

AFA FIGHTS FOR OUR FAIR SHARE -- LOA 35 ARBITRATION



The System Board of Adjustment, chaired by Arbitrator Dana Eischen and members Scott Goodman (AFA Staff Attorney) and David Driscoll (NWA Labor Counsel), heard three days (March 31-April 2) of testimony from witnesses appearing on behalf of AFA and Northwest Airlines. David Borer (former AFA General Counsel), Dan Akins, and Greg Riffle (MEC Grievance Chair) testified on behalf of AFA. Northwest Airlines called Robert Brodin (former NWA Senior Vice President of Labor Relations), Daniel Kasper (LECG, LLC), two ALPA staff attorneys, and Ryan Gilman (NWA Finance) as witnesses. Over 50 pieces of evidence were introduced into evidence, including video clips of news reports about the cancellation of flights during the summer of 2007, AFA Hotlines, and Excel spreadsheets of financial reports. The bulk of the testimony during the three days focused on the valuation of different contracts and grievance settlements.

On May 5th, there was an additional day of testimony and cross-examination in MSP. At the end of the testimony, the record in the case was closed, and no further evidence can now be introduced. It normally takes approximately two weeks for the court reporter to produce a transcript of the entire proceeding, complete with all the exhibits, of which there were several. Once the attorneys from both sides are in possession of the entire transcripts, they will be allowed to submit their closing briefs. Typically, the arbitrator will allow 30 days to elapse as sufficient time for briefs to be submitted by both parties.

Once the closing briefs have been received by the Arbitrator it will typically take 6-12 weeks to draft his decision in the matter. Looking at the timelines present in our case, it is probably safe to assume that we can look for a decision sometime in mid-August to mid-September. - Submitted by MEC Grievance Committee Chairperson Gregory S Riffle