

Rumor Control

There are rumors circulating about our contract and union representation – don't believe them. Your union stewards and shop committee have accurate information.

The National Mediation Board (NMB) is the only entity that can resolve representation disputes arising from the Delta/Northwest merger. The NMB only has two IAM applications to consider at this time – requests for single carrier status for representational purposes for flight simulator technicians and plant protection employees. Once the single carrier issue is resolved for these two classifications, the issue of representation can be resolved only for these work groups.

No other IAM groups have any issues pending before the NMB at this time. Nothing in our contract can be changed for fleet service, office and clerical, passenger service, reservation and stock clerks until the IAM requests a single carrier status for each group and the NMB resolves representation issues.

Northwest/Delta has applied for a single operating certificate from the FAA. When the FAA issues a single operating certificate it will have no impact on our union representation issues or our contracts. Until the NMB resolves representation issues, which is completely unrelated to FAA certification, IAM contracts remain in full force and effect.

Defending Our Contract

Delta is in the process of blending two airlines. This process includes the issuance of a single operating certificate, bringing the new airline under one reservation system, one ticketing system, one weight

and balance system and more. Throughout the entire process our contract will be in force until the NMB makes final representation decisions. In the meantime, it cannot be changed except through negotiations between the IAM and Delta. The membership must vote on these changes.

Until the NMB resolves representation issues, our pension remains the same. Our vacation accruals remain. Our work rules and scope remain in place. Contractually guaranteed benefits stay. Overtime rules don't change. Delta should be assured; the IAM will vigorously defend every item in our contract.

Divide and Conquer

The NWA/Delta blending will mean that Northwest and Delta workers will be working alongside each other more closely than ever before. This will provide pro union workers with new opportunities to discuss the advantages of union membership and communicate with our future brothers and sisters.

We will all have to work hard to make sure that management is not able to divide us and then conquer us. We have seen this tactic used effectively at Northwest time and time again. Northwest and Delta workers are facing all of the same challenges and threats to our livelihood. The only way any of us will protect ourselves and turn this into a career job again is by sticking together.

redtalesonline.com - every Thursday

Visit deltaramp.blogspot.com for commentary and debate on unionization.