

RED TALES

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

SLIP LEAVES – As of August 2, 2009 IAM and AFA members at Northwest Airlines who live in Minnesota will be eligible for unemployment while on a SLIP Leave. SLIP Leaves allow senior employees to take a leave in lieu of a junior employee being laid off. While on SLIP Leave, the employee retains medical and dental insurance, sick, OJI and vacation accruals, flight benefits, pension credit and seniority.

Over the past few years, Minnesota residents had often been denied unemployment insurance by the State, even though Northwest did not contest the applications. Thanks to the efforts of legislative reps of the IAM and AFA, the law has been changed. Here are some key sections of the law (Article 3, Section 10 of 268.095 - Benefits Paid During Certain Voluntary Unemployment) Payable if:

- 1- The election is authorized under a collective bargaining agreement or written policy.
- 2- The employer has accepted the applicant's election
- 3- The employer provides written certification to the State of Minnesota that the applicant's election prevented another employee from being laid off due to lack of work.
- 4- The applicant's unemployment will be temporary.

Please remember that the law takes note of a collective bargaining agreement being in place. Once again, our contract gives us an added degree of protection. Also remember that unemployment law and benefits vary from state to state.

With the implementation of the Fall Flight Schedule a reduction in force is quite likely here in MSP. The SLIP Leave Program will allow junior employees to keep working, instead of hitting the street with no insurance, no continuation of accruals and no flight benefits.

Dept. of Employee Morale – We recently came across a flyer put out by the MSP Employee Involvement Team. Raffle tickets for a 50/50 raffle were being sold, as well as freeze pops for 25 cents. All proceeds will go to finance upcoming employee morale activities. We don't want to sound unappreciative, but since when do employees have to pay to have their morale lifted? Shouldn't morale improve because pay has been increased, job security has been enhanced or the company has shown renewed appreciation in some form?

Election – Thanks to the action of members at the last late night union meeting polls will continue to stay open until midnight for the next union officer election on October 8, 2009.