

PLEASE NOTE: This “printer copy” of our weekly eNews contains excerpts from the full email and online version, which include much more detail and links to related stories, videos and additional information. See nwaafa.org for complete stories, to sign-up to receive eNews and more.

“Not a day passes over the earth but men and women of no note do great deeds, speak great words, and suffer noble sorrows.”

~ Charles Reade, 1800's English novelist

9/11 2010 – NEVER FORGET – MEMORIALS AND LESSONS LEARNED

This week marks the ninth anniversary of the horrific tragedy we call 9/11—a brief window of unimaginable events that forever scarred the heart of our beloved industry and redefined our careers in ways still unfolding. Many will choose to honor fallen colleagues, family, friends and unknown heroes by observing a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. EDT this Saturday. Hundreds of 9/11 memorial events and online tributes - many linked in your regular eNews - have been established to honor the lost and help those still healing. Crewmembers experiencing painful “memory jolts” may find the brochure, “Flight Attendants Coping with Trauma” to be a helpful resource. The booklet is available on your nwaafa.org EAP Committee page, and of course, your EAP remains at the ready, should you need more assistance.

It has been said that one of the most thoughtful and relevant ways to honor the 9/11 legacy is for crewmembers to remember and practice lessons learned that fateful day. Situational awareness on the part of our attentive and courageous Flight 253 crew last Christmas thwarted another bold and potentially tragic terrorist act. Other less publicized events occur with some frequency locally and abroad, reminders that our aviation system is still targeted for testing, or more. As we each recognize the 9/11 anniversary in a manner most appropriate to us, personally, let it also move us to remain vigilant -- mindful of the evolving responsibility this refashioned industry has thrust upon us, but empowered with the information and training our fallen colleagues, sadly, could not have known.

FUTUREfocus

Just in time to drive home the significance of labor’s holiday weekend, the National Mediation Board authorized our representational election and announced an official election schedule: September 29 – November 3, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. ET. Delta flight attendants everywhere kicked off the workers’ holiday with fresh excitement, knowing many months of hard work will soon culminate in an historic election to retain a legal voice in our future. The eyes of the entire industry are on this vote, knowing its outcome will have far-reaching implications on airline contracts everywhere. Thanks to more democratic NMB voting rules established earlier this summer, this will be the first such election where every voice truly counts in the voting process.

Delta Air Lines has engaged in a surprisingly aggressive union-busting campaign: a glossy, upbeat veneer masking distorted facts and misleading information. While most members recognize the ruse for what it is, it remains an unfamiliar tactic to “Delta North.” Never before have we experienced an intervening employer, so eager to influence our personal choices for their benefit. In 2003 and 2006, pre-merger Northwest Flight Attendants faced representational elections with similarly high stakes, including the option to become non-union. Both times, savvy members overwhelmingly chose to keep our voice. Management never whispered “Just give it a year,” because it’s a phantom choice that doesn’t really exist. Our members recognize once bargaining rights are gone, they’re gone, despite suggestions to the contrary.

For Northwest flight attendants, this election is about preserving more than 60 years of collective bargaining rights. For Delta flight attendants, it is gaining the

strength of a unified voice, so critical to our profession. Together, we can move mountains.

Standing Together. Making History. Voting AFA.
Get in! www.deltaafa.org

UNSLANTED—Contract Negotiations, Delta-Style

Our latest **UNSLANTED** blog post, Contract Negotiations, Delta-Style, shows that Delta has negotiated contracts deliberately and swiftly, focusing on global improvements for both front line workers and corporate interests. There's no reason management can't continue this cultural trait with flight attendants! Check out UNSLANTED at rumors.deltaafa.org.

VOTE TODAY, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!! (IN THIS SPECIAL SONG CONTEST)

By now, most of us can name that tune - Opportunity. Unity. Respect. (Hint: it's "OUR Song," written by Delta's own MSP-based Jarrod Anderson.) "OUR Song," the catchy Delta AFA campaign theme song, was entered in the Union Plus Union Song Contest, where "polls" are now open through October 1 to vote for your favorite union tune. See unionsongcontest.org to listen to OUR Song and other union entries and vote for your favorite. The winning entrant will receive \$2,000.

OUR Song was first rolled out at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day march in ATL. The song was such a hit that Jarrod took it into the studio when he returned to MSP, accompanied by his band, Soulacious. Jarrod says he was inspired by the long road Delta flight attendants have traveled since first trying to organize 14 years ago, as well as the resilience of the Northwest flight attendants fighting to keep collective bargaining rights.

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2011 COMING IN OCTOBER, YOUNG ADULT COVERAGE

For months, we have made repeated attempts to meet with the company to discuss Open Enrollment for the 2011 benefit year, in order to prevent a repeat of the disorderly, error-riddled process we encountered last

year. Ensuing benefit issues, as well as Delta's lack of adequate action and response, led to our Department of Labor complaint. After the complaint was filed, Delta finally responded, providing basic information about their plan to improve the process this fall.

The Affordable Care Act passed by Congress earlier this year provides for expanded insurance coverage to children/young adults, up to age 26. By law, Delta will be required to offer this option, and has announced it will be included in this fall's Open Enrollment to become effective January 1, 2011. You can find additional information about this expanded coverage on our Retirement and Insurance Committee page, as well as healthcare.gov, and DeltaNet.

PROFIT SHARING – OUR CONTRACTUAL BENEFIT

Every year, pre-merger Northwest Flight Attendants are eligible for our contractual profit sharing plan, and this year is no exception. Despite rumors to the contrary, even Delta admits our contract provides this benefit. Of course, the downside to this kind of "compensation" is that if the company does not show an annual profit for any reason, there is nothing for us to "share." Neither PMNW nor PMDL employees received a pay-out this year, due to last year's loss. Conversely, if the company is profitable in 2010, we will be paid per the terms of our agreement, no later than April 15th of the following year. Pre-merger Northwest profit sharing is a contractually defined program with a formula agreed to by both parties. The PMDL plan is one of policy, subject to management's discretion, just like their work rules, on-board rest, sick time (PPT) and uniform allowances. Known for sharp turns as much as wind-driven evolution, Delta makes frequent policy adjustments, often without notice, quietly posting modified documents on the DeltaNet.

IN THE NEWS

Check your eNews inbox for following industry news stories:

America can't rise without its workers - An ongoing shift in business priorities has eroded the American dream, *The Star Tribune*, September 2, 2010

Baggage fees cause ripple effect, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, September 5, 2010