

RED TALES

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

United Healthcare – Northwest Airlines recently announced that health insurance for employees would be switched from Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) to United Health Group (UHG) starting January 1, 2010. For employees the switch is unfortunate. UHG is ranked 39 out of 41 in the September 2009 issue of Consumer Report. BC/BS of Minnesota was ranked 21st and BC/BS of Michigan was ranked 15th. The magazine issued report cards for insurance companies (Rating PPO Health Plans) based on consumer satisfaction with their plan.

In spite of this ranking UHG CEO, Stephen J. Hemsley took in \$13.2 million in 2007 and \$3.25 million in 2008. Forbes magazine values his unexercised stock options at \$744,232,068. He also was forced to return \$190 million in stock options acquired as the result of practices found to be fraudulent by the SEC, according to American Medical News. His frozen retirement benefits are listed at \$10,703,229.

Northwest did not announce why it is changing health insurance providers, but we doubt the result will be better service and lower costs for employees. By the way, Richard Anderson is a former colleague of Hemsley, having done a stint at UHG after leaving NWA and before joining Delta. Hmmm.

Benefit – There will be a benefit for Dan Klein, who was severely injured earlier this year, on Friday August 14 from 8AM to 8PM in the CSA Break room under the F Concourse.

Grocery Bills – You can save up to 50% on your grocery bills by buying at Fare For All food distributions in the Twin Cities area. For dates and times visit fareforall.org.

Video – For a brief description of the legal rights of “at will employees” visit www.metacafe.com/watch/1404440/at_will_employee. Delta non union employees are at will.

Labor Day – If you are interested in being part of the Labor Day Parade at the State Fair on September 7, please contact IAM Local 1833 at 952-854-6313. Free tickets to the Fair will be provided to you and your family so that you can be part of the Parade. Wear your Union Strong T-Shirts.

Union Elections – Nominations for all 8 Local 1833 Executive Board positions will be accepted at the September 10 Union Meeting. Nominations will also be accepted for 1 three year ESSC Shop Committee position and AM and PM shift Chief Steward positions in Bldg. C and Bldg. D. The election will be held on October 8, 2009.