

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.

“*strongly support the efforts by Delta flight attendants to gain representation by the Association of Flight Attendants, an outstanding professional organization like ours that will help you negotiate a contract that creates stability in this ever changing airline industry.*”

~ **ALPA Int’l President, Captain John Prater to Delta flight attendants.**

FUTUREFOCUS

IT ALL STARTS AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT - *Make the Choice to Keep Your Voice*

Yes, it’s finally here — the election we’ve all been waiting for! Our representational election will be officially underway September 29, when NMB voting instructions are mailed, with polls closing November 3 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Make sure your voice is heard via internet or phone, and stay tuned to our official campaign website, www.deltaafa.org, for all the latest election information and upbeat updates along the way.

PILOTS ENDORSE DELTA AFA

The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) is extending its strong endorsement for Delta AFA representation in a specially marked letter of support that began arriving in flight attendant mailboxes early this week.

“We believe having a legally enforceable contract between our union and management that governs our working conditions, provides for confidential safety programs, retirement and healthcare benefits, seniority and job protection rights, wages, and other important provisions, creates a solid foundation for protecting our members and their families,” stated ALPA International

President, Captain John Prater in a letter to Delta flight attendants. “Flight attendants deserve the same protections that we’ve worked hard to negotiate under our legally binding contract.”

SOUTHWEST TO ACQUIRE AIR TRAN FOR \$1.4 BILLION

On Monday, September 27, Southwest Airlines announced it will acquire AirTran Holdings for approximately \$1.4 billion, with plans to integrate them into the Southwest Airlines brand and expand its network into key markets not yet served. AirTran operates 202 flight daily from Atlanta, its largest hub and the world’s busiest airport—a market Southwest is now poised to enter. AirTran Flight Attendants are represented by the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA. Southwest Flight Attendants are represented by the Transport Workers Union (TWU), who provided us with a strong letter of support for Delta AFA. Other work groups at both carriers are largely unionized.

“Now more than ever, it is imperative that Delta Air Lines redirect the corporate energy and millions of dollars wasted on its union busting campaign into pulling together the integrity of our operation to remain competitive in our changing marketplace,” stated NWA-AFA MEC President Janette Rook. “We strongly encourage Delta to follow Southwest’s legendary example and to establish the solid labor relationships that are the bedrock of Southwest’s success. AFA-CWA is committed to moving forward and working together with the strong, cooperative relationships necessary to ensure the long term health of our company. Working side by side, we can retain Delta’s unique heritage while advancing the new Delta’s competitive edge in the market.”



THE SCOOP

What's the Scoop? I heard the company is going to make us pay our full insurance premiums if we don't fly at least 45 hours per month. Insurance for my family costs more than \$1,000 a month. That can't possibly be true, can it?

Here's the Deal: It is true that pre-merger Delta flight attendants are required to fly a total of 540 hours annually in order to maintain their company-paid insurance for the following year. Open Enrollment publications initially released on DeltaNet held pre-merger Northwest flight attendants to the same flying requirements, unless we chose our contractual PPO Plan B. Following AFA's challenge of the policy, the company issued a retraction. Page 7 of the Employee Benefits Handbook was updated with a correction several few days ago, and contractually protected pre-merger Northwest flight attendants are currently NOT subject to the same 540 hour flight standard as our pre-merger Delta colleagues.

What's the scoop? I read that pre-merger Delta Flight Attendants are on a uniform point system, and now they get to roll their leftover points into the next year. That doesn't seem fair, since we only get our complete uniform replacement every two years. Am I missing something?

Here's the Deal: *No, but PMDL FAs are.* Somewhere upwards of \$300 or more, actually, when compared to value of pre-merger Northwest Flight Attendants' company-paid contractual uniform replacement every two years. Check the web or your full version eNews email for a complete dollar to points comparison, and to see how much cash your contract saves you. Also, to prevent production or shipping delays during next year's planned hiring, it is recommended you fax replacement preorders by October 29, when the pre-ordering window closes.

UNSLANTED

Delta's signature slant is on everything from menus to ads to "facts" about representation. Check out UNSLANTED at rumors.deltaafa.org, where we balance distorted information and realign warped views. This week, we challenge the "free lunch" on Delta's menu – those distracting snacks and red herring hot dogs intended to take our eyes off the prize: a legally binding contract. Our UNSLANTED blog this week states very

succinctly that we need and deserve a seat at the table.

CONGRESSIONAL ATTEMPT TO BLOCK NEW VOTING RULES DEFEATED

President Obama threatened to veto a now-defeated resolution by Delta-supported Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson to overturn the NMB's new, more democratic NMB voting rules. Extra effort by your AFA Government Affairs Committee ensured the Senate majority blocked passage of Isakson's anti-labor resolution and retained the new rules for airline and railway workers, in a 56 to 43 vote.

OPEN ENROLLMENT SET TO BEGIN, RETIREE INSURANCE CONCERNS

Annual Open Enrollment for the 2011 benefit year is set to run October 20 – November 18, and many insurance benefit publications are available online now for advance review. AFA-CWA, our benefits attorney, and legal staff will carefully review all information, continue to address known inaccuracies, and make specific recommendations in the coming weeks. In short, PPO Plan B remains our contractual medical plan option, and the only medical plan which must abide by all of the legally binding provisions, including retiree subsidized coverage, contractual deductible limitations and out of pocket maximums, agreed to in Section 29

Dozens of Retirees and Flight Attendants hoping to retire in the foreseeable future have contacted us, concerned about the loss of our contractual company subsidized plan should Delta flight attendants not retain AFA representation. Delta retirees do not have a subsidized retiree plan, and must pay full COBRA rates. More information and clarification on retiree insurance will be covered in the coming weeks.

IN THE NEWS

Southwest Agrees to Buy AirTran for \$1.4 Billion, Enter Atlanta, Bloomberg, September 27, 2010

Passengers capture emergency landing on video from inside plane, CNN News, September 28, 2010

Confessed Union Buster Shares Trade Secrets with Delta Flight Attendants, AFL-CIO NOW Blog, September 24, 2010