

NWA-AFA MEC Weekly Hotline Message November 06, 2009

HEROES OF THE HEART – PEGASUS ONLINE HOLIDAY AUCTION

The Pegasus Project's "Heroes of the Heart" Online Holiday Charity Auction is open and there are some terrific items for you to bid on this year. New items are added to the auction catalogue regularly, so check back often. You can become a *Hero of the Heart* to critically ill or injured Flight Attendants by participating in The Pegasus Project's "*Heroes of the Heart*" Online Holiday Charity Auction, by clicking [HERE](#).

The work Pegasus does is vital to our nearly 50,000 member AFA-CWA community of Flight Attendants. Whether battling breast cancer, HIV, or other life-threatening illness or injury; the Pegasus Project is there to provide a financial lifeline to Flight Attendants who are facing the most difficult time in their lives. Pegasus needs your support and ask that you participate in one of the following ways: **Donate. Be a Sponsor. Tell Your Friends.**

SLEEPING WITH THE DEVIL

Bed bugs!! Just two little words that will make you want to start scratching all over.

Well folks, put the mittens on because they are not only a fact of our job but increasing in incidents reported worldwide. At a recent Flight Attendant Hotel Committee Conference, bed bug guru, Richard Cooper, gave us the dark and dirty low down on these pests. The last ten years these bugs have become a major issue and it doesn't just happen in "dirty hotels". They're infesting dorm rooms, senior centers, buses, rental furniture, schools, major corporation offices and 5 star hotels. These bugs are blood feeders and come out at night when it is dark and you are nice and snuggled into your "Heavenly" layover bed. Bed bugs are small, nocturnal bugs that are only 1/2 inch long and can range in color from translucent freshly hatched nymphs, to a brownish-red adult. And you won't even feel a thing until the next day or even up to 11 days after being bitten when you notice welts on your body. You may think it is a spider, flea or mosquito bite, even poison ivy. Some people don't even show signs of being bitten by these little devils. Depending on the severity of bites and secondary infections, bed bug bites could lead to disfiguring scarring and emotional distress. An interesting fact: bed bugs don't transmit any diseases or pose a severe medical threat like a mosquito bite which could lead to Malaria or West Nile Virus. If you are on a layover and want to check for bed bugs in your room, pull back the mattress pad and look for any kind of dark rust colored pin drop (dried blood) on the mattress or around the mattress seams. If you suspect bugs, call the hotel front desk immediately and request another room that isn't next to, above or below the suspected room. Other things you can do prevent taking these bugs to your

next layover or even worse, your home, are these tips. Never place your luggage on the carpet, the extra bed or any upholstered furniture. Use the luggage rack as the bugs can't climb the smooth surface of the legs to hitch a ride to your next destination. If you do happen to get bitten, take pictures, even with your cell phone; file an OJI Report to document the bites in case it becomes a serious issue and file a Flight Attendant Hotel Report Online Form at <http://www.afahotels.org>. It's easy to fill out and can be used for any hotel issue. If you'd like more info on bed bugs which isn't just limited to hotels, go to <http://www.bedbugcentral.com>. So folks, as you are getting comfy and cozy in your "Heavenly" layover hotel bed, remember what your mother probably once told you - "sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite". To see a video visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VAtH20jRLM&NR=1>

Submitted by-- Terry Dent, MSP AFA Hotel Committee Chair

REP. JOHN KLINE (R- 2ND DISTRICT, MN) WORKS AGAINST HIS CONSTITUENTS

With the largest aviation worker constituency in Minnesota, Rep. John Kline has taken a position that works against the very people that elected him into office. Last week Rep. John Kline along with Rep. John Mica (R- 7th District, FL) sent a letter to the NMB opposing a change in voting rules that would eliminate a decade's old undemocratic process of deciding representation issues. Rep. Kline is aware that he has a large number of aviation workers in his district and yet decided to work against their better interest. We urge all members and their families that live in **Rep. John Kline's district to call his office at 952 808-1213** and express your disappointment. When you reach the Congressman's office you may use the following script:

"Hello, my name is _____ and I am a flight attendant with the new Delta (and a constituent). Please let the Congressman know that I am very disappointed in his decision to work against my best interests in opposing a voting rules change in the NMB. Unlike the Congressman, I believe that it is time aviation and railway workers are allowed the same democratic method used by other unions and general elections in our country. It is disheartening to find that Rep. Kline is not representing me on this very important issue."

For those of you in Rep. John Mica's district in Florida, you may use the same script and call his office at 904 810-5048. For all other members you may call the DC offices as follows: Rep. John Kline 202 225-2271 and Rep. John Mica at 202 225-4035.

To read the letter sent by Rep. Kline and Rep. Mica please go to www.nwaafa.org/committees/govaffairs Submitted by- MEC Government Affairs Chairperson Albert Garcia

A VIEW FROM THE JUMPSEAT – BOSTON'S JACOB EASTER

We receive a lot of interesting and insightful messages from fellow flight attendants, and we would like to share them with all of you. This month [BOS FA Jacob Easter](#) shared his *View From The Jumpseat* with his message to Delta management regarding their barrage of anti-union literature through many company channels. If you'd like to share your thoughts about relevant topics for flight attendants, we invite you to send in a one page piece to communications@nwaafa.org.

IYE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER 2010 YOUTH EXCHANGES

The International Youth Exchange Program is currently accepting applications for the 2010 summer exchange program. This is a unique program for airline employees' children, ages 14 - 18 years of age, who are matched with other airline youth world wide for a two week exchange in each home. For more information please visit <http://www.intlyouth.org/>.

PROPOSED NMB RULE CHANGE – WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

This week, Delta and Northwest flight attendant leaders from our joint Campaign Coordinating Committee, with the unanimous approval of your Master Executive Council of 10 Local Presidents, made the decision to withdraw our petition for single carrier status with the National Mediation Board (NMB). *Please click [HERE](#) to read the official AFA-CWA press release.*

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? HOW LONG DO WE WAIT NOW UNTIL WE FILE AGAIN AND HOW SOON UNTIL THE NEW VOTING PROCEDURES CAN TAKE EFFECT?

A 60-day public comment period about the proposed voting changes started on November 3rd. Click [HERE](#) to view and print a DeltaAFA flyer describing what happens next and more about this historic change.

DELTA SENIOR MANAGEMENT SAID THE UNION'S ACTION THIS WEEK WAS "APPALING." SINCE THEY'VE SAID THEY RESPECT OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE REPRESENTATION, WHERE IS THIS TONE COMING FROM?

It's disappointing that Management would say they believe in our right to choose, but apparently only if that right is exercised under a rule that is over 75 years old. Flight attendants at Delta are only asking for a fair shake. Click [HERE](#) to read more.