

## Lip Service?

You may recall from last week's issue of Red Tales that we made a series of phone calls to Delta station managers asking if we could visit their break rooms and talk to Delta employees about the benefits of union membership. To date, we have no invitations.

We were in Bozeman, Montana (BZN) last week to talk to IAM members from that station that were laid off when Northwest outsourced their jobs. These workers still have recall rights.

We thought this trip would be a good opportunity to see if Delta's Advocacy Policy is for real or is just lip service, designed to create the impression of fairness. The Advocacy Policy is "designed to accommodate employees' rights to express their views, whether on union representation or other issues, while also accommodating the rights of those who wish to be left alone..." You can find this policy on Deltanet.

We approached the Performance Lead (PL) and asked if we could sit in the employee break room and answer any questions workers might have about the union. He told us he would call the station manager. When he was unable to reach the manager, he invited us into the break room. For nearly 30 minutes we discussed OJI, LTD, vacation, Ready Reserve and the Walmartization of the airline industry with Delta employees.

### Kicked Out

The PL came back in the break room and asked us to step outside. We knew what was coming. He had talked to the station manager who had told him to ask us to leave. We showed him the Advocacy Policy. After reading it, he said it appeared

the Policy would allow us to remain in the break room. But, he said, he would have to call the manager back. In the meantime, we were asked to stay outside in the terminal. Delta employees in the break room were obviously concerned that Delta was violating its own policy. As you might have guessed, we were asked to leave and left town.

Is Richard Anderson unaware that his station managers are not upholding the Advocacy Policy? Perhaps they don't know that he encourages "all Delta and Northwest workers to have an open mind and get the facts before forming an opinion on an issue that will profoundly affect their future careers." To make sure that Anderson knows what is going on around the system, we will be writing him a letter this week informing him of our real life experiences.

We don't want to rush to judgment but it appears that Delta really doesn't want a free discussion and a level playing field. To Richard Anderson, Ed Bastian, Mike Campbell and Gil West; what do you mean by "getting the facts"? What do you mean when you say employees can advocate for the union in non work areas at non work times. Why are you keeping Delta and Northwest employees separated if we are indeed "one great airline." We are waiting for an answer.

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**Use Two Hands** – According to the August 2009 issue of the Delta ACS newsletter, "Upfront With FIT", you should always use 2 hands to load and unload baggage.

Practices such as scanning a bag with one hand and lifting the bag with the other are unsafe and should not be done. Handling transfer bags should always be done with 2 hands.