

More Things You Won't See On Deltanet

1) Change The Rules – According to the IAM over 23,000 cards, letters and emails were delivered to the National Mediation Board, as of January 4, 2010, in favor of a change in the union representation election rules. Our count on the NMB website puts the total against the rule change at around 500.

Seven Republican Senators signed a letter against the change, while 39 Democratic Senators signed on in favor. In the House of Representatives 13 Republicans and 179 Democrats gave approval to a rule change by signing letters.

2) Ready Reserve – Our IAM representatives in SFO have done a count of Delta ramp staffing in that station. This is one of the stations that Delta has recently brought back in house. There are 25 full time permanent ramp agents, 5 part time permanent ramp agents and 58 ready reserves.

Delta has trumpeted the insourcing of ramp work in SFO, PHX, DFW and other stations. Now it is clear why they are doing it. Labor costs are extremely low because of massive use of ready reserve. This is what Delta would like our future to be; “revolving door” throw away jobs.

3) American Airlines – Dallas Morning News – December 15, 2009. “American, which briefly enjoyed a cost advantage over some major carriers, saw those rivals – Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, Northwest Airlines and US Airways – go into bankruptcy court and reduce their employee costs. American wants at least parity with those competitors.”

“Typically, other airlines should have higher labor costs because they signed

contracts after American's 2003 contracts. But American's rivals obtained even deeper concessions because of their bankruptcies.”

These two paragraphs explain how industry standard is set. It is clear that Delta, now the largest airline in the world, if non-union will have the ability to set industry standard downward.

4) Article 28.J – This section of the IAM Ramp Contract related to wage rules (ESSC Contract) says, in part, “Nothing in this agreement shall be considered to prevent increases in individual rates or classifications over and above the minimums specified.”

So we have to reiterate that Delta can give us a wage increase. It is the right thing to do.

5) Eric Amankwah – This Delta JFK ticket agent appears to be the latest employee to lose his job to the airline's administrative process. Black Star News, a New York City investigative newspaper reports that Amankwah was suspended by Delta “after he complained to the company's CEO that his supervisor ordered him to breach security at JFK International Airport.”

The article goes onto to say, “The ex-employee says he was ordered by a supervisor on January 2 to evade customs officials and deliver a mysterious suitcase to the ramp where it was to be loaded on containers for out-bound flights.”

Amankwah emailed a detailed description of the incident to Delta CEO, Richard Anderson, according to the newspaper. He was suspended by the JFK Delta Director on January 5. To read the full text, go to blackstarnews.com/news/135/ARTICLE/6198/2010-01-07.html.

Redtalesonline.com every Thursday