

RED TALES

Issue # 46 November 19, 2009

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

No Pay at JAL – Japan Airlines top executives will forego pay in December as the airline continues to lose money, according to Bloomberg News Service. Perhaps this will provide a positive example for Delta executives who have lost millions in 2009. Or maybe not.

Victory – The flight attendants at Delta Air Lines subsidiary Compass Airlines voted to unionize under the Association of Flight Attendants in an election that ended Wednesday, November 18. The vote was 194 for the AFA out of about 300 eligible voters.

Time Card Theft – You get to work a few minutes late. You decide you are just going to fill out a PACE Slip, saying you got to work on time. Stop. You have just committed what the Company regards as Time Card Theft, punishable by termination. And management can prove you were late. Every time you use your SIDA Badge, the time you use it is recorded. Is it really worth risking your job? Just swipe in and be late.

Move Crew – If you see a Tech Ops Move Crew moving an aircraft from one gate to another, you may fill out a Time Slip for 1 hour of pay. This is ESE work. You must also fill out a grievance form to get paid. We will then file a grievance on your behalf.

NMB Rule Change – We now have postage paid post cards which can be sent to the National Mediation Board in support of changing the rules for a representation election. We would like to have thousands of these cards filled out and returned. You can ask your friends, family and neighbors to fill them out as well. We particularly want other transportation workers, union and non union, to fill out cards. While you are under no obligation to fill out a card, your participation will make it more likely that our election process becomes more democratic.

For its part, Delta is encouraging employees to submit letters opposing the rule change. In a Memorandum posted on deltanet Vice President, Gil West says, “Delta has significant concerns that the NMB and the unions have targeted Delta and Delta people for discriminatory treatment.” This is extremely divisionary. Thousands of Delta employees support a change in the rules.

West once again skirts the main issue. Every other election in the U.S., whether it is a union election or a political election, allows those who vote to decide the outcome. This is part of our country’s democratic tradition and a tradition that should, at long last, be brought to our industry.