

Laura Glading Opening Remarks – APFA Annual Convention – February 27, 2012

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Good morning.

As I have done in past conventions and board meetings, I am going to take a few minutes to begin the business of this opening day with some comments.

We are conducting this Annual Convention and Board of Directors Meeting under circumstances that our membership and that our Organization have never before faced. There have been, of course, other extremely difficult periods in our history as a union and in our careers. Our very industry has labored for more than a decade under threats from outside forces that have forever changed the very nature of our profession.

But since our Annual Convention last March and since our regular fall Board Meeting this past October, our workforce and this Union have come face-to-face with perhaps an even greater threat to our membership than the events of 9/11 and the recent deep economic recession. AMR's bankruptcy filing puts the future security of our careers at tremendous risk—not from without our company, but from within. It's abundantly clear that American seeks to essentially erase the very idea of our work as a career and to undo decades of hard won protections and benefits for our members.

The relationship between APFA and American management has always been challenging, even contentious. That is true both locally in the representation you provide to your members at each and every base, each and every day, to the work by our headquarters and division reps, our negotiators, our officers and other national and field representatives.

Challenging and contentious however cannot begin to describe the battle we now face with AMR. Nonetheless, APFA stands undaunted and we will not be defeated. Our membership has put its trust in the work we do here and at our bases and we will not let them down.

This trust from our members is something we must all take to heart and which must be in the forefront of our deliberations.

American has failed dismally in acting in good faith to ensure its employees are justly rewarded. So too, many of our government leaders and institutions—charged with protecting our rights and our middle class values—have failed to act in the good faith the public has entrusted to them.

We in this room must not fail to uphold the good faith placed in us by our members. They are watching, they are waiting and we cannot not let them down. The trust placed in us by the APFA membership must be reflected in the trust we place in one another on this Board.

What we say and what we do here have a lasting impact. They are the seeds of our future that will bear the fruit we harvest for years to come.

If we can each ensure we are acting at all times in the best of faith in our relationships here, in our interactions, in our discussions and our decisions, I know that we will achieve the best possible outcomes for our Union and our members. They deserve no less.