

## **NWA-AFA MEC Weekly Hotline Message May 22, 2009**

**MEC HOTLINE:** (888) 3-NWA-AFA or [www.nwaafa.org](http://www.nwaafa.org)

**PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN:** Pro-Delta, Pro-AFA [www.deltaafa.org](http://www.deltaafa.org)

### **WORLD CLASS AIRLINE**

Check out the latest video from the Delta and NWA flight attendants. Please pass along to your colleagues and friends.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIT\\_aXPwAL8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIT_aXPwAL8)

### **HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!**

The Northwest Airlines AFA MEC wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday week-end.

### **FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL PASSES THE HOUSE!**

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) Act yesterday, Thursday, May 21, with a vote of 277 to 136. Also known as the FAA Reauthorization Bill (HR915) authorizes appropriations for the FAA for fiscal years 2010 through 2012, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes. The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) Government Affairs Department worked closely with members of Congress to include provisions that directly improve the flight attendant profession.

One provision included in H.R. 915 continues the current Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) ban on inflight cell phone use. Other measures included in the FAA Reauthorization include funding for a flight attendant fatigue study; the inclusion of OSHA workplace safety and health protections; notification of pesticide application on flights; cabin air quality provisions that would initiate development of air quality sensors and filtration; a "Return to the Cabin" program that will allow flight attendants an opportunity for rehabilitation after testing positive for drug or alcohol abuse; temperature standards for aircraft; further definition of provisions restricting foreign control of U.S. airlines; and a ban on smoking on-board charter flights.

The bill will now move to the Senate for their vote. We are confident that the bill will pass the Senate and ensure that all of our provisions in the signed bill will begin to take effect. This is a perfect example of how vital the work of your union is in improving our profession and specifically how legislating our issues will ensure the future of the flight attendant career. -- Submitted by Albert Garcia, MEC Government Affairs Chair.

### ***EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE AND REVIEW***

With recent changes in representation at the MEC and Local Council 95 (MSP), in addition to new officers at Local Council 90 (ATL), an Emergency Response Plan and Call Down Protocol review and training session was held on Thursday. Emergency Response Coordinator/MEC Air Safety Vice Chair, Gary Helton, and MEC Air Safety Chair, Jeanne Elliott focused on NWA-AFA's "preparedness" in the event of a serious incident/accident – and individual roles and responsibilities made a part of the formalized plan. Such "preparedness" ensures our Members' interests are represented and protected if a critical event were to occur, including the mobilization of our trained "Go Team" and support services provided by EAP representation.

### ***MEMBERSHIP CARDS COMING SOON***

New AFA-CWA membership cards should begin arriving in member's mailboxes in an envelope with the latest issue of Flightlog magazine in the next couple of weeks. The AFA-CWA membership card represents the pride we take in shaping our profession today and for future flight attendants. Printed on the card is each member's name, airline, and member number, along with AFA-CWA contact, emergency and membership information. Please carry your AFA-CWA membership cards with pride. -- Submitted by Vice President - Council 96 Scott D. Woll

### ***CURRENT STATUS OF THE LOA 35 ARBITRATION***

There have been some questions regarding the current status of LOA 35, often referred to as the "me too" clause. On May 8th, 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 will now take 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 arbitrator Dana Eischen, he 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

### ***LOD WEBPAGE UP AND RUNNING!***

The LOD webpage is finally up and running! Log on to [www.nwaafa.org](http://www.nwaafa.org) and look us up under the drop down menu for committees. Our webpage offers links to information regarding the tuition reimbursement program for all flight attendants who wish to study a foreign language in order to qualify as an LOD flight attendant. We've also included links to free online language courses to give you an idea of what the different languages are like. Hopefully, that will help you decide which language you would like to study full-time. In addition to these links, we've also included our LOD email address. Let us hear from you regarding the LOD Program. The LOD Committee is always interested in finding ways to expand and improve the LOD Program. Lastly, we've sent out a search for volunteers interested in becoming LEC LOD Chairs for their respective bases. LEC LOD Chairs act as liaison between the LOD Committee and all the LOD flight attendants at your base. Your role is to assist the LOD Committee organize our LOD flight attendants, disseminate information deemed important to LOD flight attendants, help address issues and concerns regarding the current application of the LOD Program, and gather feedback on how to improve the LOD Program in preparation for future contract talks. Currently, we have LOD flight attendants Keiichi C. Leon and Elham Saleh of DTW and Naomi Menda of SFO who have volunteered to assist in this capacity. Letters of interest for LEC LOD Chairs may be sent to [lod@nwaafa.org](mailto:lod@nwaafa.org). We hope to hear from you. --  
Submitted by LOD Committee Chair Jeffrey Ferrer

### ***ASSOCIATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS-CWA TESTIFIES ON EMERGENCY PLANNING***

Washington, DC – The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA) testified May 20th on Capitol Hill regarding concerns that arose after a recent public health emergency and the summer travel outlook for this year. The U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Aviation conducted the hearing which focused on aviation consumer issues and emergency contingency planning during public health emergencies. The complete AFA Press Release: <http://afanet.org/default.asp?id=1189>

### ***2009 SHAPING UP TO BE A GOOD YEAR FOR UNION NEGOTIATIONS***

Over 35,000 AFA represented flight attendants are engaged in bargaining or preparing for negotiations this year. AFA members at Hawaiian and Alaska have reached collective bargaining agreements that provide increased pay and benefits, but also offer security and stability in these difficult economic times. We congratulate our AFA flight attendants at Hawaiian and Alaska as well as our TWU represented brothers and sisters at Southwest for their recent successful negotiations with their respective management teams. We have the right and privilege as union members to negotiate, and following a vote for AFA representation, Northwest and Delta flight attendants could also begin negotiations this year to rebuild our hard-hit profession and achieve a new World

Class Contract for all Delta flight attendants. – Submitted by NWA MEC  
President Janette Rook

### ***NBA CHARTER PLAYOFF UPDATE***

In spite of a meeting which occurred on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> with representatives of the Inflight Scheduling Department and members of the Union's Negotiations, Grievance, and Charter Committees, where solutions to the problems which arose with the implementation of this program were agreed to, regrettably, the Company has failed to live up to the commitments it made to the Union and our members at that meeting. Specifically, as you may recall from an earlier hotline, the Company committed to identifying to the Union all of those flight attendants who were made to sit time available unnecessarily, and compensate them properly at 4:15 per day. The Company also committed to publishing a clarification of how the "KC" pre-blocking charter code is to work in regards to time availability and pay.

Unfortunately, as was promised at the meeting, the Company has not published this information, and has not provided the Union with a list of affected flight attendants. Also, although the Company has apparently paid some of these flight attendants some small amounts of Bid Trip Guarantee, the amounts paid are not remotely reflective of the number of days these flight attendants sat on Time Available unnecessarily, and were not utilized. Therefore The MEC Grievance Committee Chairperson Greg Riffle filed MEC grievance number #88-77-02-060-09 (click [HERE](#) to read the actual grievance or visit the contract section of the website [HERE](#) ) on behalf of all affected NBA Charter Playoff flight attendants who to date, have not been either properly informed about or compensated for their time available days in April of 2009. -- Submitted by MEC Grievance Committee Chairperson Gregory S Riffle

### ***HOTEL SECURITY AND SAFETY REMINDER***

While most hotels are safe there has been an increase in hotel crimes associated with the economic downturn in our country. We would like to remind our members to be vigilant about hotel safety and security precautions. While some of these reminders may seem obvious it is worth repeating especially after reading the USA Today article

[http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2009-05-17-hotel-crime-recession\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2009-05-17-hotel-crime-recession_N.htm)

For Your Safety Remember:

1. Don't announce your room number a loud in a public space.
- 2 Check rooms with the door open while another crew member waits for you to acknowledge room is clear.
3. Never open your door for anyone you do not know. If someone claims to be a hotel employee call the front desk to confirm.

4. Keep close eye on your personal belongings, research strongly suggests that hotel employees are often responsible for hotel thefts.
  5. Always lock all your locks.
  6. Whenever possible, go out with a buddy rather venturing out on your own.
- Submitted by Flight Attendant Desiree Lowry and Rene Foss

### ***RELATED NEWS ARTICLES***

AIR FRANCE-KLM, DELTA TIE-UP TO REAP \$12B ANNUALLY

[http://www.mercurynews.com/natbreakingnews/ci\\_12410174](http://www.mercurynews.com/natbreakingnews/ci_12410174)