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United
Just 30 days remain in the election for Flight Attendant representation at the new United. The polls are open and excitement continues to build as reports pour in from supporters at United and Continental who have shared their stories on why they voted for AFA. One enthusiastic Continental Flight Attendant even took a video of voting and shared it with the world on YouTube. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKsxjr8hM1g).

Our work continues 24-7 to ensure a solid margin of victory so that AFA can continue our work in securing real improvements for all Flight Attendants. This campaign is about our future as Flight Attendants.

Airline Focus: Atlantic Southeast
When Lindsay McFarland, Stephanie Walski and Dorothy Bell teamed up as AFA MEC leaders at Atlantic Southeast Airlines, they were determined to spread the word about the many benefits of AFA membership as they face a new era in their merger with ExpressJet.

“We’re primarily talking with Atlantic Southeast Flight Attendants about the major differences between the two unions at the merging carriers—AFA and the Machinists. We’ve had a lot of new hires in recent months and we’re reaching out to them so they understand what’s coming down the pike. AFA has the experience and history of creating and advancing the Flight Attendant profession, not just at Atlantic Southeast but industry-wide,” said MEC President Lindsay McFarland. “All...
we’ve ever known as Flight Attendants is the great way of life that AFA has forged through our contracts and advancements in regulations and the law. Once we are a combined work group with ExpressJet, we want to make an intelligent choice when it comes to our union representation election. That’s why we created our peer-to-peer Team AFA member mobilization program. I wanted our members to know they have access to our union 24-7, no matter where they were.

“There’s excitement in our ranks: Members who have never been involved before are attending our one-day Team AFA mobilization training encouraging members to talk about our lives as Flight Attendants and all that AFA does to make our lives better. We are spreading the word on the line, in the crew rooms, and in the terminals to our current Atlantic Southeast members and our future Flight Attendant partners at Express Jet about what it means to be an AFA member. Members are proud to wear our wearing AFA pin, now also shown with a turquoise ribbon emphasizing our support for AFA.”

As the lead on Team AFA, MEC Secretary Stephanie Walski has gotten a lot of people motivated, in part through social media but also, through her contagious enthusiasm. “The merger represents a lot of promising possibilities. We’re going to be the first super regional airline, securely positioned in the marketplace. It’s thrilling to be part of this momentous period in time for our airline and it’s an honor to do this important work of spreading the word about the solid, positive organization standing behind and enforcing our contract. In the end, your contract is a living document and it is only as good as the organization that backs it up. Contracts evolve with the needs and wants of the Flight Attendants and with changes in our industry and our economy, but the strength of the union that stands behind those contracts is our ultimate security and AFA stands the test of time.”

“AFA Flight Attendants are very excited about the direction AFA is going in building our contracts and in promoting recognition of the seriousness of our jobs as safety professionals,” added MEC Vice President Dorothy Bell. “Given the merger with ExpressJet, we’re working to protect commuters’ rights and make those policies better. And, AFA’s campaign to recognize Flight Attendants as first responders really speaks to our members. We are always prepared for an emergency and when ASA Flight Attendants have been tested with real life scenarios they have take action promptly, with great expertise. Because of their training and experience as first responders, they were able to step in and save the day. AFA is making sure we get the recognition we deserve.”

“When Flight Attendants register a strong vote for AFA representation, Team AFA won’t stop,” pledged Lindsay. “We will welcome the ExpressJet Flight Attendants to our Flight Attendant union and, together, we will secure the best of all possible worlds in our contract.”

Summer Travel Press Conference with the FAA
Kicking off the summer travel season, AFA hosted a joint press conference with the FAA. Administrator Randy Babbitt joined Veda at the podium to offer summer travel safety tips to the flying public. Click here to read the AFA Press Release

Union Privilege Offers Exclusive Benefits for Union Members
From time to time, you have seen AFA advertise special cost-savings through the Union Privilege discounts offered by Union Plus. But did you know they offer discounts for health club membership, movie tickets, and tire services?
For over 20 years, Union Plus has served the interests of today's working families. Check out all the valuable discounts and services Union Plus has to offer by visiting www.unionplus.org.

**NATCA**

Veda addressed National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) members on May 23 as they prepared to lobby Congress regarding fatigue, a real issue with serious implications for Air Traffic Controllers, Flight Attendants and Pilots, and for aviation safety in general. She stressed the importance of ensuring that fatigue is addressed legitimately and with science-based solutions to keep air travel safe. In cooperation with NATCA, we have assembled the scientific data on fatigue mitigation. Veda also recognized the Air Traffic Controllers as the unsung heroes of the widely lauded evacuation of 150 passengers from US Airways Flight 1549 on January 15, 2009. “It was our collective effort - Air Traffic Controllers guiding the plane, Pilots ditching the plane and Flight Attendants evacuating passengers that led this potentially deadly tragedy to become known as the “Miracle on the Hudson.” We know that the heroes of Flight 1549 were performing their jobs as we were all trained to do; but we also know that to do our jobs well, the issue of fatigue among aviation safety professionals must be addressed. In building our relationships with fellow aviation unions, we are reinforcing the spirit of working together and affirming our commitment to ensuring aviation safety.

**Flight Attendants Help Establish Anti-Human Trafficking Bill in Virginia**

AFA Government Affairs Director Steve Schembs was on hand at a bill signing ceremony today, May 31, as Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell signed the Commonwealth’s first law to criminalize human trafficking and provide resources for victims.

It is estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year and 100,000 to 300,000 domestic minors are forced into sexual slavery within the U.S. annually. Many victims are transported on airlines. Airline Ambassadors is spearheading awareness in the airline industry and has developed a training for airline, airport and hotel employees.

For more information on what you can do to assist in the fight against human trafficking, visit Airline Ambassadors by clicking here

**Solidarity in Action**

Support and solitary by the labor movement helped to achieve some monumental victories recently in the struggle for the rights of working people across the country. On Thursday, May 26, a Wisconsin judge struck down Governor Walker’s notorious anti-worker law taking away nearly all collective bargaining rights from public sector workers.

Ruling that Republican legislators violated Wisconsin’s open meetings law during the run up to passage, the judge ruled the law void. The Wisconsin Supreme Court is set to hear arguments on the case June 6.

Meanwhile, in Vermont, its governor signed a bill aimed at establishing
universal insurance coverage for all residents. This move makes Vermont the first state to lay the framework for a single-payer health care system. The state’s health care unions and grassroots activists were instrumental in the passage of this groundbreaking law.

Union support in Connecticut further advanced workers health issues and led the way as the state Senate approved a statewide paid sick days bill. The bill heads next to the House, where its passage is likely in early June. When signed into law, Connecticut will become first state in the nation to create a paid sick days standard.

The labor movement has long advocated for workers rights and remains committed to social justice. While there are still many obstacles ahead, the recent accomplishments by our sisters and brothers in Wisconsin, Vermont and Connecticut provide the inspiration we need to move forward in ensuring that the voice of workers across the country is heard.

The National Mediation Board (NMB) has yet to make a decision regarding charges of management interference in the Delta Flight Attendants’ union representation election. The Delta Flight Attendants need a union and the clear choice is AFA, the Flight Attendant union. AFA members worldwide are committed to a Flight Attendant victory at Delta. It is time for a revote.

AFA's Negotiations Update page features a summary of negotiations or a statement of contract status at each AFA carrier.