Includes Industry Contract.

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Contract

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THE HONORABLE MARTHA W. GRIFFITHS NAMESAKE OF APFA'S HIGHEST AWARD

One Independent Voice:
Thirty Years of Strength

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants 1977 – 2007

In 1998, when APFA Headquarters was revitalized, the front entryway was designed for a series of personalized and inscripted bricks paid for by members to offset the cost of refurbishment. Dozens and dozens of bricks are now imbedded in the paved entryway to APFA.

In honor of our Union's 30th anniversary, we are once again offering members the opportunity to order a brick with your name, your base and/or a short personalized inscription not to exceed 44 characters. While it may not be your name in lights, it is your name in stone, and it will always remain a part of APFA's history.

Each brick will cost \$45 and 100 percent of the profits will be donated to the fund of your choice: Wings, Airline Ambassadors, the 9/11 Memorial fund or APFA Negotiations.

If you would like to order a brick, go to apfa.org and click on the brick on the main page.

President's Report



president@apfa.org 817-540-0108, ext. 8101

"This concept of employees being

"This concept of employees being rewarded prior to full and sustained profitability is a huge challenge."

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE DOWNRIGHT UGLY!



APFA Headquarters main hallway

t the time of this writing, I am sitting at my desk on a Saturday morning at APFA
Headquarters. I wish all of our members could walk through the halls of this building of ours. We may be the only Flight Attendant (FA) Union in the world (certainly the only one in the nation) to outright own its "union hall." Thus, I am beginning this article on a positive note.

THE GOOD

APFA Headquarters is the union hall we built together

and it is full of history. Hanging on the walls are dozens of framed photos, news articles, awards, posters, plaques, picket signs and other significant memorabilia demonstrating many of the successes and struggles of the American Airlines FAs. Our collective determination is exhibited throughout these halls as we created history and turned our job into the respected career it is today. More than 50 years of APFA and pre-APFA history is now displayed in **your** building. We are now the largest independent FA Union in the world.

APFA became the representing Union for the FAs of American Airlines on May 16, 1977. On or before May 16th of 2007, APFA

will hold a celebration marking its 30th anniversary. We hope that many of our members, including former and current leaders and activists will join us. In honor of this, APFA has received anniversary gifts from members, previous officers, and friends. One of these gifts is an archival case now standing in the

lobby of APFA Headquarters. It contains some of our most treasured historical pieces. If you have in your possession what you consider items of APFA history, now is the perfect time to loan or even donate these treasures to the APFA archives in honor of our 30th-year celebration. You may contact APFA archivist Cilla Golas at extension 8470 at APFA Headquarters to discuss items of archival value. There is no doubt that our Union has a rich and unique story and each of you are part of that story.

Those of us who fought the early battles of turning this once short-term job into a



APFA archive case donated by Dr. Bettye Myers

career are now in the process of handing the leadership torch to the next generation. I am lucky to be able to watch the growing number of new leaders take on a greater role in our Union. They are firm in their conviction, bright in spirit and enthusiastic about this work of ours. I feel privileged to be able to help mentor so many up and coming APFA leaders.

I have certainly not lost my passion to protect and preserve our APFA Contract, However, I do look forward to watching from afar as the next generation takes the APFA helm. My goal is to ensure that APFA is structurally sound and financially secure when this leadership torch is passed. Unions must have an ongoing strategic plan to maintain a steady course. The plan must be closely monitored for any necessary adjustments as circumstances warrant. As we all know, our industry is never stagnant. Recently we have watched while other FA unions have failed in their direct course. We must learn from these examples and be ever vigilant to adjust our own itinerary in order to best protect and defend the FAs of American Airlines and enhance our 2001 Collective Bargaining Agreement as modified in 2003.

It is also my goal to see that APFA pushes toward elevating the safety and security status of FAs - the on-board first responders - as well as continuing to be a respected union voice on our property and in the industry.

Each of these goals needs its own strategy in place with local and national leadership assisting in the communication and education process, which is the main part of any solid union plan. From council reps to Base Chairs and Vice Chairs: to the Coordinators, Division Representatives, the Executive Committee and the National Officers: each of us must do our part to educate and communicate these plans.

THE BAD

We certainly have plenty of 'the bad and downright ugly' swirling around our Company and our industry right now. The challenges seem to be mounting rather than lessening. The atmosphere can turn on a dime as a result of so many different issues such as the recent security alert in the U.K., the growing threats of consolidation, and the everchanging cost of fuel.

Another overriding theme in the U.S. today is that of corporate ethics, or the lack thereof. At American Airlines, one minute labor and management are working together to save pensions, and the next we are watching as the self-propagated multi-leveled executive compensation is being distributed

to an 'elite' group of AA executives. All the while management continues to profess the Pull Together/Win Together philosophy in the name of saving our Company. As most of you recollect, this first became blaringly obvious when former AA CEO Don Carty had to resign following his efforts to hide management bonuses for top executives in 2003, while all other employees were taking steep cuts in wages, benefits and work rules.

The question at the heart of this issue today seems two-fold: Is corporate ethics an oxymoron, and if not, what can we do about it? What the heck can we - APFA - do about this present situation? Are we prepared for the battles ahead? Do we have our priorities in order? With cautious optimism I say yes! But the most important ingredient is an informed and involved membership. How do we engage an ever-hardworking membership to also remain focused on our multipronged APFA course? That is the question we must answer together.

On another note in the 'bad' column, considering the intensive, mandated background checks and fingerprinting for FAs, pilots and other safetysensitive jobs within the airline industry following 9/11, our work force should be treated as safety professionals. Instead,

"Although it is true that only about 20 percent of American workers are in unions, that 20 percent sets the standards across the board in salaries, benefits and working conditions. If you are making a decent salary in a non-union company, you owe that to the unions. One thing that corporations do not do is give out money out of the goodness of their hearts."

- Molly Ivins

and as a perfect example during the recent UK security event resulting in banning liquids on board the aircraft, it became clear that crew members were also being treated as potential threats to the aircraft. Of late, crew members have endured indignities and hardships that should not have occurred given our training and position as on-board first responders. APFA has begun a heightened focus on security clearance procedures for crews, even in a time of security alerts. The APFA National Officers and security reps have met with AA security personnel, Flight Service and APA security representatives to develop a plan with the intention of creating new federal and corporate quidelines. Any new procedures that surface must be consistent for all commercial airline crews during security alerts. There is no doubt that hundreds of our members have once again felt beleaguered and without recourse when simply trying to get to work. It has been five years since our work environment changed

overnight and I assure you our voices will be heard for a consistent security process for all working crew members.

On this subject, I encourage each of you to share firsthand experiences from this recent security event and forward these statements to APFA at inforep@apfa.org. Our collective goal is to engage other unions, management, Congress, and the appropriate federal agencies in seeking permanent and consistent security procedures in this country for airline crews. If the U.S. can model a better process, perhaps foreign governments can pursue a similar process. Again, this won't be easy and it won't happen overnight. It will require collective action throughout our industry, on the Hill and on AA's property. We must have our voices heard publicly on this matter in order to see results.

APFA has also had a major impact on another safety-related

Continued on page 26

Vice President's Report



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he Issue:
Did the Company violate Article 26 and any related Articles by denying FA Ted Bumpus full compensation for an Injury on Duty (IOD) due to rough air under all the facts and circumstances of this case?

In late 2003, following the Restructuring Agreement (RPA), FA Bumpus was injured on duty as a result of turbulence. Bumpus was working a trip from YYZ-LAX when the aircraft encountered turbulent air about one hour prior to landing. He notified the Captain that he was experiencing some discomfort as a result of the turbulence they had encountered and continued with his duties. Upon landing,

You Be the Judge: Turbulence in the Air

the Captain did not file an official report known as an E6 for this flight since he felt it did not reach the level of severe turbulence.

FA Bumpus initially felt discomfort in his neck and lower back and his condition continued to worsen with time. Bumpus initially conferred with AA medical, which ordered physical therapy and medication. He later consulted the help of a chiropractor who was not part of the PPN (preferred provider network) and ultimately had corrective surgery to his neck and back. This resulted in Bumpus being out of work for approximately one year. During this period of time FA Bumpus received Worker's Compensation benefits since the Company concluded that the turbulence that caused his injury did not rise to the level of "rough air" as defined in Article 26.E. (page 239) of the Contract. He did not receive pay continuance, a benefit that supplements Worker's Comp payments under certain circumstances.

FA Bumpus requested his union rep file a Notice of Dispute (NOD) since he believed he was eligible for pay continuance under 26.E.1.a. of the Contract. This case was not resolved at the base level and was brought before a neutral arbitrator, a Union and Company Represen-

tative, which makes up the System Board panel at the Quarterly System Board hearings (QSB).

The Union's Position:

APFA argued that the Company did not do a thorough investigation when it determined that the FA was not eligible for pay continuance as provided in 26.E. It was APFA's position that the Company did not take into account or investigate the following items in determining FA Bumpus' contractual eligibility for pay continuance (see box on next page) in the absence of a Captain's report of severe turbulence:

- 1. AMR Event Center reports
- 2. Report(s) by crew members assigned to the flight
- 3. Purser/#1 FA Report
- 4. ATC/Dispatch and/or weather report(s)
- 5. Reports by any other employee witness on the flight
- Nature and/or extent of any passenger/crew member injuries on the flight due to turbulence
- 7. Nature and/or extent of any aircraft damage as a result of turbulence
- 8. AA Medical review of any IOD documentation to determine if injury is associated with the reported "air incident"

"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as 'right-to-work.' It provides no 'rights' and no 'works.' Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining... We demand this fraud be stopped." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

The other issues APFA argued included continued confusion over the changes made to paid IOD benefits as a result of the 2003 Restructuring Participation Agreement (RPA). FA Bumpus testified as to his confusion with the new changes and also whether AA Medical was to be considered his treating physician. There was also testimony from the Union to the Company's lack of training for members of management on how to properly investigate a turbulence claim.

The Company's Position:

On the other side of the coin. the Company argued that the FA did not seek treatment from a provider within the Preferred Provider Network (PPN). Therefore, his choice to be treated outside of the PPN precluded the Company from paying him even if it was decided that he was eligible. The Company also defended its investigation into whether FA Bumpus' injury qualified for pay continuance under the definition of "rough air" as defined in 26.E.

At the QSB hearing the following were some of the concerns raised by the three-member System Board panel (actual Award language in quotations):

- 1. "... the company's investigation was inadequate: it was conducted too late to preserve needed evidence, and it was reactive rather than proactive as required for claims of rough air. The company must adapt its procedures to the new contractual situation; its procedures must not be such that they deny employees of a bargained benefit."
- 2. One of the contributing factors in this case was the "confusion surrounding a change in the controlling contract language that occurred under the (RPA) effective in 2003. Under Article 26.D. of the prior contract, FAs injured on duty were automatically entitled to pay continuance to supplement their workers' compensation payments for up to 120 days if they consulted a doctor in the (PPN) or up to 60 days if they did not. Such payments were extended up to 180 days

"under exceptional circumstances, " contractually defined in Article 26.E. as including turbulence serious enough to be classified as "rough air." Under the RPA, pay continuance is only available when an injury is the result of such rough air; injuries arising from ordinary turbulence are no longer eligible for any pay continuance."

3. The FA's "decision to consult an out-of-network doctor would have resulted in his denial of 26.E. benefits under either contract; based on his choice, the only benefit he would have been entitled to under the old Contract was the 60 days for a generic IOD. In light of those circumstances, in this case the Company's failure to conduct an adequate investigation did not impact Mr. Bumpus' eligibility for pay continuance under Article 26.F."

Before you make your decision and learn how the Arbitrator ruled in this case, familiarize vourself with Article 26.E and Letter IV from Article 26 in the box to the right.

26.E. OCCUPATIONAL INJURY UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUM-**STANCES**

- 1. Forced Landing/Rough Air/Passenger Assault/Hijacking/ Sabotage
- a. A FA traveling in Company operated aircraft, as a flight crew member or as a passenger on Company business, and only if injuries are sustained as a result of forced landing, rough air, passenger assault, hijacking or sabotage while on duty, will receive full salary less Workers' Compensation benefits for a maximum of six (6) months. No deductions will be made from the FA's sick leave account, and scheduled pay increases as provided in Article 3 will be made effective.
- b. After the six (6) month period, the FA may, at his/her option, use accrued sick leave in addition to any Workers' Compensation to enable the FA to receive her/his applicable monthly quarantee. The combination of benefits shall not exceed 100% of the applicable guarantee.
- c. "Rough Air" will be defined and identified by the following observable in-flight characteristics:

"Large and abrupt changes in altitude and attitude occur. Occupants are forced violently against seatbelts and shoulder straps. Unsecured objects are tossed about. Food service and walking are not possible."

Moderate chop and/or moderate turbulence will not constitute rough air.

- (1) A Captain's official report ("E6") or its equivalent of "severe turbulence" will be sufficient to substantiate the presence of rough air. In the absence of a Captain's official report of "severe turbulence," Flight Service will investigate IOD claims of rough air to determine the appropriateness of a designation of rough air. Parameters used for such determination are set out in 26-LETTER-IV.
- (2) A decision and notification by Flight Service of "nonrough air" will be considered as having fulfilled the requirements of Article 28.A.3., 4. and 5. of this Agreement.

26-LETTER-IV July 6, 2001

Re: Article 26.E.1. B Investigation of IOD Claims of "Rough Air

This letter will confirm our discussions during the course of negotiating the changes to Article 26.E.1. and determination of "rough air" in the absence of a Captain's report of severe turbulence. We agree that in the absence of such a report, Flight Service will investigate and make a determination of the presence or the lack of "rough air" as defined in Article 26.E.1.c.

During the investigation, the following considerations will be taken into account, as applicable to each situation:

- 1. AMR Event Center reports
- 2. Report(s) by crew members assigned to the flight
- 3. Purser/#1 FA Report
- 4. ATC/Dispatch and/or weather report(s)
- 5. Reports by any other employee witness on the flight
- 6. Nature and/or extent of any passenger/crew member injuries on the flight due to turbulence
- 7. Nature and/or extent of any aircraft damage as a result of turbulence
- 8. AA Medical review of any IOD

documentation to determine if injury is associated with the reported "air incident."

In those isolated cases where there may be other types of evidence not listed above which Flight Service determines may be helpful in making the determination of "rough air," such evidence may be taken into account as well.

The Arbitrator's Decision:

"The Company's investigation into the Grievant's injury was contractually inadequate. The Company shall develop a policy that adequately addresses the implementation of the requirements of Article 26.E.1.c.

"Because Mr. Bumpus' doctor was not in-network, as required by Article 26.E, he is precluded from collecting pay continuance for his 2003 injury."

Secretary's Report



secretary@apfa.org 817-540-0108, ext. 8121

magine that you are an eightvear FA based in Boston, You are also an only child whose parents are in an assisted living facility in Dallas. Health care professionals have told you that the health and well being of your parents depends on your increased involvement and participation in their daily lives. You try commuting back and forth but after two missed trips and three late sign-ins, your own mental health and perhaps even your job are now at risk. You need to live and work closer to where your parents are. Basically, you need a transfer to DFW.

The problem is, under today's conditions with nearly 3,882 furloughs on the recall list and no relief in sight, transfers aren't really being processed save the occasional mutual lateral. And despite the few transfers that are being processed, you are still the most junior FA on the list. In desperation, you call the Union for help. A

"You can't do it unless you organize." — Samuel Gompers

The Road to a Hardship Transfer May Be a Long and Arduous One "...the only way a hard

representative provides you with the information you need to apply for a hardship transfer out of seniority order.

Seniority governs transfers and just about everything else at American Airlines as it relates to union jobs. So you submit your request to your FSM and by doing so, you are asking the Union and the Company to agree to make an exception to the system wide seniority list under the circumstances and facts you provide. It is the FA's responsibility to provide extensive documentation from health care providers in order to substantiate the compelling reasons leading to your request for a hardship exception. And even then, there are still no guarantees.

This is where I come in. Per APFA's Policy Manual, the Secretary of the Union is the individual who reviews, discusses and must agree with the Company on the disposition of hardship requests.

A "hardship request" is the means by which a FA has the ability to request cancellation of the proffer or a PLOA that was awarded on seniority, or to request a PLOA be granted out of seniority order. By far the most common hardship request is for a hardship transfer. APFA and the Company must agree on the decision to grant or deny any hardship request and the decision is always made on a nonprecedent basis. This means that each case is reviewed and decided individually on its own merits. Generally, though, a hardship is not granted for a situation that predates employment (or recall).

The process is straightforward: Reguests for a hardship transfer must first be submitted in writing to your FSM. It is also a good idea to contact your Base Chairperson to let him/her know that you are requesting a hardship. Your FSM will then forward the request to APFA Headquarters and Flight Service Administration at AA. If further documentation is needed, the FSM will contact the FA directly.

It is crucial to remember that with hardship requests both parties are mindful of those FAs already on the transfer list and the possible impact of seniority. While there are no hard and fast rules for the acceptance or rejection of a hardship transfer request, there are a few basic rules of thumb:

- Hardship transfers are rare and are the exception.
- Hardship transfers are never granted for purposes of commuting.
- Hardship transfers to Int'l bases are extremely rare and are almost never granted. A transfer may be granted to the adjacent domestic base, or to the nearest domestic base for those international bases with no adjacent domestic base, i.e. a request for RDUI would be processed to MIA Domestic.
- The request must be dire in nature and substantiated with enough documentation to leave no question that the situation is, in fact, critical.
- Documentation. Documentation.
 Documentation.

From the Union's perspective, seniority is a structure we enforce and protect. While our Contract does allow for seniority to be superceded "...the *only* way a hardship is granted is by mutual agreement of both APFA and the Company."

in certain compelling circumstances (see Article 19 – Leaves of Absence) there must exist an extreme hardship to warrant the displacing of seniority. Proof of a hardship must not only be documented fully, it must be irrefutable. The key element in obtaining a hardship transfer is to provide clear and concise documentation that supports your situation.

An example of good documentation would include a letter from the FA stating the reason for the hardship exception request as well as a Dr.'s letter(s) and other relevant medical documentation, letters from professionals (attorneys, clergy, etc) statements from friends or family, correspondence from a bank relating to your situation, copies of any bills that qualify your request, a deed or a lease, etc., any and all other information that can significantly substantiate your request. Be assured that everything that comes into my office regarding hardship request is treated as privileged and confidential.

APFA and AA Flight Service meet on a regular basis to review hardship requests – usually every four to six weeks - and each request is reviewed separately. Once a decision is made, the FSM is notified and the FA is contacted personally. If you submit a hardship request, be prepared to have your request thoroughly examined. Don't be surprised if you are asked to submit more information or documentation. Again, the only way a hardship is granted is the mutual agreement by both APFA and the Company.

Dealing with hardship requests is one of the most difficult aspects of my job. It is heartbreaking and numbing to read some of the letters that come into my office. It is extremely difficult and challenging to review someone's case, to look into someone's most private issues, and literally have to sit judgment on a huge decision on their behalf. I can assure you I take this responsibility very seriously.

I know transfers are practically non-existent. Some of us have even been forced from our bases and/or back onto Reserve. Our lives have been altered tremendously in the past five years and with that comes the stagnant condition of the airline industry. I have enormous compassion and a great deal of respect for all FAs, particularly during a time of great difficulty. If APFA and AA agree to grant a hardship, it is because the facts were irrefutable in favor of the hardship request.

If you find yourself in a position to be forced to pursue a hardship request, be prepared to submit all supporting documentation. In order to protect your privacy, your FSM should not be receiving any details of your situation if it is illness-related. Medical documentation should be forwarded to your FSM in a sealed envelope. Just to be safe, send a copy of your request with all supporting documentation to the APFA Secretary's Office, as well.

Fly safely, Greg



treasurer@apfa.org 817-540-0108, ext. 8131

he need for the **Negotiations** and **Negotiations-Related** Fund (NNRF) arose following the Strike of 1993 and the process leading to the 1995 Contract. Back then we were touted by the press as "The Little Union That Could." The term. coined after the famous children's book "The Little Engine That Could," related to APFA's relentless efforts in its uphill battle to fight for our members' riahts.

And what a costly battle it was. Consultants, financial advisors, attorneys and analysts had to be retained and ad campaigns funded. Protracted negotiations place a huge drain on the treasury of any union and ours was no different. The Hedges Administration put language into place to amend the Constitution of the APFA. which was subsequently ratified by the membership to establish a special fund to be used just for negotiations. That fund is known today as the NNRF.

Replenishing Our Resources

The Negotiations and Negotiations-Related Fund (NNRF) – What Is It?

Article IV. Sec. 1.D. of the APFA Constitution states that "...twenty-five (25) percent of any dues increase ratified by the membership shall be placed in a negotiations and negotiations-related fund." Over the years, our dues increased from \$25 to \$30 per month and then again from \$30 to \$35 per month when this Constitutional language was ratified by the membership in the mid-'90s. Twenty-five percent of each of those \$5 increases is \$1.25, resulting in \$2.50 from every members' monthly dues to be invested in a fund specifically marked for negotiations and negotiations-related expenses. In 2002, a dues increase was again ratified by the membership raising the dues from \$35/month to \$41/month. (Following the RPA, the APFA Board of Directors authorized a dues holiday for two years at \$3 less per month, per member.) Twenty-five percent of this \$6 increase generated another \$1.50 per member per month to be invested into the NNRF.

Today, APFA is required to invest \$4 from every FA's monthly dues into the NNRF. However, following the negotiations of 2001, the NNRF became under funded (see box to the right). Since taking office in April 2004. I have taken the necessary steps through additional monthly contributions - in excess of the minimum required - to restore the NNRF. We have continued to fund it at the highest headcount possible. Throughout the two-year dues holiday that generated less income for the Union, APFA continued to fund the NNRF at the full rate of \$4 per month per member. To date we have restored over \$60,000 of the amount under funded to the NNRF. But we still have a long way to go.

It doesn't seem that long ago that we were restructuring our Contract with AA in '03. The NNRF had to be tapped into to pay some of the outstanding costs of consultants and attornevs brought on-board during that very difficult time. Thank goodness for the NNRF. And here we are again with negotiations iust around the corner. Prep work for 2008 bargaining is in the not too distant future. APFA will be intensifying the collection of data to position ourselves for the next round of bargaining. Preparation, planning and strategy are everything. As the old saying goes, "Save for a Rainy Day." You can rest assured that APFA

APFA'S OTHER ASSETS

As reported in this year's State of the Union issue of **Skyword**, APFA holds monies in a number of long-term interest-bearing accounts. This portfolio is consistently reviewed by J.P. Morgan, as well as our auditors, and generally rebalanced annually. With rebalancing, APFA is able to maintain a conservative strategy while producing a higher rate of return (recently doubled) with less downside risk potential. Even the cash account from which we operate is tightly managed and constantly working for us. Each day after close of business, the money from APFA's checking account is swept into an interest-bearing account overnight and then swept back into the Union's checking account the next morning before the start of business. Every night and over the weekend, your dues dollars aren't just sitting idle they are earning interest around the clock.

And finally, APFA owns its Headquarters building in Euless. Texas, outright, which was completely renovated and updated in 1997.

May 2007 marks APFA's 30th anniversary, as the "Little Union That Could." I can truly say we have a lot to be proud of.

"When a man tells you that he got rich through hard work, ask him: 'Whose?" - Don Marquis

May 15, 2006 Dear APFA:

I have reviewed the NNRF funding schedule which was prepared by your staff. Based on my review of this schedule, it is apparent that the under funded amount of \$264,313 as of April, 2004 was caused by the failure to make the proper NNRF transfers in January and February, 2002 and the failure to use the correct constitutionallymandated monthly funding amount of \$4.00 for the months of July, 2002 through April, 2004. As indicated on the schedule, the effective date of the monthly NNRF funding amount changed from \$2.50 to \$4.00, effective July 1, 2002.

I noted that upon your assumption of the APFA Treasurer duties in April, 2004 you addressed this "issue" and started to fully fund the NNRF, using the correct monthly funding amount, by making monthly transfers in excess of the required amounts. As a result of these excess transfers, the "under-funded" current balance at April, 2006 is now \$202,873. I concur with your plan to continue to make excess monthly contributions, as such funds are available, in order to fully fund the NNRF.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you need anything further regarding this matter.

Hal O'Neil, CPA Wood, Stephens & O'Neil, LLP (Auditors for APFA)

From the Editor



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(Not So) Deep Thoughts: In seventh grade, I remember begging my mom to buy me a surfer skirt and hooded sweatshirt so I could be just like the other girls in Junior High. She came through like she always did and bought me what I thought I needed. I wore that outfit once a week. strictly on the days I knew I would see David H. who was, in my opinion, the cutest boy in school. This went on for a good two months until I realized that this new ensemble wasn't getting me anywhere. I saw David H., but he never saw me.

At the end of the day, I was still the same girl wearing something that did not necessarily suit me just because everyone else was doing it. So, I put my corduroys back on and proceeded to the next phase.

(Some More Not So) Deep Thoughts: A few false starts later I grabbed a pair of drumsticks

Who Ate The First Lobster?

and joined the band. I had always been fascinated with the drums after watching Karen Carpenter go at it in the '70s. To me, she was not only a lady, but she had rhythm and a great voice, too. I remember standing in the back of the room with the boys when the teacher asked. "Leslie, do you know how to play the drums?" "Sure," I replied. And there I stayed learning how to hold a pair of sticks for the first time; pretending my way through "Color My World." After a couple of days, I discovered that this was something I really did enjoy. And I was pretty good at it, too. This is the first time I can recall having a passion about anything other than Teamball during the first 13 years of my

(Another Bit of Not So) Deep Thoughts: Fast forward several years and I found myself living in London during a much needed break from college. A friend asked me what I was doing for my birthday and when I told him I didn't have anything special planned, he suggested we go to the Tate Gallery (now known as the Tate Modern) and stare at art. I resisted at first, but after weighing my options and the number of offers I hadn't received that day, I went along for the ride. Naturally, as happens with all foreigners when visiting London, the Queen had phoned earlier that morning to invite me for tea, but I just wasn't in the mood.

My attitude at the beginning of this little outing was at an alltime low. It plunged even further when he suggested we check out the Jackson Pollock exhibition AND sit through a 30-minute lecture. Are you kidding me? I could not have been less enthusiastic. I was, however, aware that my friend was trying to edify this dim California girl with a little culture to add to the contents in my brain which consisted of exactly how much SPF was required when aspiring to play six games of two-man beach volleyball at noon in August before one peels. So I sat myself down and listened.



Jackson Pollock Number 23

Thirty minutes later it was as if someone had flipped the switch. There it was in front of me hanging on a wall – safely guarded – with a bunch of paint splattered all over it.

Up until that point, I didn't appear to have a passion for much of anything meaningful or truly substantial other than playing sports. What had, at first, appeared to be an overrated children's finger painting and something I was convinced I could

have done myself, turned out to be the ultimate inspiration to me in all of its uniqueness. There right in front of Jackson Pollock's Number 23, on a Saturday morning in London, I had uncovered my major in spite of myself.

Jackson Pollock took risks and those risks changed the face of art history in the United States. Here was a man compelled to do something different. He was like no other artist of his time. While he had his share of vices, his talents were unquestionable. He could paint like an Old Master, however, he chose a different path and as a result, his success was extraordinary.

Being unique is what makes the world go 'round. Thank goodness for Konrad Zuse (who built the first computer), Orville and Wilbur, and whoever figured out how to eat the first lobster. But for them we might still be writing letters to our friends by hand on a cruise ship to Europe unaware that the best delicacy around is crawling right underneath our boat.

AA and APFA could have followed the paths of the other airlines and unions. We could have filed bankruptcy and watched our company dissolve into a lesser version of itself. We would witness a judge make decisions that would affect each of our lives without a second thought. On top of it all, we could have been absorbed by another Union

and become lost in the shuffle with very few specialized services available. But APFA is doing things differently and so far, it is working. Our Union team will continue to collaborate with each other and with AA (whenever possible) doing whatever it takes to advance our careers.

Thank goodness we aren't like everyone else. We aren't sitting in the front row of bankruptcy court operating with an imposed contract shoved down our throats like the Northwest FAs. We haven't had our pension plans frozen or terminated like Delta, America West, US Airways or United Airlines, or simply have no pension at all like Southwest or ietBlue. We have the best vacation provision in the industry that allows us to stretch days off into weeks. We are among the top paid FAs in the nation, and our Contract is closed until 2008. I'll take our situation over any other airline's hands down.

As the **only** union in the nation dedicated to a single FA workgroup, APFA is in the incomparable position of cutting its own course. On the eve of the 30th anniversary of our Union, let's embrace our uniqueness and acknowledge the strengths we have earned through not following in the path of every major union or airline: Losing our independence.

We are the Flight Attendants of American Airlines represented by the largest independent Flight Attendant union in the nation - APFA; *The Little Union That Could.**

"If hard work were such a wonderful thing, surely the rich would have kept it all to themselves." — Lane Kirkland

Election Time Again

Are You Registered to Vote?

Have You Requested Your Absentee Ballot?

By Joan Wages APFA Washington Representative

ith the midterm elections fast approaching in November, it's

time to make sure we are ready to vote. The word freedom is reiterated throughout political rhetoric - mostly in connection with the war in Irag. Our nation is spending billions to secure a democratic government for Iraqi citizens. If for no other reason, our current national involvement in Iraq should remind us of our responsibility as U.S. citizens to go to the polls on Election Day. It may sound like a tired old refrain but it remains as true today as it did 200 years ago -**VOTING MATTERS!**

In particular, those elected to Congress have a big say in the life of FAs since the federal government regulates aviation. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) determines the rules by which air carriers will operate and the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) calls the shots on aviation security. Over this past year, APFA has lobbied Congress on pension reform, FA fatigue, foreign ownership of U.S. carriers,

outsourcing and security issues, among others. Each of these has a direct impact on your job and your life.

Some members of Congress have been particularly helpful to us. Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA) sponsored a letter to the FAA urging them to release the FA fatigue study (see page 18). It was signed by 147 representatives. Reps. Jim Oberstar (D-MN) and Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) sponsored a letter to fight greater foreign ownership getting 85 signers. Oberstar also joined Reps. Charlie Norwood (R-GA), Tom Price (R-GA) and Steve LaTourette (R-OH) to support the inclusion of the airline provision in the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Ted Kennedy (D-MA) all played major roles in adding the airline provision to the Senate pension reform bill and fought hard for it in conference. Although American did not get as favorable provisions in the final bill as those given Delta and Northwest, these three senators have committed to

further efforts to help American secure future improvements to further impact reform.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Phone your local Election Board or Voter Registration to get a voter registration application mailed to you. Many states have September and October cut-off dates for submitting forms so don't wait until the last minute or even the last few weeks. That could be too late.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Since FAs are often out of town on Election Day, registering to vote by absentee ballot is a good idea. Each state has its own absentee ballot form and process. Your state's form can be retrieved at www.justvote.org. Many states have an address on the form, but for those that don't, call your local Election Board for one.

Is protecting your job not an important enough reason to vote? Congress passes laws on health insurance, social security and environmental laws concerning the air and drinking water. Those elected to



Congress will have a direct impact on each of these areas of your life. APFA researches candidates who vote for laborsupportive measures. This is APFA's responsibility to show support to elected officials who support the labor community.

WHO TO VOTE FOR

Stay informed and be aware of how candidates vote on issues that are important to you. Prior to elections, most states now publish voter guides that give candidate positions on many issues. Beware - what a candidate doesn't say can be as important as what s/he does say. If a candidate is not talking about workplace issues, the

importance of saving U.S. jobs, saving middle class jobs, supporting a worker's right to join a union, lowering oil prices and other directly-related issues, then the candidate is probably not supportive of FA issues. If in doubt, contact the candidate's office and ask them where they stand on your concerns.

According to predictions, this election will produce several close races. A handful of votes have made the difference in elections for the House and Senate. Now, more than ever, every single vote counts.

Be Sure to Vote on November 7th.

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

- Lyndon B. Johnson

A Farewell to 1,185 American Airlines Flight Attendants

The following 1,156 American Airlines Flight Attendants have been on furlough since October of 2001 and will be removed from the Seniority List. Prior to today, no American Airlines Flight Attendant had been furloughed for more than three years.

Due to Article 16 of our Collective Bargaining Agreement, recall rights for furloughed Flight Attendants expire after five years. APFA would like to acknowledge the following American Airlines Flight Attendants for their service.

in life do not last. The spring rains will come again.

- Sarah Ban Breathnach

Expect to have hope rekindled. Expect your prayers

to be answered in wondrous ways. The dry seasons

Ruth Abney Keion Abron Johanna Acosta Trisha Acosta Beth Adams Keeta Adams Ron Adams II Cheryl Adkins Paula Adkins Carla Adkism Amy Aebersold Carlos Agosto Gludi Aquilar John Ahearn Rebecca Albannaw Ladonna Alberts-Crouch Kristi Alderdice Jennifer Alexander Kevin Alexander Marilyn Alexander Markeeta Alexander Marcial Algarin Avendo Ali Nadia Alipour DR Allen Steven Alme Adeline Alvarenga Carlos Alvarez Marisol Alvarez Carmen Alvarez-Vazquez Debora Alverio Connie Amann Donald Amos, Jr Patrick Angevine Kelli Anthony Angela Antonelli Juan Aquino, Jr LS Arbogast Brandy Armstrong Cynthia Arndt Miguel Arroyo Pedro Arrovo Angela Aubuchon Diiana Aultman Anieanetta Austin Eusebio Avila, Jr Tim Azar Amy Babcock Christine Babiasz Linda Badgley

Desiree Bain Cheryl Baker Kelly Baker Amv Ballard Anne Ballard Janice Baniak Orsika Barabas Wade Barger Alicia Barham Jerry Barizo Brenda Barner Janet Barnes Juan Barnes **Noelle Barnes** Derek Barnett Kari Barnett Sara Baron Carla Barrett Deborah Barrett Linda Barrie Michelle Barsanti Windie Bass Sarah Baue-Shomaker Anneka Beasley Lola Bechtel Leslea Bell Janea Bello Noel Beltre Molly Benedict Chanel Benford **Deron Bennett Timothy Bennett** Carolyn Benson Bernard Berry Jaime Bertolino Christina Bertz VM Best Donna Biederman Laurel Birkley Lisa Birmingham Andy Blair Meagan Blair Michelle Blake Anna Blanco Linda Blanco Kristi Blecha Anthony Bledsoe Carla Block Marca Blocker

SN Booker Corina Booth Craig Bottger Andrew Botti Ivelis Botti Abigail Boyd Charita Boyd Linda Boyd Jaysa Boyer Kathleen Boylan Julie Bradford Kelli Bradlev Tasha Bray Christina Brennan Deanna Brewer Jayra Brewster **Gustavo Briand** Joyce Bridges Marla Britt Larae Broadhead Awyannia Brooks Chervl Brooks Philip Brooks Dana Brookshire **Edward Brophy** Cory Brown Gina Brown Lisa Brown Sherry Brown Marie Brownrigg Rachel Brunelle Katherine Bryan Sherrie Bryant LP Buckman Patricia Burnett **Heather Burns Rhonda Burns** Henry Bursian Ana Cabral Julio Cabrera Sandra Caicedo Michelle Calabro Kristin Calarese Maria Callahan Shanda Calliham Tammy Camacho Claudia Camarena De Maxwell Joseph Camelliri Katia Camille

Larissa Campbell

Peggy Campbell CA Campbell Vielka Campos Yvonne Cano Perola Cantu Wengian Cao Cindy Capozio Judy Caradine Wendy Carden Louise Cardonell Carla Carr Frances Carr Lina Carr JM Carrara Zabdiel Carrasco Jacqueline Carrillo Jessica Carroll **Opal Carroll** Mary Carter Maria Carty Carrie Caskey Karen Castaneda Evelvn Castro Nicole Catapano Carolyn Catchings Shanna Cates Julie Cavellini Lindsey Cavender Damir Ceric Anthony Cerniglia Deanna Cerra Thomas Cervello Janet Chamberlain Giza Chandler Jeff Chang Walter Chanto Elizabeth Chapman Charlton PA Stella Cheng Rebecca Cherry Dawn Chiaia Jimmy Chin Mark Chin Lucv Cho Tiffany Choat **Nicole Chones** Cinthia Chong Jill Christian Robert Christian Erica Chung Tera Ciesinski

Carol Clark Ramonda Clark Renee Clark Richard Clarkson **DK Claure** Vickie Clawson MA Cleveland Thomas Clevenger Elizabeth Cloud Juan Collazo **Courtney Collins** Stephanie Combest Andrea Conley **Brandy Conley** Karen Conley Traci Conley Colleen Connor Skip Converse Anne Cook Rachel Cooper Bonnie Cordia Kristy Cordwell Linda Corell Herman Cortes Amanda Cottle Kim Cottle Shannon Cox Jennifer Coy Virginia Crabtree Danielle Creider Courtney Cremer **Penny Crimmins** Joanne Croft Patricia Crook Suzanne Crowe **Deborah Crowther** Cheryl Crutchfield Denise Cruz Felix Cruz Jane Cupp Katina Curran Sieghart Dahlke Camellia Daley Amber Dalv-Brister Valdir Damota Cindy Daniel Claudia Daniels Sinh Dao AE Darek **NL Daugherty Bobbie Davidson**

Tracie Davidson Fernando Davila Carolyn-Armenta Davis Heather Davis Joan Davis Millicent Davis Ronald Davis **DL** Davis Elizabete Dealmeida Don Deangelis Shannon Deardeuff Nicole Deboskie Mirta Deciucies Shervl Dedert Glen Defreitas Xavier Degreef Nancy Dela Cruz Eddy Delaleu Kenneth Delanev Marie Delans Joanne Delfino FA Delgado Judith Demealo Teresa Dennehy Julianne Dennison Rachel Desantis Sally Diaz Yolanda Diaz Claudia Diggs Jennifer Digas Nicole Dillon Rigoberto Disla KM Dodd Julio Dones Maryanne Donnelly Alissa Doolan **Deborah Dougherty** Courtney Dowler Sheila Downey Marilyn Doyle Gwendolyn Drake Gary Drennen Ghitana Drew John Duarte Dina Dufalla Krista Duggan Marilyn Dumas **Bryant Dunbar** Frank Dunsworth Jared Duranceau Valarie Durham

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C Boggs

AV Bolski

Rebecca Badley

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Amy Hesselgren

Patricia Hewat Keenva Hewett Tiffani Hewlin L Hill Nancy Hill Sarah Hillard Tammie Himmelsbach Erin Hitchcock Gail Hite Joanne Hixon Shwu-Feng Ho Jesenka Hodzic MG Hoehne Dave Hoeltzle Major Hogge Susan Holcomb Jessica Holdaway **Brooke Holderby** Stephanie Holdner Julie Holiday Sandra Holloway Raphael Holmes Lesly Holt Thipp Hong VL Hosto **Daniel Houle** Isolyn Housen Kennette Houston AH Howard Dani Howell Mindy Howell Sara Hser Shao-Chin Hsu Amy Huckins **Holly Hughes RG** Hughes Mercedes Hukill Holly Hunsicker Bert Hunter Kelly Hunter James Hunter III Cynthia Hutson Elizabeth Hyten Esther Idhen Peaav Iliff Sarah Imbriaco **Edward Irani** Beverly Ivey Jerol Jackson Linda Jacques-Pietersen **Bobbie Jamerson** Lowna James Natalie Jando Marcia Jeanes Sandra Jeffers Jennifer Jennings Jessica Jilson Raulyn Jimenez

Ann Johnson

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SJ Langenfeld

Christopher Lanier Kelly Larson Robert Lasky Wendy Laur Violette Lawendy Brent Lawlis Jeanette Lawson Jessica Lawson Ernie Lazernick Kathleen Leake Alice Lee David Lee Steven Leaer Terri Legeza Margaret Leiker Robin Leineke **BK** Leisse Virginia Lemasurier Sandy Lenzner **Amanda Levites** Deborah Lewis Karen Lewis Keisha Lewis Ronghua Li Kristen Limbocker Hung-Chi Lin Craig-Michael Lindeman Susie Lineweaver Regina Lippert Ruby Liu Angela Lloyd Rovce Loewen Melissa Loffler Chervl Loftin Temika Lofton Leah Lohman Johanna Lombardo Carla Long Richard Longley Alexandra Lopez Carol Lopez Maria Lopez Stacev Lopez Radka Lorenzetti Sharon Losch Gail Lotak Karl Loveladv Joshua Lovell Patricia Lucas Carlos Lugo MA Lugo Mandy Lum Stephan Lum Lisa Lumpkin Randy Lupercio Sally Luzanilla

Jennifer Lyle

Alessandra Macauley

Yi Ma

Judy Maclauchlan Michael Madden Fairleigh Maddux EJ Madsen Joanie Mahan Jo Ann Mahonev Karen Malcolm Jacqui Maldonado Toni Malnati Pauline Mann Joyce Marcor Christina Markham Eva Marroquin Barbara Martin Katiria Martin Ray Martin Shea Martin Jaime Martinez Justin Martinez Paulette Martinez Susie Marval Shawn-Michael Mathies Angel Matias MD Matthes Brenda Matthias Marcelo Mattos **Betty Maull Bowers May** RJ Mayo Katherine Mays Amy McClain Sean Mcalonan Tammy McClanahan Joan McCloud SA McDaniel Eamonn McDonagh Adam McDonald Shinko McDonald Candice McDowell Dana McDowell Brian McGovern Devin McGraw Mickey McGuire KC McKeefery Cionne McLean Melinda McMahon Karen McMillan R R McMillan Laura McNea Stacia McNeil JC McNelly Christopher McVicker Jovce Mealie Christian Medina Jimmy Medina Cyndie Medows Michael Meehan Mitchell Meinders Edward Melchionna

Angelica Melendez Nicole Melton Javier Mercado Jordan Merchlinski Jill Metter Paula Mever Boris Millan Sally Miller Cristal Millican James Mills Mitzi Mills Jennifer Milon **Dexter Minter** Nelson Miranda Thomas Miranda Jamie Mitchell Levern Mitchell Aiko Miwa Yukie Mizukane **Lourdes Monroy** KL Moorman Aura Morell Lori Morgan Mary Morgan Matthew Mormino Mary Morrison Rebecca Moyer Kristina Moves Glenn Mueller Ellen Mule BJ Muniz Kimberly Munn Anna Munoz Leonard Munoz Magdalena Murphy Nicole Murphy Kelly Murray Tracy Murray John Nash Sonia Neblett Wendy Neff-Green Jefrey Nelson Wanda Nelson Brandie Neubert Elizabeth Newman George Newman Peter Newman Lana Newquist Thanh Nguyen Farid Nia Vivienne Niehaus Katherine Nieves **Etiam Nodarse** Laura Noonan **Edith Nordine** Yvonne Norman Josette Nozine Kelly O Shaughnessy Lynn Oddo

Brian Odonnell Michael Oefinger Faye Okelly Ivan Oliva Kimberly Olson **Bethany Oneal** David Oneill Shula Orgad Aidee Orozco Eduardo Orozco Jon Orozco Nadia Orozco Joel Ortiz Raul Ortiz **Ahmed Osman** Sung Hee Ou Nancy Oughton Judith Owens **Eudys Pacheco** Norma Padilla Neerja Pahwa Frederic Palluel **Robert Palmer** Daphne Paras Lisa Paris **Ieshia Parker** Michele Parks Karen Partridge Vickie Passarella Margaret Patin Freda Pattillo **Bettye Patton** Patrice Paulet John Payton Kelvin Pearce Laurelle Pearson Laurie Pelland Julia Pence J Pennover Wanderson Pereira Maritza Perez Sandra Perez **Christher Perkins** Cherie Perlow Katty Pernick Antonella Perrault Gibran Perrone Preston Petrosie Sarah Pettavino **George Petty** Melanie Phelps Dan Philipps Naomi Phillips Jennifer Phinisee Erin Pickard Kimberly Pierce

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Schneiderhahn Jim Schroeder Nikki Schroer Bonnie Schuchmann Lance Schulte Julia Schussman Nicole Schwartz Marilou Scott Mark Scott Monica Scott Elizabeth Scully Gavle Seal Mary Sedillo Carmen Segarra Aime Serna Viokari Serrano Amy Sexton Amie Sherrill Shiling Shiling Yang Nicole Shirley Pamela Sicard Carmen Silva **Dawn Simmons** Jennifer Simpson Brenda Sinesi **Ihab Singer** Valerie Singleton Courtney Small April Smith Ingrid Smith Janel Smith Joseph Smith Justin Smith Margaret Smith Marsha Smith Michelle Smith Patricia Smith BJ Smith BJ Smith Ralph Smith, II Jennifer Sommer Zulayka Soto Robert Speaker Cynthia Spellman Kristofer Spencer MR Spillane ST Spillman **AK Stabler Shaney Stack** Angela Stanford **Greg Stanislaus** Michelle Stephens Jennifer Stevens Juliet Stevens Richard Stevens

Ann Stevenson

Jennifer Stewart Jennifer Stewart Samuel Stice **Gregory Stillwell** Joe Stockley, Jr Cheryl Stone Patricia Storer Rhonda Strider Cheryl Summerville Sugnyan Suneetha Yudith Suriel Sian Symonds Lanette Talsma Xiaoyue Tan Lori Tanaka Rick Tantlinger Michael Taschler Carol Tauro **Brigid Taylor Ruth Taylor** Jeniffer Theis Deborah Thompson Lauren Thompson Stacy Thompson Tammy Thompson Wendy Thorn Lisa Tietz Janet Titchen Lindy Tobeck **Albert Torres** Lydia Torres Marie Torres Nicole Toto Jeffrey Tozzer Amy Tran-Gramlich Adrianna Trejo Angela Tripp Jane Troeger Michael Troxell Janet Tsou Patty Tu **KL Tubbs** Vikki Tuck Lori Tuggle Amy Tulley Lisa Tung Judy Turner Virginia Tyler Anne Tysseland Maria Tzortzis Carmen Ucciferri Amanda Urian Christine Ushiroda Brain Utechtt Yanelle Valentin Kerri Valentine

Angel Valenzuela Albert Valiente Robin Vandenabeele Vivian Vaughan-Williams Tina Vaughn Pamela Vaziripour Lisa Vazis-Laws **RK Veber** Karyss Velilla Edey Verdesca Irene Vere Jonna Vesuvio **Emily Victorino** Shannon Vinson-Linzy Richard Vrban Le My Vuong Rajesh Vyas Lori Wade Shirley Wade Ingeborg Wagner Tamara Wagoner Shonelle Waithe Teresa Waitkus Misty Walker Sheila Walker Kimberly Walter Ximei Wang Julie Ward **Christal Ware** Christina Watson Mildred Watts Kore-Daveth Waymack Eve Weatherford Jennifer Weatherspoon Ann Weaver Darrell Weaver Melissa Webb Sarah Webb Desiree Weber Tina Weil Janice Welch Valis Welch Trov Wheelan Jamie Wheeler Jill Wheeler Julie Wheeler Cynthia Whipple Oscar Whitaker III SM White KR White Paul Whyte Jeffrey Wickersham Lynnette Wilkins Nancy Willard F/A Willenbrink

Kimberly Willet

Elvis Williams Etta Williams Janice Williams Keron Williams Tamura Williams Deanna Wilson **Gregory Wilson** Javal Wilson Kahala Wilson Onvx Wilson Patricia Wilson Sarah Wilson Dana Wimberly Robert Winkler **Dolores Winn** Melanie Wise Kristin Wisniewski Lindsay Wittick Jenifer Wolenhaupt Michael Wolfe Christine Wolski Lena Woods Erin Woodward Barbara Woolf Adam Wright Michelle Wright Ivy Wu Vinson Wu **Enrique Yanez Sanchez** Bernard Yang Gamal Yarborough Nicole Yarger Michael Yau Matthew Ybarra Alexis Yeater Tinting Yeh Theresa Yennie Meredith Yesse Amy Yeung Andrea Ylen Francine Young Helena Young Tiffany Young Yadi Yu Anne Zalewski Mark Zaragoza Nadia Zeghmouri Victoria Zeller Leah Zemler Mariel Zeno Christine Zuzenak

This list was compiled from data submitted by AA Employee Relations. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this list, please send an email to apfa@apfa.org with details of your concerns. APFA will forward your inquiry to the proper department at American Airlines. Please include your AA employee number, full name, address, phone and email address in order for your inquiry to be handled properly.

Jerry Schlegel

Maryline Rivera

Orlando Rivera-Soto

"We must learn to live together as brothers or we are going to perish together as fools." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pension Protection Act Finally a Reality

by Patrick Hancock, IDF

n August 17, 2006, President Bush signed into law the massive 1,099 page pension reform legislation that our members and fellow AA employees, labor and management alike, have been working so hard on for almost two years. As with any law that size, it contains things we like and things we don't. It also does NOT contain some of the very negative items that were suggested along the way.

We like the fact that it changes the old Orwellian sounding "90 percent-funded equals fully-funded" to a more rational definition of "100 percent-funded equals fully-funded." This will force corporate America to put hundreds of billions more into pension funds to better protect the promises they have made to their employees. Most employers have seven years to catch up to the new funding requirement.



APA President Ralph Hunter, AMR CEO Gerard Arpey, APFA President Tommie Hutto-Blake and Director ATD-TWU John Conley signing thank you letters on behalf of 90,000 AA employees and 48,000 AA retirees to Congressional supporters of the Pension Protection Act of 2006.



AA employees on their way to Washington, D.C., in June '05 to lobby Congress to protect our pensions

We also like that the financiallystrapped airline industry gets extra time on top of the seven years to get caught up. As we are all painfully aware, airlines are short on cash right now and we don't want to push more of them into terminating or freezing their pensions, especially our own employer.

We do not, however, like the increased level of relief for some airlines that creates a two-class funding environment. Airlines that have frozen their plans get more time to pay their debt than those airlines that have been responsible and committed to preserving their plans. That creates a competitive disadvantage for responsible airlines and is unfair to them and their employees.

This two-class approach is a leftover toxic remnant of the efforts by some anti-worker forces to eliminate all Defined Benefit Plans. We are glad the rest of their garbage was deleted from the bill, but still think that the unfair two-class relic needs to be taken to the dump as well. As you know, if you are trying to figure out how long your savings will last, you should calculate how much interest you are going to earn on that money. That means you have to project the interest rate you can get down the road. Under the old rules, corporations basically got to pick a number out of the sky as their interest rate. We like the fact that under the new rules, most corporations must use the corporate bond rate as their projected

interest rate. That is a much more rational approach.

We are also comfortable with the part of the bill that gives airlines extra time to fund on the post-9/11 DRC debt relief. We are hopeful that the constant payments from AA and continued above-market returns on the pension assets will have our plans at 100% funding in the next few years. That is our ultimate goal - 100% funding.

We also like some of the other changes in the bill. Two changes in particular that will help our members who have domestic partners and other non-spousal beneficiaries are as follows. The first is Non-Spousal Rollover, which expands the non-taxable

transfer of a 401(k) or IRA to non-spouses when the account holder dies. The second, known as Hardship Distribution, allows individuals who list their samesex partner or other non-spouse beneficiary under a 401(k) plan the ability to tap into their retirement funds in case of certain medical or financial emergency of the beneficiary.

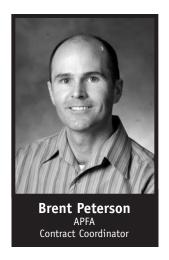
The other intangible benefit from this process is the realization that as a united work group we can make a difference, even in the halls of Congress. It is obvious now that without the highlyvisible presence of AA employees in the offices of Congress, and without the persistent communication from employees reinforcing our message; the foes of Defined Benefit Plans would have succeeded in making it impossible for any of these plans to continue. AA employees stood up to some powerful interests and proved once again that a unified workforce is more powerful than corporate greed.

2006 Pension Facts

The APFA membership is among 33% of the entire U.S. workforce who has a Defined Benefit Plan. In 1980, more than 80% of the workforce in the U.S. had a Defined Benefit Plan.

"The important role of union organizations must be admitted: their object is the representation of the various categories of workers, their lawful collaboration in the economic advance of society, and the development of the sense of their responsibility for the realization of the common good."

— Pope Paul VI



contract@apfa.org 817.540.0108, ext. 8271

o much has changed in the five years since we ratified our industry leading agreement on September 12, 2001. Shortly after 9/11, airline management began demanding concessions and furloughing employees either as part of bankruptcy or as a threat to avoid it. Our own painful concessions came in 2003. At the time, those efforts to avoid bankruptcy put our Contract behind many of our competitors. Today, however, the 2001 CBA as modified in '03 puts us back toward the top - near Southwest and Continental. Where do we stand today, just a little over three years after having the industry-leading Contract? In the center section of this Skyword, we have included a comparison of our work rules, rates of pay and benefits to those of FAs at other airlines.

Industry Flight Attendant Contract Comparison

It has been our goal to provide this comparison to our members for some time, however, FA contracts have been undergoing constant change. Although there could be further changes at Northwest and the merged America West/US Airways, we felt it was time to provide this information for our members so we can fully understand where we stand today. It is never too early to prepare for the road ahead. Soon, on our new Web site, you will also find our 2001 CBA, including the '03 modifications. This document will be known as the 2006 Foundation Document.

The information provided for the Northwest FAs in this comparison represents the terms of their first failed Tentative Agreement (T/A) that management then imposed upon them on July 31, 2006, following the failure of a second T/A. Since the imposed terms do not represent a contract, AFA -CWA will continue to negotiate with Northwest for a new agreement. That may take some time, however. A recent AFA hotline addressing a rumor had the following advice for members: "With their cuts in place management would have less incentive to reach agreement with us any time soon... It took the Continental FAs and other employees five years after exit from bankruptcy to negotiate a new agreement."

Current contract information for both America West and US Airways is included. Negotiations are under way to reach a single agreement that would cover all FAs at the merged carrier. Despite three rounds of concessions at US Airways, that contract is still richer than the current America West agreement that became amendable 2004. One can only assume that management will be trying to reach an agreement for all FAs that comes closer to the America West contract than the US Airways contract.

The comparison information we have included does not represent every carrier or every detail of ours or other FAs' contracts or terms of employment (in the event the FA group is unrepresented). It is meant to provide an overview of how we currently stack up to the carriers we are most frequently compared with. Some are traditional carriers and some are low-cost carriers. It is important to note that, in order to truly compare collective bargaining agreements one must take a comprehensive look. Even the worst contract has a piece or two that is envied by other workgroups. Similarly, the industry leading contract does not have the best provisions in all areas. As we know, negotiations involve give and take. Each FA workforce provides its negotiators with a different set of priorities. The result

is the complete CBA/Contract. One example to help explain this is the fact that Continental has a better per diem than we do, however per diem is not paid for turnarounds. Another example is our vacation accrual and accompanying vacation pay and credit. While our accrual is less than some of the other carriers, our vacation pay, which is on a trips-missed basis, remains significantly better than the other carriers. Virtually every other FA group has gone to a Value of the Day (VOD) pay and credit for vacation. For the most part they do not bid on a tripsmissed basis. Combine this with the fact that most of those carriers bid using some type of preferential bidding system as opposed to pre-determined selections and the results can be an inability to extend time off and less pay during vacation for the vast majority of FAs. Most of us are able to turn a few days of vacation into a week or more of time off and 14 days of vacation into at least three weeks through the bidding process.

Another point to consider when comparing contracts is that you are not always comparing apples to apples. For instance, Southwest FAs are actually compensated by flight segment or Trip for Pay (TFP) and not by block-to-block flight hour. This originated when all of their flying consisted of short-haul trips. Now that they

have flights of varying lengths, including transcons, each leg is considered on a mileage basis resulting in more than one TFP on many flight segments. We have used an industry-standard conversion where necessary to convert TFPs into an hourly rate for ease of comparison.

Along these same lines, at most carriers you are either a line-holder or a Reserve. Some carriers have a hybrid line that includes reserve days and actual sequences. However, our category of Availability is fairly unique and helps keep our Reserve numbers lower than they would otherwise be without Availability.

We hope you find this comparison useful and informative. It is designed to be incorporated with your On-Duty Contract Guide published in last year's 4th Quarter *Skyword*. We encourage you to use this as a reference. APFA will continue to work hard to protect our current agreement – the agreement we fought so hard for in '01 and sacrificed so much for in '03.

Editor's Note: Included in this issue is a tear-out guide comparing industry contracts. If one is not included in this issue, email member@apfa.org and include your full name, mailing address and employee number and one will be sent to you.

Retirement



retirement@apfa.org 817.540.0108, ext. 8490

Introducing APFA's Retirement Specialist Jena Hopkins

ello! My name is Jena Hopkins and I am the new Retirement Specialist for APFA. I am taking over for Jill Frank Smoak as she retires this fall and begins the next phase of her life in Florida. Jill is an APFA treasure and leaves behind guite a legacy. We will miss her very much.

You may recognize my name as the former National Scheduling Coordinator and National Contract Coordinator. I have been flying for 16 years and have been doing union work for the past 9 years. I am married to a FA and have a four-year old son.

My position is part-time, which means I work for APFA half the month and fly the other half. Please don't be worried if it takes a week or so for me to get back to you. I can check email on most of my trips so that is probably the most efficient way to contact me. If you have an urgent matter that cannot wait, please contact the Contract Department at extension 8171. They can help you with general questions and direct you to the appropriate contacts you may need. The Contract Department also has an emergency contact number for me, if necessary.

While you are patiently waiting for a return phone call, there are several retirement references you can access. The Retirement Made Easy booklet is currently available on apfa.org. An updated and expanded version will be published and uploaded to our new Web site before year's end. APFA's Web site contains an entire section dedicated to FA Retirement. Also, Jetnet is full of retirement information. Go to Jetnet—Benefits—Retirement Planning. There is a Pension Estimator/Calculator tool that is very useful. The representatives at HR Services are also helpful and can provide the information

and documents you may need. You may live chat with them or call them at 800.447.2000. You can also go to JP Morgan's Web site (our 401(k) administrators) for more retirement tools.

During my first few weeks on the job, I received many calls regarding the disability provisions of retirement. I will address that topic in the Winter **Skyword**.

My phone extension at APFA is 8490. My email address is retirement@apfa.org. I look forward to assisting you.

"He who tampers with the currency robs labor of its bread." - Daniel Webster

Can You Afford To Retire? by Jena Hopkins

ecently PBS aired a Frontline special entitled "Can You Afford to Retire?" It was a documentary on the state of pensions, 401(k) programs and retirement savings in this country. The effect of United Airlines' bankruptcy on its employees was one of the unfortunate focuses of the documentary. This show and its transcript as well as numerous articles on the issue of retirement are available on the PBS Web site a www.pbs.org.

Here are a few of the compelling quotes from the show:

On Retirement Plans Today:

"For many Americans, it used to be that your employer took care of vour retirement...But now the tables have turned. Corporations have stepped back and put the responsibility and much of the cost on individuals."

- Hedrick Smith, PBS Correspondent

"Half of America's private sector workforce is not covered by any retirement savings plan; their retirement will be anchored only

by Social Security and whatever they have managed to save on their own. The other 50 percent have one of the two main employer-sponsored retirement savings strategies: a traditional lifetime pension or a 401(k)-style investment plan. Today, twice as many workers have 401(k)'s rather than lifetime pensions, a complete reversal from 25 years ago."

- David Wray of the Profit Sharing/401(k) Council of America

"Our pension system has changed dramatically. People aren't going to have pensions like they used to - where you get a benefit for the rest of your life. People are going to retire basically with 401(k) plans, and that's all."

- Professor Alicia Munnell, Boston

"We're now shifting from lifetime pensions to lifetime work." - Professor Teresa Ghilarducci,

Notre Dame University "How many of you have seen somebody of retirement age working at McDonald's or Burger King?

Now, do you think their retirement

goals are to super size fries?

They're there because they have to be, aren't they?"

- John Winkleman, Nebraska Retirement System

On Bankruptcy:

"Bankruptcy is a way to take legal promises and burn them." - Professor Elizabeth Warren. Harvard Law School

"Everybody knows, I think, Chapter 11 serves a useful purpose. That's why the statute exists. It's there for companies to take advantage of when the occasion presents itself." - Glenn Tilton, CEO, United Airlines

Editor's Note: When Glenn Tilton agreed to join United Airlines he negotiated a special and protected pension benefit for himself that remains intact today, even after the destruction of his employees' pensions. Not surprising is the fact that Mr. Tilton declined numerous attempts to be interviewed for the Frontline Special. However, one of United's bankruptcy attorneys stated, while laughing, that he wouldn't touch the issue but that in his opinion Tilton has done a great job and his compensation is appropriate.

"Bankruptcy is terrible for the employee. It's an absolutely horrific experience for the people who worked hard to build a company. Through no fault of their own, and as a result of some poor management decisions, it means being forced to negotiate changes to your working conditions and your terms of employment all with a gun to your head."

- Greg Davidowitch, MEC President, Association of FAs. **United Airlines**

"What it really comes down to is, how much can be taken away from the employees before they finally say, 'Fine, you take it, but I'm not working here anymore.' No one else will come to work for them, either. That's what corporate reorganization in America has become. 'How much less can I give you and still keep you here?"

- Professor Elizabeth Warren. Harvard Law School

On 401(k)s:

"The 401(k) first emerged as an arcane sub-paragraph in the fine print of the tax code in 1978. Intended as a technical fix to protect a tax shelter for executives at

Kodak and Xerox, no one expected it would lead to a retirement revolution."

- Hedrick Smith, PBS Correspondent

"401(k) plans were originally introduced as supplemental plans. No one ever said, "Oh, let's end these traditional pensions and replace them with 401(k) plans."

- Professor Alicia Munnell, Boston College

"The pitch to corporations was that the 401(k) would save them big money. The new 401(k)s would cost them less than half as much as the old lifetime pensions, which cost companies about 6 to 8 percent of payroll."

- Hedrick Smith, PBS Correspondent

"The biggest problem is low participation. Masses of ordinary workers are left without any 401(k) plans. But even those who get offered one typically do not put in enough money."

– Heďrick Smith, PBS Correspondent

2005 Flight Attendant Fatigue Study Receives Congressional Support By Joan Wages APFA Washington Representative

hat we already knew has now been scientifically acknowledged –

Surprise: FAs experience fatique! The FAA has previously failed to recognize that FAs become exhausted. In the Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill for FY '05, Congress directed the FAA to report back on this topic. FAA representatives at the Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI) in conjunction with NASA Ames Research Center performed an evaluation of the FA fatigue issue. The report that was due back to Congress by June 1, 2005, has only recently been released.

You may recall that APFA hosted the 2005 FA Fatigue Summit, inviting all unions representing FAs to participate. Following this summit of FA union leaders, APFA hosted a Fatigue Lobby Day on the Hill in May '05.

Due to the short timeframe, CAMI was unable to conduct a full-scale study so it evaluated previous studies on flight crew fatigue. They also used current FA duty sequences and made a comparison of the actual schedules with the current "Flight Attendant Duty Time Act." They also reviewed Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS) and the NTSB database.

Quotes from the general findings on Fatigue: "There are two main causes of fatigue: sleep loss and desynchronization of circadian rhythms with schedule activity and sleep... These components interact dynamically to regulate change in alertness and performance. Sleep loss accumulates into sleep debt leading to increased sleepiness."

"In general, FAs are the inflight primary responders who must be vigilant to the possibility of security and other threats, perform CPR, fight a possible fire, and evacuate the aircraft in the event of an emergency landing or accident."

Possibly of greatest interest is the impact of fatigue on FA well-being. "There are no known studies that deal with the specific effect of fatigue on FAs' quality of life... Research has demonstrated that with increased sleepiness, there is an increase in report of total mood disturbance... Testiness and breakdown of social interactions are commonly reported among the fatigued. More specifically, sleepy people often report an increase in confusion, tension, anger and depression as well as a decrease in vigor."

Following are more highlights from the report. See the full 77-page document at www.apfa.org for sources of these comments.

"Wakefulness prolonged by as little as three hours can produce decrements as serious as those found at the legal limits of alcohol consumption ... The consequences of losing even one to two hours of sleep in a single night may result in decrements in daytime function contributing to human error, accidents and catastrophic events..."

"Subjective levels of sleepiness may be masked by factors such as environmental stimulation, physical activity, or caffeine, thus making it difficult to estimate one's sleepiness or alertness level ... research has demonstrated that individuals cannot be relied upon to self-

detect neurobehavioral impairment due to fatigue..."

"In a number of studies the amount of walking that occurs during duty hours has been shown to be related to workload intensity and duration... The total average number of steps taken per FA during (international) flights of an approximate duration of 10.6 hours was 10,742.8 or 14.0 steps/min."

"... end-of-duty fatigue is proportional to the percentage of cabin occupancy... Each cabin-type served had an impact on cabin crew well-being and fatigue... FAs working in economy class had higher blood pressure levels and incidents of heart rates greater than 120 beats per minute compared with the FAs working the other two classes. FAs working in business class also showed heart rate increases greater than those working first class."

"... international FAs reported lower ratings of fatigue effects than domestic FAs. Job strain and fatigue was significantly higher among domestic FAs, who had higher job demands. It is interesting to note that in

this study, the international FAs reported less stress and sleepiness than domestic FAs despite reporting nearly twice as many average hours of commute times... Older FAs on domestic flights were found to have greater fatigue effects resulting from multiple flight legs than younger FAs..."

"It should be remembered that performance deterioration can result from circadian rhythm disturbances and not solely from sleep loss... It is apparent that performance decrements equivalent to consuming the legal limit of alcohol occur with circadian disruption in field operations – even without the loss of sleep."

"The degree of deterioration in sleep duration and quality and in performance efficiency is dependent upon the number of time zones crossed... performance deterioration may occur in response to only a one-hour time change."

"Fatigue effects have been found to be dependent on flight direction. Eastbound flights result in significantly more fatigue than westbound flights. Resynchronization is 50% faster following westbound flights..."

"End-of-duty fatigue has been associated with failure to eat dinner and not eating high protein food... Reports of occasions when FAs arrive at the hotel too late or leave the hotel too early to eat are not uncommon..."

"This review has concentrated on those factors affecting fatigue that are most closely associated with the CRFs, i.e., duration and intensity of work, timing of work and rest, and time zone shifts... One must also consider the impact of aircraft facts such as the aircraft model and configuration, deck arrangements, humidity and air quality; airline factors such as work practices and general culture, as well as individual factors such as age, gender, general health, experience, and the highly variable personal/domestic situation including commuting requirements."

Report Recommendations for further study:

1) A scientifically based, randomly selected survey of FAs as they work. Such a study would

- assess the frequency with which fatigue is experienced, the situations in which it appears, and the consequences that follow.
- A focused study of aviation incident reports in order to determine what role fatigue played in already reported safety incidents.
- 3) The need for research on the effects of fatigue. This research would explore the impact that rest schedules, circadian factors and sleep loss have on FAs' ability to perform their duties.
- 4) The determination and validation of fatigue models for assessing how fatigued a FA will become. Developing a reliable fatigue modeling system would be an important tool for the aviation industry in helping to determine when rest periods should be scheduled.
- 5) A study of International policies and practices to see how other countries address these issues.
- 6) Development of training material to reduce the

level of fatigue that may be experienced by flight crews and to avoid factors that may increase fatigue levels.

As soon as APFA Headquarters received a copy of this 2005 CAMI/NASA Fatigue Study, which was not made public by the FAA until July 2006, APFA went to work to secure additional Congressional funding to pursue the recommendations above. We are pleased to report the Transportation Appropriations bill that is making its way through Congress contains language authorizing \$500,000 for CAMI to carry out these recommendations for a second FA fatigue study. Quoting language from the bill, "The Committee continues to be concerned about the issue of FA fatigue and whether current regulations provide adequate rest time for Flight Attendants... The 2005 study was limited in nature; however, the report stated that FAs are experiencing fatigue and the issue warrants further evaluation."

Special thanks to those members who submitted their trip sequences to APFA. With your help, we were able to provide CAMI with specific examples of extremely fatiguing schedules. While the FAA continues to question that a problem exists, these examples demonstrated otherwise.

Only time will tell if the FAs of this country will ultimately be protected by federal fatigue limitations with, at the very least, the same standards as commercial pilots. This course won't be easy and it will take all FA unions standing together to have our voices heard and rest rules applied with equity and in the interest of all crew members and the public we serve.

"The labor movement means just this: It is the last noble protest of the American people against the power of incorporated wealth."

- Lyndon B. Johnson

Scheduling



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he Scheduling
Department has been
working on a variety of
issues in an effort to
provide more flexibility during
this stagnant period of little to
no growth. Here are a few
updates and reminders. Please
refer to the new APFA Web site
for the full text of each of these
Letters.

Reserve Supplemental Flying When Considered Regularly Scheduled

There is a new procedure (although the procedure simply honors the existing contractual language) in place for Reserve FAs who are at or above 85 hours in the PROJ column, or above 80.01 and good for Reserve on the last day of the month to be considered Regularly Scheduled FAs. Although Article 10.D.4. and 5. outline a Reserve's ability to be considered Regularly Scheduled, the computer programming is unable to recognize this new status during the month. If you

RSF's, OE's, TT's, CoT's, RTT's, Series 2000, Rsv. Supp., M/Up, Option II...

Pick an Acronym – Any Acronym

meet the requirements and qualify to be released as Regularly Scheduled, you may request MU/Option II by using HISEND. To find the correct form, in HIDIR choose FLIGHT ATTENDANT **DIRECTORY *FAS ONLY***, then **HISEND AND HIO.** Scroll through the CREW SCHEDULE HISEND FORMS to find the REL RSV MU/OPT2 form numbers. You may also use the VP ballot for Voluntary Purser, add yourself to the Sick Make-Up (SM) list as you normally would for SM flying, or call and speak to Crew Schedule to request an OE trip. Please email scheduling@apfa.org if you have any questions.

2000 Series

APFA and AA have reviewed the results of the 2000-series test in an effort to determine whether the test should continue in future holiday months. APFA and AA have determined that the results were not favorable for either party, therefore, this test will not be continued in the future.

Reserve Trip Trade

During the July Reserve Trip Trade test, there were a total of 51 trades processed by Crew Schedule system wide. APFA certainly hopes to see this option continue and we are working with AA to evaluate the cost of automating it. Please see the accompanying box to the right for a breakdown of trip trades for Reserves by base.

"When we talk about equal pay for equal work, women in the workplace are beginning to catch up. If we keep going at this current rate, we will achieve full equality in about 475 years. I don't know about you, but I can't wait that long."

- Lya Sorano

Co-Terminal Test

The co-terminal preference test is expanding throughout the system. Preferences for EWR, SJC, PBI, and DCA/BWI are now awarded during both daybefore and day-of coverage based on GTD order for those requesting flights from a specific airport. Those FAs desiring coterminal flying for day-of coverage must add themselves to the short-call reserve list. It could potentially increase the number of short-call assignments a Reserve receives, but the reality is that it is the only way for a Reserve FA to identify their coterminal preference for day-of flying. APFA has an example of one SFO Reserve FA in particular who was assigned every single trip in a month out of her preferred airport.

Make-Up (MU) and Option II HISEND

HISEND may now be used to request both MU and Option II flying. You must still add your name to the MU/Option II list. HISEND requests must be specific in nature. Specific sequence numbers are ideal, but parameters such as "Turn worth more than 8 hours with less than two-hour sit time and two legs" are acceptable. Requests may include departure and/or arrival time ranges, number of days in sequence, layover city, amount

of flight time, maximum legs in a day, etc. If you wish to be called even if no trips fall within your parameters, include that in the HISEND. Otherwise, if no trip meets the parameters, no further contact will be made by Crew Schedule. If a trip is awarded prior to 1900 local base time, the trip is considered confirmed. It's good practice to check your HI1 immediately after 19:00 to avoid any surprises.

FYI, there is a little-known SABRE entry in your personal mode that displays all trips for which you are legal: N4DL/BASE/DATE for Domestic, and N4IL/BASE/DATE for International.

Optional Exchange (OE) Seat Swap

Because of the OE Flexibility Test, OE's may now be traded. Any trip that is traded with an OE becomes an OE, except a position swap. A position swap will maintain the original coding of the trip. For example, if I am trading my Position 1 OE for my friend's Position 5 TT, we may position swap. I will become Position 5 and my trip will remain an OE. My friend will be Position 1 and her trip will remain a TT. The computer is programmed to process the trade correctly. Please contact the Scheduling Desk if you encounter any problems.

July 2006 Reserve Trip Trade Results By Base				
DOM		INT	INT'L	
BOS	7	BOS-I	1	
DCA	6	DCA-I	1	
DFW	0	IDF	2	
LAX	0	LAX-I	3	
LGA	9	JFK	8	
MIA	4	IMA	5	
ORD	1	IOR	1	
SFO	0	SFO-I	0	
STL	3	RDU	0	
	30		21	

Safety and Security



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newly-revamped Crew Member Self-Defense Training (CMSDT) program was previewed in April of this year and is now available to FAs and pilots. The program has been placed under the direction of the Federal Air Marshal (FAM) division of the Department of Homeland Security as opposed to its former home under the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

You may recall that shortly after 9/11, FAs and their unions insisted on self-defense training. Clearly, there was a definite need for these skills given the events that unfolded on 9/11 in our work environment. As FAs, we can no longer take a "passive" role with terrorists that we were previously trained to assume. Today, we are dealing with a different type of terrorist. We have to fight back using any and every

New and Improved Crew Member Self-Defense Training

means possible to protect ourselves, our fellow crew members and our passengers.

The demands for self-defense training have been heard loud and clear by the Government and they agreed to provide this training to flight crew members. Many of us expressed the desire to make this training mandatory and paid. Sadly, due to the successful lobbying efforts by some on Capital Hill, unpaid voluntary self-defense training was implemented. This meant the airlines bore no financial responsibility to provide this training or a means by which to accomplish it for flight crew members.

The former program was developed by the TSA. It was three days long with 24 hours of class instruction in total. It proved to be nearly impossible for the TSA to adjust the program to FAs' scheduling needs. The program was offered at a limited amount of cities and lacked availability. Thus enrollment and participation by crew members in the former program was extremely low. Each of us understands how difficult it is to hold a schedule with three days off in a row. Those three days off are no longer considered a luxury but are now the much-needed rest that none of us can afford to give up – especially when we are already working extra hours to make ends meet.

Since taking over the program, the FAMS have completely redesigned the program. They understand that in order for the training to be a success, the airlines and unions must have participation and "buy in" to the concept. FAMS recently gathered airline and union leaders to explore why so few crew members have been participating in the voluntary training. Once the input was gathered, the old program was dropped and a new one was completely redeveloped. The class is now formatted in a way similar to our own Recurrent Training. Materials are sent to the homes of each of the participants prior to training. The home study packet should be completed and the DVD viewed prior to attending the classroom portion. The new class is a single day of instruction focusing on "hands-on" skills training. Under the new program, FAs can re-take the class as many times as they want, thus improving their skill level and competency.

This first preview class was taught at the Federal Air Marshal training facility in Atlantic City. Nearly 30 participants from several airlines and unions completed the new program. APFA Safety and Security Representative Tim Lessa joined me in representing the American Airlines FAs. The class includes several hours on the mat executing intense, well-

planned self-defense maneuvers and application skills. We were instructed in such a way that we all felt confident and that confidence only increased with each new skill we learned. The FAMS ensured that each participant learned each skill before progressing to the next. Once we entered the cabin trainers we began to see how the skills would be adapted and adjusted to that environment. We were shown how to use cabin fixtures and other items within the A/C to our advantage. Needless to say the class is physically and mentally demanding but easily completed by anyone regardless of age, gender or body type. At the conclusion of the day, the FAMS gathered all participants and asked them to offer any suggestions to improve the program as well as concise feedback on the merits of the new program.

The classes will be taught as before by law enforcement instructors through local Community Colleges. The commitment to continue the training course will be based solely on demand. If crew members

register and attend the classes they will continue. If the demand is insufficient to justify the funding, unfortunately the classes may be cancelled. Current class dates are available on the APFA Safety & Security Web site at apfa.org. Posters are also displayed in Base Operations throughout the system.

At the conclusion of the training course. I left with a new level of confidence and a skill that I will, hopefully, never have to use. I am now more confident in my ability to respond, take the offense, and maybe even survive if the unthinkable were to happen. We again must remember that we demanded this type of training in the aftermath of 9/11. I cannot begin to convey the importance of this class and how applicable it is not only to our work environment, but to protecting ourselves while on a lavover or in our free time. The new training program is outstanding. There really is no excuse not to get trained in self-defense. The decision could ultimately save your life.

"Solidarity is not a matter of sentiment but a fact, cold and impassive as the granite foundations of a skyscraper. If the basic elements, identity of interest, clarity of vision, honesty of intent, and oneness of purpose, or any of these is lacking, all sentimental pleas for solidarity, and all other efforts to achieve it will be barren of results."

— Eugene V. Debs



"I believe you should tell the story of injustices, of inequalities, of bad conditions, so that the people as a whole in this country really face the problems that people who are pushed to the point of striking know all about, but others know practically nothing about."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Accidents and Incidents

6/06, NRT/JFK, 777

Male pax intoxicated on flight. Pax hit wife and pushed FA. Captain declared a level one security threat. Another pax caught smoking in B/C lav. Police met flight on arrival.

6/06, LAX/ORD, S80

A/C experienced nose gear mechanical prior to landing and cockpit performed a fly-by for ATC Tower to confirm. Tower verified gear not deployed. Cabin prepared for emergency landing. FAs completed emergency checklist. A/C landed smoothly on main gear. Crash, Fire and Rescue (CFR) was available in event of fire or injury. Pax deplaned via ramp stands. Minor damage to A/C nose gear. Cockpit and Cabin Crew did excellent job of keeping A/C and pax safe.

6/06, LGA/ORD, S80

Male pax late for flight and

prohibited from boarding. Pax requested checked luggage be removed from A/C. Agents denied request and pax advised there was a bomb in the bag. Police arrested pax. All pax removed and asked to ID individual bags. Bomb-sniffing dogs deployed to search all bags and A/C. No evidence of explosive devices found - A/C departed following extensive delay.

6/06, TUL/ORD/TUL, S80

Flight encountered pressurization problem shortly after take off. Malfunction with outflow valve caused rapid decompression. O2 masks were deployed and FAs used O2 W/As to check on pax. No injuries reported and flight landed without further incident.

6/06, PHL/SJU, 757

During boarding, female pax had seizure and paramedics

treated and removed pax from A/C. Once in-flight, a 50-year old male pax displayed strange behavior and became violent. Pax was restrained. Police met flight on arrival and arrested pax. During deplaning, another female pax became ill and paramedics treated her. FAs transported to police station to provide reports on misconduct event.

5/06, BNA/DFW, S80

After landing in DFW, A/C filled with dense acrid smoke. Evacuation ensued using all doors and tail cone exit. Minor injuries reported.

5/06, AUS/LAX, S80

Upon descent, 79-yr old male pax approached cockpit and attempted to open A/C door. Pax restrained by two F/C pax. Authorities met flight and pax was transported to hospital for mental evaluation.



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ately, the APFA Hotel
Department has been getting
a lot of questions on two
subjects in particular. The
first is "Why do we get relocated
on a temporary basis from our regular layover hotel?" The second is
"Why aren't our contracts with
desirable hotels being renewed
when other airlines' contracts are?"

I'll start with the easy question first. "Why do we get relocated on a temporary basis from our regular layover hotel?" Generally, this is the result of a hotel being oversold. You've heard the old saying "possession is 9/10ths of the law." Well if a hotel has a group or convention booked and they decide that they would like to extend their stay, the hotel cannot simply toss them out. Instead, the hotel must juggle any future arriving quests. The most common way to do this is to contact another property and ask them to take the prospective arrivals. Other times, we are relocated due to issues such as the unavailability of no water, heat or air conditioning.

Oh Miss, Could You Answer A Question Please?

At this point you're probably thinking well that's all fine and great but couldn't you give me a little more notice of the change than at sign-in time for my trip? Unfortunately, nine times out of ten these changes happen at the last minute – thus the late notification.

On occasion, a layover hotel notifies us that they will be doing an extended relocation. This could be due to construction noise, for example. In these cases advance notice is given and the information is distributed to each base and posted on the APFA Hotel Department's Web page at www.apfa.org.

The second and more complex question of why our contract with a desirable hotel may not be renewed when other airlines' contracts are involves a more detailed explanation. I'll try not to put you to sleep.

Due to AA's current "budgetary constraints" any time a contract is up for renewal, it is AA's procedures that the contract for that city must be put up for bid. If a reasonably acceptable hotel returns a lower bid than the current property, a review must be done. If, once the review is completed an alternate hotel is found to be acceptable, AA can choose to move crews provided the current hotel does not meet the lower bid.

During the bid process, hotel bids are submitted to all hotels in the area; however, only a limited number of hotels choose to return a bid. Sometimes this is due to the fact that they do not want or already have enough crew business. Other times this is because our bankrupt competitors are more desirable than we are, thus their contracts are renewed. That may sound ridiculous, but let me explain. Hotel chains have been burned by airlines prior to their seeking bankruptcy protection because they were not paying their bills. Often in bankruptcy, the judge doesn't force the airline to change crew hotels enabling the hotel to secure rooms at a "market-reasonable rate." The hotel receives a court guaranteed ontime check and everyone's happy.

When a hotel considers business from AA, they see an airline that isn't completely clear of potential bankruptcy clouds that wants to pay the bare minimum for crew rooms. As a business owner, which would you prefer – the risk or the sure thing?

I would like to thank the APFA Hotel Committee for their dedication in securing safe hotels system wide: Nancy Archer (IDF), Jamie Bunn (MIA), Tony Caba (JFK), Chas Cipriano (JFK), Donna Harris (IDF), Joel Medford (DFW), Michael Meyer (IOR), Denise Pointer (DFW), Sally Prater (DFW), Libba (Reese) Sanders (SLT) and Jessica Washington (JFK). If you fly with any of these FAs please feel free to ask questions and take the time to thank them for the time and energy they put into the Hotel Committee.

Hotel News and Reviews

DOMESTIC

Atlanta - Long Upgraded to the Marriott Marquis from the Sheraton.

Boston - Short Moved to the Sheraton Four Points. Necessitated by end of contract and numerous crew complaints.

Baltimore - Short Moved to the Sheraton Four Points. Review necessitated due to end of contract.

Denver - Short Moved to Marriott Gateway Park. Review necessitated due to end of contract.

Dallas/Ft. Worth - Long Moved to the Crowne Plaza near the Galleria. Necessitated by crew rest disruption/FA complaints at The Stoneleigh.

Newark - Short Move to the Doubletree. This was necessitated by crew member complaints.

Minneapolis/St. Paul Remain at the Hilton Hotel. This hotel had been used as a long term relocation hotel and is now contracted permanently.

Oklahoma City - Long Remain at the Embassy Suites.

Chicago - Long Additional long layover hotel needed as the room cap was lowered at The Homewood Suites. The new additional long layover hotel is the Hotel Indigo.

Philly - Short Renewed contract at the Renaissance Hotel.

Tampa - Short Moving to the Marriott Hotel at the airport effective October 30th. This move was made due to crew complaints.

INTERNATIONAL

Manchester, England ORD crews relocated to the Arora already used by BOS-I and IMA crews. Review was necessitated due to end of contract at the Renaissance Hotel.

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Moving to the Sands Hotel at Grace Bay. Review was necessitated due to end of contract. Santa Domingo - Long Remain at the Embassy Suites.

Santa Cruz, Bolivia Remain at Los Tajovis Hotel. Review necessitated by end of contract.

"All that serves labor serves the nation. All that harms is treason. If a man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other."

- Abraham Lincoln



health@apfa.org 817.540.0108, ext. 8290

t does not take long for anyone working in the APFA Health Department to recognize the panicked voice of a FA being denied AA medical clearance pending more information from his or her personal physician. The thought of not being able to return to work sounds the alarm bells and often generates multiple calls to APFA in an effort to obtain that seemingly elusive green light. The path back to work is held in the hands of the often misunderstood and frustrating American Airlines Medical Department and its elusive doctors.

When a FA is being denied clearance by Medical (now called AA Medical Occupational Health Services or OHS), the APFA Health Department receives a call from the FA.

The Process of Clearing AA Medical

which usually contains the following questions: So why is AA OHS so hard to deal with? Why didn't they just speak English and tell me what they needed from my doctor the first time around? Why do they need more or ANY information when my doctor says I am ready to return to work?

In the FA's eyes, s/he feels perfectly fine to perform their job. And if her/his own doctor thinks that they can return to work, why should an AA doctor stand in the way?

The answers to these questions can only make sense when they are raised in the context of what we do for a living. The bottom line is: we are safety sensitive employees. This means we are held to a higher standard for nearly everything we do at work. OHS is always weighing our fitness for duty against the FA Essential Job Function (document available on the APFA Web site's Health Department page). In other words, are we healthy enough to do what we need to at work? If we review our essential job function as defined by AA, it becomes clear that we must have the ability to evacuate an airplane or handle any type of emergency that may arise. This is why we are often asked to clear OHS when we have what AA deems a "serious medical condition."

OHS defines a serious health condition as an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that may cause sudden incapacitation, impairment and/or loss of consciousness. This includes symptoms of an illness that interrupt job performance as well as medications that can impair or alter cognitive function.

We must clear OHS when we:

- have an absence whose length meets the FA Attendance Control Policy requirement for medical clearance.
- experience an IOD that is not managed by an AA Occupational Health Services Nurse Case Manager.
- return from a FMLA Leave or SKLOA.
- have been admitted to a hospital (including outpatient surgery and ER visit.
- have a medical history that demands personal medical clearance as determined by the AA OHS Base physician.
- are prescribed medication for continuous usage.

Take the above list, add some miscommunication, a lost fax or two, too little time to process the required information and it is easy to see how clearing AA OHS can be tedious and nerve racking.

The process of clearing OHS begins with information from the FA's personal physician. AA OHS's standard request is for the FA's diagnosis (including any test results that support the diagnosis), dates of treatment, prescription medications, prognosis and the return-towork date with or without restrictions. If there has been a hospitalization, the discharge summary will be requested. OHS may then ask for additional information to determine whether a FA can be cleared for work. This may include one or more of the following:

- Progress notes regarding the condition and treatment.
- A Functional Capacity
 Exam (FCE), which measures physical ability and
 is designed to mimic
 what we do on the job
 with respect to our essential job function.
- A MicroCog test, which is a computer-driven screening test that measures cognitive functioning. It is generally used when a prescription medication that the FA is on may impair cognitive function. The test takes about an hour and is submitted to an outside Psychologist who is qualified to score and interpret

- the test with respect to the essential job function.
- An evaluation from the AA Abilities clinic, which is an evaluation from a consulting doctor who decides the appropriate exams to be administered and evaluates the FA's ability to perform their essential job function based on those exams.

If a FA's condition is complicated or if AA OHS feels the case requires additional evaluation, the doctor may review the case at the OHS Review Board (MRB) which meets every Thursday. The MRB is comprised of the entire team of AA doctors and provides a venue for each of the doctors to weigh in on any given case presented.

Again, OHS is always balancing the FA Essential Job Function against the FA's medical condition, medications prescribed and overall fitness for duty. As you can see, the process of clearing OHS isn't always as simple as the FA's physician writing his or her approval to return to work.

OHS suggests that a FA begin the medical clearance process at least 3-4 days prior to the planned return-to-work date. If the FA has been out for more than a few weeks or if their medical condition is complicated, it is best to begin the process much sooner as additional documentation may be requested by OHS.

The APFA Health Department is often asked by FAs about medications that cannot be taken while on duty. The FAA does not publish a list of disqualifying or approved medications for pilots or FAs. For pilots, the FAA gives advice on different classes of medications and new medications that then should be reviewed one-on-one with the pilots physician. This process does not apply to FAs. Basically, it is OHS who decides whether a FA can fly on any given medication or not. To make that determination, the AA doctor will want to know the name of the medication. dosage, length of time the FA has been on the medication, the diagnosis, whether the medication is doing what it is intended to do and if there are any negative side effects. If the medication is one that may interfere with cognitive function, OHS may require the FA to take and pass the MicroCog test before being cleared to fly on the medication.

On occasion, a FA who has submitted a Family Leave Form is surprised when they are called by OHS and asked to supply additional medical documentation. Again, if they are on a medication that interferes with cognitive function they may be asked to take and pass the MicroCog test before they are

allowed to fly. Remember, any information that we give OHS will be scrutinized as it relates to our fitness for duty and the FA Essential Job Function.

In addition to the clearance process, the OHS doctors have the role of OHS Review Officer or MRO. When a FA tests positive for a drug, it is an OHS doctor in the role of MRO who will make the initial call to the FA to determine if there is a medicallyapproved explanation as to why the FA tested positive for a given drug. If verification of a medication is needed, the MRO will remove the FA from service pending verification of documentation. If there is no medically approved reason for the positive test, the MRO will remove the FA from duty and deem him or her no longer fit for duty. The MRO then contacts Employee Relations, who in turn contacts Flight Service regarding the positive test so that they can follow up with the FA in accordance with the AA Drug and Alcohol Policy. Positive drug and alcohol tests do not fall under the *Health* Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) when it comes to informing Employee Relations, Flight Service and the DOT about the positive test. The following drugs are tested

under the DOT random drug test:

Marijuana Cocaine PCP Opiates Amphetamines

A Probable Cause drug test can occur when two members of AA management witness behaviors that raise suspicion that a FA is under the influence of a substance at work. The FA is required to submit to a Probable Cause drug test, which will check for the following drugs:

Marijuana Cocaine PCP **Opiates Amphetamines** Methadone Methaqualone **Barbiturates** Benzodiazepines Hydromorphone Oxymorphone Meperidine Propoxyphone Pentazocine **MDMA MDEA**

More information about AA Drug and Alcohol Policy can be found on Jetnet under Policies and Procedures, AA Drug and Alcohol Policy.

"Every advance in this half-century-Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education, one after another-came with the support and leadership of American Labor." – Jimmy Carter While we know that our job falls under the category of "safety sensitive," we don't often think about how that role requires us to rise to a higher standard of health. The APFA Health Department works diligently with OHS in an effort to cut through the miscommunication and paperwork in order to help the FA return to work as quickly as possible. The majority of FAs clear OHS without incident.

The key to returning to work in a timely manner is to take a proactive stance. The following suggestions should help:

- Call OHS early to find out what information will be required.
- Contact the Jetnet Chat line with Dial-A-Nurse.
- Take a copy of the Essential Job Function to your doctor for review.
- Carefully review what your doctor has written and keep a copy of the information.
- Fax the information to OHS early and follow up to ensure the information was received.
- Maintain a log of all correspondence with OHS so that you know with whom you spoke, when and what was said.
- If you run into problems clearing OHS, call the APFA Health Department at 817.540.0108, ext. 8301.

The AA OHS Department has stated that their role is to help the FA return to work and keep the airline and its passengers safe. At times, this role can be a difficult balancing act, particularly when an individual's interests conflict with the interests of safety. When your doctor submits information to OHS, your ability to work is dependent upon what that doctor writes. This is why it is important that s/he understand the Essential Job Function and the role FAs play in the safety of our flights. With accurate knowledge of our responsibilities on the airplane and the role AA OHS plays in reviewing medical conditions, your personal doctor can then act in concert with OHS to assist in your return to work in an expeditious manner.

To help make OHS more efficient, APFA, TWU, APA and OHS are currently in the process of meeting to make improvements to the medical clearance process. Our goal is to complete this process by Fall '06.

I hope this article provides a better understanding of the role OHS plays in our ability to return to work. I also hope that it underlines and illuminates our role as safety sensitive employees and how that fact can further complicate our ability to return to work when we experience ill health.

President's Report, continued from page 5

ALERT!

Important Information Regarding Upcoming Health Benefits Enrollment for 2007 by Patty French

his month you will be asked to make selections for the 2007 calendar year health benefits under the open enrollment period (Oct. 1, 2006 - Oct. 31, 2006). Due to several disputes with American Airlines regarding health benefit changes (see the President's article for a list of Presidential Grievances filed in 2006), the APFA advises you to be especially careful in the selection of Plans during this enrollment cycle, as the total cost based on your selection may result in added costs that will be borne by you.

As a result of the 2003 Restructuring Participation Agreement (RPA) and negotiations under Attachment K, the Standard PPO Plan was incorporated into the Contract. This incorporation locked PPO benefits from reduction during the life of the agreement. The Point of Service (POS) Plan, however, is not contractualized for any work group on the property. The Company maintains it has a unilateral right to reduce or alter benefits within this Plan by notice to POS Plan members.

APFA has been noticed of several changes in the Point of Service (POS) Plan for the year 2007 which may impact your overall out-of-pocket costs minimally or significantly depending upon how you use the Plan. Therefore, before electing the Point of Service (POS) Plan, extra caution should be taken to review the changes.

Please understand once the individual makes an enrollment selection, no alteration is possible once the enrollment period ends unless there is an occurrence of a life-changing event.

Please refer to the APFA Hotline, apfa.org's Health Department Web page and other union communication channels for possible new information regarding these disputes prior to making your election.

front: FA fatique. Please read Joan Wages' article (page 18) outlining the successes in seeking the first ever U.S. scientific study to review the current federal guidelines concerning FA fatique. APFA believes the current federal guidelines are inadequate and must be updated. When the 2005 FAA/NASA FA Fatigue Study became public in July 2006, APFA immediately began to lobby for additional federal funding to act on the study's six recommendations; thus requiring a second fatigue study. The funding for this next step is now contained in the language of the Transportation Appropriations Bill for 2007 currently making its way through Congress. This tedious work must be done by FA advocates to prove that FAs should be treated no differently than commercial pilots regarding required rest. Please stay informed and engaged in this important process.

MORE GOOD

I wish to thank the thousands of APFA members who actively lobbied your Senators and Representatives concerning the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that was finally signed into law by President Bush on August 17, 2006. Whether you sent an email, wrote a letter or flew to Washington, D.C., to

meet with your elected representatives personally, this was a huge effort by many individuals and organizations. I particularly wish to thank APFA advocates Jill Frank (JFK). Patrick Hancock (IDF), Joan Wages (APFA Government Affairs), Lori Bassani (JFK: APFA Public Affairs), Leslie Mayo (LAX-I; National Communications Coordinator), Rick Musica (IMA; Legislative Rep), and Denise Pointer (DFW; InfoRep Steering Committee) for their tireless work toward this goal of pension reform allowing the AA pension plans the time needed to return to a fully-funded status. Please see Patrick's wrap up of this effort on page 15 and visit the new APFA Web site for more details about this effort that could not have become a reality without your involvement.

To elaborate on the subject of union advocates working together, in August the APFA leadership hosted a panel discussion with other airline unions sharing our different experiences since 2001 when the industry was thrown into turmoil. At APFA's invitation, union leaders and activists from AA, Continental, Comair, Northwest, Southwest and United came together during our annual Board of Directors training to learn from one

another as we continue to keep the labor lines of communication open. We have some experiences in common and some that are quite different. APFA is the only independent FA Union in the nation and we told the other leaders that this is exactly where we intend to remain - a strong independent union voice representing the American Airlines FAs holding the reins of our own destiny together. We will not hesitate to work with the other unions, all the while maintaining our own independence.

THE DOWN RIGHT UGLY

We listened to union leaders speak firsthand about their experiences at other major airlines both in and out of bankruptcy. They shared their challenges and conflicts in bankruptcy where a single judge had the power to erase decades of collective bargaining gains at the drop of a gavel. Listening to how these unions have failed financially within employer bankruptcies reinforces the fact that we must continue to protect our treasury. APFA base and national leaders learned firsthand the labor story of these other airlines. I am proud of APFA for bringing this labor group together for the first time since 2001.

Management corporate teams certainly stay connected. There is no doubt that airline executives and their advisors are sharing information and making decisions that will impact the lives of labor. The various aviation unions must also stay connected; learning from each other's mistakes and successes and devising our own strategic plans. The three unions on AA's property are in regular contact with each other, developing specific organized labor strategy as our industry moves forward.

STAY INFORMED

In the center section of this *Skyword* you will find a 2006 industry FA Contract Comparison guide to tear out and add to your On-Duty Contract Guide published in the 3rd Quarter '04 *Skyword*. APFA Contract Coordinator Brent Peterson spent countless hours compiling this information for our members and I would like to publicly thank him for his efforts. It clearly shows what

bankruptcy has done to FA contracts nationwide. There seems to be a race to the bottom with the carriers that are or were in the bankruptcy process. Standing at the top of the wage comparisons are Southwest Airlines with AA and Continental next. AA and CO FAs must remain firm and solid in our determination to hold the line. The FA contracts for SW and AA are amendable in 2008. We remain committed and prepared for this next round of collective bargaining, however, until then, OUR CONTRACT

How I wish we had a management that would proudly declare: "AA FAs currently make seven dollars+ more per hour than UAL FAs and we are proud of this fact!" Compensation should reward hard work and long days for all AA employees. The success of AA depends on each employee's cooperation. Every one of us has been a part

"My friends, it is solidarity of labor we want.

We do not want to find fault with each other, but to solidify our forces and say to each other: "We must be together; our masters are joined together and we must do the same thing."

— Mother Jones

of the reduction of costs and improved revenue without the bankruptcy process. Currently, the three AA unions are struggling with how to best impact performance-based incentive compensation for all AA employees. This concept of employees being rewarded prior to full and sustained profitability is a huge challenge. We stand firm in the fact and make every effort to convince AA management that it is necessary to move forward without the huge divide between labor and management created by the extreme difference in compensation methods when comparing the incentives for one group (management) at the exclusion of another (labor).

The reality of where AA is today does not automatically translate to where labor & management will be tomorrow. There is no doubt the labor/man-

agement relations on AA's property is *schizophrenic* in nature: adversarial regarding certain issues and collaborative on others. Southwest Airlines seems to be the only respectable story of any length – the one long-term profitable company in the airline industry who shares the wealth with its labor. AA is still struggling with this concept.

We must reach toward profit with honor. Without strong, respected voices on this property from both labor and management, I am convinced that the path our airline takes will be no different than the other horrible stories we heard about during our recent discussions with the other FA unions. APFA can make a difference, but not without your involvement.

BASE VISITS

On that note, next month and moving into early 2007, I plan to once again visit all ten base cities in the hopes of meeting as many of you as possible. In order to be more accessible to you, the visits will take place in different corners of base city operations areas seeking your advice and counsel. My schedule – and I will be accompanied by other APFA officers and representatives – will be posted on the new APFA Web site at www.apfa.org.

I hope to talk with many of you personally. I learn more from these visits than you will ever know. Please stay informed and committed to our task at hand in 2008 – protecting and improving our contract!

With support and in solidarity,

Jimmis

Presidential Grievances Filed in 2006

IS CLOSED!

For a copy of the grievance language submitted by APFA on behalf of all members go to www.apfa.org - National Officers - Vice President.

Management Bonuses	Jan '06
Non-Inclusion of Retirees in Standard RPA Medical Benefit Plan	July '06
Unilateral Reduction in Level of FA Retiree Benefits	July '06
Failure to Notice Unilateral Changes to POS	July '06
Short Term IOD/Pay Continuance	July '06
Seniority Accrual on Overage Leave	July '06

Just A Few Things Your Union Team

...aside from the everyday calls, emails and union advocacy work for APFA members, including the many day-to-day duties for which your elected and appointed APFA Representatives are directly responsible according to the APFA Constitution and Policy Manual.

APFA President Tommie Hutto-Blake, with the assistance of Vice President Brett Durkin, Secretary Greg Hildreth and Treasurer Cathy Lukensmeyer and the support of APFA's membership and leadership, promoted the following issues on behalf of all 22,000 members:

- APFA lobbied Congress for Pension Reform and led the fight to include in the final bill specific airline language that will allow AA more time to fully fund our pensions.
- APFA lobbied Congress for FA Fatigue (studies one and two) including \$700,000 for continued studies on this issue.
- APFA filed a consolidated Presidential Grievance with TWU and APA against management's Executive Compensation in January resulting in AMR altering its plan in conformance with the 2003 AIP (Annual Incentive Plan) formula.
- APFA continued to meet each month with APA and TWU in order to share labor strategy.

- APFA has retained a labor seat at the business table with AA senior management.
- APFA hosted a FA union leader discussion with AFA, IAM, IBT and TWU to share information about our very different paths.
- APFA has succeeded in keeping its Contract **CLOSED!**

APFA Secretary Greg Hildreth organized the constitutionally-mandated Annual Board Training in Irving, Texas this year as well as the APFA Board of Director's National Convention at our Los Angeles layover hotel in March 2006. Greg also facilitated the sharing and donation of some of our archives to their permanent home at the UTA (University of Texas at Arlington). Greg has secured the pro-bono services of Dr. Bettye Myers of Texas Women's University for more efficient Board of Directors Meetings.

APFA Vice President Brett Durkin Under Brett's direction, the Division Representatives have returned 52 FAs to work this year either through settlements or arbitration. The second Family Leave Arbitration has concluded and Arbitrator Brown has submitted her award. This award includes language that is beneficial to all Flight Attendants. Details will be forwarded to the membership shortly.

APFA Treasurer Cathy Lukensmeyer collected back dues from FAs in arrears of more than \$250,000 this year, adjusted the contributions APFA had previously invested in the Negotiations and Negotiations-Related Fund (NNRF) in order to restore it to its intended amount as mandated by the Board of Directors (see page 9), reallocated our savings portfolio with JP Morgan for an increased rate of return (recently doubled) on our dues money, and is on track as the first treasurer since 1998 to see this organization operate under a balanced budget.

The APFA Contract Department, under the direction of Brent Peterson, facilitated more flexibility for International Mutual Transfers involving Purser-qualified and A300/767 FAs as well as minimized the number of times we experience inoperative 777 Crew Bunks. The Contract Department also worked with the Company to improve procedures for notice and deadlines for continued benefits while on a Leave of Absence. Brent also collected all of the data for the Contract Comparison Guide included in the center of this *Skyword*.

Has Done For You in 2006

The APFA Scheduling Department, under the direction of Jaimie McNeice, generated enhancements to Reserves by expanding Co-Terminal Reserve Preferences and encouraged the Company to expand the Average Daily Utilization of Reserves (ADUR) buffer to allow more preferences to be honored. Jaimie has increased flexibility for Pursers system wide with the Purser Flexibility Test.

The APFA Safety and Security Department, under the direction of Lonny Glover, developed the Cabin Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) for APFA, and is also in the process of investigating rubber gloves for FA Cabin Cleaning on all aircraft. Lonny also convinced AMR management to include FAR 91.11 (Interfering with Crew Members' duties) and the info on keeping pets in kennels while traveling in the cabin in the American Way Magazine. Bi-fold doors are being installed on MD-80's allowing FAs to remain seated on the aft jumpseat.

The APFA Retirement Department, formerly under the direction of Jill Frank and now under the direction of Jena Hopkins, worked diligently on the Pension Reform Act that President Bush recently signed into law as well as traveled throughout the system visiting each of the 10 bases to hold seminars for Flight Attendants interested in retiring. This Department also updated the Retirement Made Easy Booklet first printed in '02 and is close to finalizing version three. They also succeeded in convincing AA that upon retirement, FA pensions will be calculated to include the last two months for purposes of "true-ups" to create the final average salary calculations.

The APFA Hotel Department, under the direction of Dane Townsend, succeeded in retaining and/or securing downtown layovers in, among other cities, New York, Rome and Chicago. There are layover tips available online at apfa.org for each city in which we layover. Also on the Web site, the Hotel Department publishes the monthly hotel allocation changes for bidding.

The APFA Health Department, under the direction of Patty French, developed and distributed guidelines for Professional Standards and EAP Reps and spoke to the APFA leadership during a three-day conference on addictions, relapse, enabling, mental health, EAP and Professional standards. The Health Department went mobile this year and visited several bases to train local union and EAP reps on how best to assist FAs. They also updated and trained Reps and FAs on IOD changes at American, helped AA make the FML form more FA user-friendly, and are currently working on improving the medical clearance process – hopefully by the time this issue is printed.

The APFA Communications Department, under the direction of Leslie Mayo, recently published a brand new version of apfa.org with easier navigability, enhanced features and 2006 Web security-compliance. This new Web site has been a year in the making and will continue to be improved upon each week. The site was brought in-house for cost savings and more efficient management. Also, *Skyword* will be redesigned for cost savings in the form of a smaller, more concise publication.

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• Receive a \$50 accessory pack with
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We Will Never Forget ...

Flight 11 (BOS) September 11, 2001

Barbara "Bobbi" Arestegui Jeffrey Collman Sara Low Karin Ann Martin Kathy Nicosia **Betty Ong** Jean Roger Diane Bullis Snyder Madeline Amy Sweeney Captain John Ogonowski First Officer Thomas McGuinnes, Jr.

Flight 77 (DCA) September 11, 2001

Michele Heidenberger Jennifer Lewis Ken Lewis Renee May Captain Charles "Chic" Burlingame First Officer David Charlebois

Flight 191 (SAN, LAX) May 25, 1979

Capt. Walter Lux F.O. James R. Dillard F.E. Alfred Udovich F.O. Robert Aeschbacher Linda Bundens Pauline (Pat) Burns James DeHart

Carmen Fowler Katherine Hiebert Carol Ohm Linda Prince Michael Schassburger Nancy Sullivan Sally Jo Titterington

*********** Lights symbolizing the number of innocent lives lost at the Pentagon taken on September 11, 2006

Flight 587 (JFK) November 12, 2001

Deborah Fontakis Barbara Giannasca Wilmer Gonzales Joe Lopes Michele Mills Carol Palm William Valdespino **Captain Ed States** First Officer Sten Molin



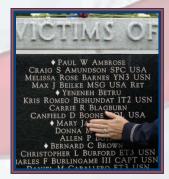
Flights 11 and 77 memorial at APFA's Headquarters taken on September 11, 2006

TWA Flight 800 (JFK) July 17, 1996

Jacques Charbonnier **Constance Charbonnier** Dan Callas Janet Christopher Deb DiLuccio Ray Lang Maureen Lockhart Sandra Meade **Grace Melotin Marit Rhoads** Mike Schuldt

Melinda Torche Jill Ziemkiewiicz Aikens-Bellamy Rosie Braman Warren Dodge Daryl Edwards Joanne Griffith **Eric Harkness** James Hull Lonnie Ingenhuett Elaine Loffredo

Eli Luevano Pamela McPherson Olivia Simmons Lani Warren Captain Steven E. Snyder Captain Ralph G. Kevorkian F.E. Richard G. Campbell F.E. Oliver Krick Captain Gid Miller F.O. R.L. Verhaeghe F.E. D.A. Eshleman



Flight Attendant at Pentagon Memorial September 11, 2006



Sara Low's sister (I), father and mother at Ground Zero on September 11, 2006



New York City Firefighters tolling the bell on the 5th anniversary of the WTC's second tower falling (photo taken on September 11, 2006)



Groundbreaking ceremony for 9/11 memorial in Grapevine, Texas on September 11, 2006 (Photo courtesy of Anne Dyson)



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

1004 West Euless Boulevard Euless, Texas 76040

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Visit the *new* site at www.apfa.org

