

RED TALES

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(612-726-2230) Newsletter of the MSP ESSC Shop Committee (612-201-0383)

Uniform Points – Many Equipment Service Employees have accumulated a large number of uniforms points because they have not ordered uniforms for several years. Most have been saving their points in anticipation of being able to order Delta uniforms. The status of these points is unclear following our union representation election. Baggage handlers may want to consider ordering steel toed shoes or other needed equipment before our election. Like everything else in our contract, uniform points could be in jeopardy. No union could mean a loss of accumulated points.

Day Trades – According to our contract, Equipment Service Leads may day trade with ESEs and vice versa. The contract also says that management may deny such a trade if the ESE is not proficient in the Lead job assignment.

The Shop Committee met with local management to discuss the fact that a number of trades between Leads and ESEs had been denied. As a result, trades will continue to be approved as long as the ESE is proficient at the Lead position. These trades should be approved on paper by your manager. For those ESEs who would like to be proficient at the Lead position but are not, NWA will provide training. See your manager for information.

If you are an ESE, when you work as a Lead, you are entitled to Lead pay for the day.

AirTran – The IAM announced on June 29 that it was asking the National Mediation Board to hold a representation election for more than 2,000 Fleet Service, Passenger Service and Reservation Employees of Orlando based AirTran Airways. An election date has not been set yet.

Filing For A Vote – When the IAM files for a union representation election in a given classification (Class and Craft), the union must show interest among at least 35% of the combined Delta/NWA classification for an election to be held. The National Mediation Board determines which workers will vote as part of a classification. Historically (Fleet Service) baggage handlers are one classification. Stock Clerks have also been certified as a separate classification in the past.

Northwest employees are automatically considered as showing interest in an election to reach the 35% threshold. Support for the union can be shown among Delta employees by signing union authorization cards. Once the election is held 50% plus 1 of the classification must vote in order for the NMB to certify a union victory.