-CWA and Northwest Airlines management are: Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Representative Ron Kind (D-WI), Representative George Miller (D-CA), and Thaddeus Mc Cotter (R-MD).

April 17, 2007

Northwest Flight Attendants ask NMB To Declare An Impasse In Negotiations – NWA Government Affairs activists were deployed to Capitol Hill visiting dozens of House and Senate offices asking our Congressional leaders to write letters to the NMB in support of Northwest flight attendants.

March 2007

NWA Government Affairs activists participate in their first CWA Legislative Conference in Washington DC.

March 22, 2007

AFA-CWA Applauds Anticipated FCC Decision To Keep Cell Phones Off Aircraft

March 22, 2007

AFA-CWA Sets Out Initiatives For FAA Reauthorization – The AFA Government Affairs department was able to secure 7 provisions that will improve the lives of all flight attendants. The bill passed the House and stalled in the Senate. We are confident that during the next session it will once again pass the House and the Senate as well. Our provisions are safe.

March 21, 2007

AFA-CWA Says DOT Ruling Encourages Foreign Ownership

March 20, 2007

AFA-CWA Says Airlines Future In Jeopardy

March 13, 2007

Flight Attendants Define Role As First Responders

February 2007

NWA Government Affairs activists visit Capitol Hill to discuss our situation with the NMB.

January 24, 2007

Association of Flight Attendants-CWA Urges Congress to Protect Workers' Rights

January 2007

NWA flight attendant Rosemary Miller testifies in front of the House Education and Labor Committee on the struggle of the middle class in our country.

October 2006

NWA flight attendants are welcomed to their first Board of Director's Meeting in Portland, OR.

July 20, 2006

AFA-CWA Gets Funds For Follow-Up Fatigue Study

July 20, 2006

AFA-CWA Applauds House Homeland Security Committee On Passage of Bill to Remove Weapons from Aircraft

July 7, 2006

FAA Releases Flight Attendant Fatigue Study After Heavy Pressure from AFA-CWA

June 14, 2006

Congress Confirms the U.S. Airline Industry is Not for Sale

June 13, 2006

AFA-CWA says – "U.S. Airline Industry: Not for Sale"

April 7, 2006

AFA-CWA Calls for Union Election at Northwest Airlines

March 17, 2006

Leave All Blades Behind Takes Step Towards Law

February 13, 2006

Association of Flight Attendants-CWA Continues to Advocate for Child Restraint Systems Onboard Aircraft

February 3, 2006

AFA-CWA deplors Northwest's attempt to outsource Flight Attendant jobs. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) advocates on behalf of Northwest Flight Attendants on the House floor speaking to the dangers of outsourcing our jobs.

Thank you – Your Government Affairs activists –

For our monthly report and up to date information on our activities and how you can help, visit
www.nwaafa.org/committees/govaffairs/

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