

# RED TALES

Issue # 3 January 21, 2010

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

**Staffing** – If you talk to ESEs who have been on the ramp for 20 or 30 years, they will tell you that staffing has never been worse. It is becoming more and more common for units to start the day down several bodies. One crew started the morning last week with one lead and one ESE. Leads are being asked to stretch their crews thinner to make up for the lack of people.

Managers, under enormous pressure from the Delta Corporate Leadership Team to cut costs, are turning to more heavy handed tactics to get the job done.

When you are faced with short staffing, do what you can do safely and always call for help. Even if there is no help to be had (which is becoming more common) you must let the Tower or your manager know. If a manager asks you to work unsafely or becomes abusive or is unresponsive call the Shop Committee as soon as possible (612-201-0383). We will defend our members.

**JAL** – Japan Air Lines declared bankruptcy on Tuesday, January 19. They are expected to layoff over 16,000 workers and reduce pensions. Delta Airlines has been involved in a battle with American Air Lines to entice JAL to join Delta's SkyTeam and leave the OneWorld Alliance. The Yomiuri newspaper reported January 18 that JAL

had accepted Delta's offer to join SkyTeam. We assume that Richard Anderson convinced JAL to use bankruptcy as a "business tool".

**Payroll** – With the transfer of Payroll to an outside third party in Jamaica, our members have begun experiencing a wide variety of problems. OJI accruals are incorrect on some paychecks. Some members who live in Wisconsin but work in Minnesota had taxes for both states deducted from their checks. Some who do not use direct deposit found they had no checks and five days later still don't. Deductions for medical insurance premiums were in excess of the required amounts on some checks. We strongly advise you to keep careful track of your hours and of all accruals and deductions.

We will also be trying to address problems with 1-800-MYDELTA. Members have experienced long waits, less than helpful agents and agents who have no idea what we are talking about. As you may know this call center service is another outside third party that is generally similar to a "black hole".

**Redtalesonline.com** – Over the past month we have experienced technical problems with redtalesonline.com. Those problems have been resolved. It will again be posted every Thursday.