

MEC Government Affairs Report Card for Fiscal year 2008-2009
Advocacy on your behalf and milestones achieved within this past year alone.

The Government Affairs Department of AFA-CWA International, under the guidance of Director Shane Larson, your NWA MEC Government Affairs Committee Chairs, and activists from every airline represented by the AFA-CWA meet with and lobbies federal and state lawmakers to advocate for issues that will improve the lives of all flight attendants. We are dedicated to the goal whereby improvements to our careers can be secured through legislative actions, avoiding the need for negotiations.

Our main purpose is to advocate through the legislative process for a better future for all flight attendants, not only those represented by the AFA-CWA. The following, although not entirely comprehensive, is a compilation of activities from this past year alone. We should all be very proud of our accomplishments as we move forward to even greater challenges and opportunities to advocate for our careers, ever more so with the strength and addition of over 21,000 flight attendants to our AFA-CWA family when we join the ranks of the new Delta, making us the largest unionized flight attendant workforce in the world.

For an update of accomplishments and advocacy on your behalf visit our website at www.nwaafa.org/committees/govaffairs. For a historical legislative perspective and list of milestones visit the AFA-CWA International website at www.afanet.org.

- **August 2009** AFA Government Affairs advocates visit lawmakers across the country during the August recess on behalf of all flight attendants to lobby for specific legislation: FMLA, Carry-on bag legislation and a ban on Cell phone usage during flight.
- **July 2009** S-1422, the Senate version of the Airline Flight Crew FMLA Technical Corrections Act is introduced by a bi-partisan group of Senators.
- **July 2009** Senate begins to discuss their version of the FAA Re-authorization bill.
- **June 2009** Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL) introduces legislation to restrict carry-on baggage
- **May 2009** House passes FAA Re-authorization bill with an unprecedented number of flight attendant specific provisions.
- **April 2009** MN Legislature passes legislation that changes a state statute allowing MN based flight attendants to collect unemployment benefits during a leave of absence in lieu of involuntary furloughs.
- **March 2009** MSP Government Affairs Committee testifies in front of the MN Legislature on outsourcing.
- **March 2009** Administration appoints Linda Puchala to the NMB.
- **March 2009** Government Affairs lobbies Senate on NMB appointment.
- **February 2009** House passes HR912, The Airline Flight Crew FMLA Technical Corrections Act.
- **February 2009** AFA-CWA testified on Capitol Hill for FAA Reauthorization bill.
- **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.
- **February 2009** AFA-CWA asked Congress to help with the quick appointment of National Mediation Board.
- **February 2009** NWA MEC Government Affairs Committee gets legislature introduced in Minnesota to change a statute that will grant unemployment benefits to participants of SLIP leaves.
- **January 2009** Labor Department granted AFA-CWA Request. Flight Attendants are classified as essential employees.
- **December 2008** Locals 97, 98 and 99 signed on to Brief of Amici Curiae to support application against California Proposition 8. "An injury to one is an injury to all".
- **December 2008** AFA-CWA set legislative agenda for the 111th Congress: Support for the NW/DL Representational Election; FMLA; FAA Reauthorization Bill; Bankruptcy Reform Bill; Employee Free Choice Act; Healthcare Reform; Employee Non-Discrimination Act; Crew Pass; Carry-On Baggage Limits.
- **November 2008** Fatigue Study was mailed to approximately 23,000 flight attendants. The AFA-CWA was instrumental in guaranteeing funds for the study.
- **November 2008** NWA MEC Government Affairs Committee coordinated a roundtable discussion facilitated by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) on behalf of MN residents taking SLIP leaves.

- **August 8-August 22, 2008** With collaboration from the NWA Government Affairs department, a voter registration information campaign was well received by our members at all bases. Volunteers from the Government Affairs Committee staffed tables and provided members with information.
- **August 2008** Stonewall Democrats passed a resolution on behalf and in support of the Northwest Flight Attendants fighting to keep their 60-plus years' history of collective bargaining.
- **July 30, 2008** AFA-CWA testified at a Congressional hearing regarding effects the Northwest/Delta merger.
- **July 23-July 24, 2008** Government Affairs activists and MEC officers travelled to Washington, DC to meet with the Minnesota Congressional delegation to discuss unemployment benefits for SLIP leave recipients.
- **July 17-July 18, 2008** MEC officers and Government Affairs activists held meetings at the Minnesota state level on behalf of SLIP recipients in MSP to try to secure unemployment benefits.
- **July 10, 2008** AFA-CWA remains dedicated to equal rights. The Board of Directors unanimously backed a resolution opposing California Proposition 8, banning same-sex marriage.
- **July 9, 2008** Association of Flight Attendants endorsed Barack Obama for President.
- **July 9, 2008** NWA MEC Government Affairs Chair Albert Garcia was again nominated and confirmed for a position on the AFA-CWA International Legislative Policy Committee.
- **May 21, 2008** Flight Attendants opposed Pilots-Only security screening test set to begin this summer.
- **May 2008** 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.
- **May 15, 2008** Delta Flight Attendant election received intense scrutiny in Congressional merger hearing. Flight Attendants testified: Without unions the Northwest/Delta merger posed threat to middle-class jobs.
- **May 5, 2008** Rene Foss, NYC Government Affairs Chair and Minnesota resident again testified in front of the Minnesota State Senate advocating for NWA flight attendants during the course of the NW/DL merger.
- **April 2008** NWA Government Affairs activists joined other AFA and hundreds of CWA members in Washington, DC for the CWA Legislative Conference.
- **April 29, 2008** Rene Foss, NYC Government Affairs Chair and Minnesota resident, testified in front of the Minnesota State House on behalf of NWA flight attendants in the NW/DL merger.
- **April 23, 2008** AFA-CWA testified at Congressional hearing on Northwest/Delta. 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. AFA-CWA was **one of the only** airline employee voices at the hearing. Your Government Affairs activists hand-delivered a petition to Richard Anderson signed by both DL and NW flight attendants asking him to remain neutral during the hearing.
- **April 22, 2008** U.S. Senators, at the request of the AFA-CWA, urged Delta and Northwest to include employees in the upcoming merger.
- **April 17, 2008** AFA-CWA applauded Congress for initial efforts to ban cell phone usage in flight.
- **April 10, 2008** AFA-CWA asked Congress to clarify FMLA coverage for flight attendants.
 - **April 3, 2008** AFA-CWA applauded Congressional Committee for upholding FAA oversight.

Our work on your behalf is just part of the process. Your involvement and continued support is what maintains our voice on Capitol Hill. For our monthly report and up-to-date information on our activities and how you can help, visit www.nwaafa.org/committees/govaffairs/.

Albert Garcia
 Government Affairs Chair
 NWA Master Executive Council
 Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO
agarcia@nwaafa.org
 415 290-5140