



May 13, 2008

Dear Northwest Flight Attendants,



I write to you at this critical juncture in our careers, to urge you to support the Delta Get Out The Vote Campaign in any way that you can as they approach the NMB voting deadline on May 28th. It has come to our attention that DAL executive Joanne Smith reportedly met with NWA management last week, in order to create a common strategy to weaken the Delta AFA-CWA voter turnout, by pitting NWA and DAL flight attendants against each other. NWA flight attendants already experienced this kind of bitter and divisive merger strategy, between Northwest and Republic Airlines, and we don't want to live through that again. We are all flight attendants, seeking a common goal of bargaining strength and job protection, in a changing world and an uncertain economy. Because this organizing campaign is so important to the future of all of our careers, many Northwest Flight Attendants, as well as volunteers from other AFA-CWA carriers, volunteered to fly to Atlanta and be available for Delta Flight Attendant questions.

We may have the opportunity to be the largest organized group of flight attendants in the country. If we merge as a combined unionized work force, we could negotiate a new legally enforceable merged contract outside the stifling confines of bankruptcy. However, we also see the alarming possibility of becoming the largest non-union flight attendant work group in the country, with no power to influence our work rules, pay, or benefits. I ask you to set aside political differences and recognize that this vote is not about one concessionary contract or our current union's name; it is about losing all union representation and a right to a collective bargaining agreement.

With all of the money and resources that Delta executives are pouring into its anti-labor campaign, I hope you'll take some time to scrutinize the claims that they are making and inform yourself about the benefits of a contract, over a constantly changing and management-controlled policy manual. Delta Flight Attendant costs still remain lowest among all major carriers, they were under steep pay cuts 3 years before our flight attendants were, and they did not receive a \$15,000 bankruptcy claim.

If the vote for AFA at Delta is not successful, there will be one more vote when we completely merge. If that vote doesn't yield 50%+1 of the combined total in favor of union representation, we will lose our contract and union. If you can become actively involved in ensuring the future of our right to union representation, please do so now. If you cannot, I ask you to simply engage Delta Flight Attendants in crew vans and on layovers, and show them that we do value union representation and a legally enforceable contract at Northwest Airlines. What we currently have may be far from perfect, but it is a far cry from no protection from outsourcing, constant changes in a management "policy manual," and no grievance process.

In unity,

Janette Rook, Vice President
Northwest Master Executive Council
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA