

Transport Workers Union of America AFL-CIO



Air Transport Local 567

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September 10, 2008

Brothers and Sisters of Local 567:

John Iuliano, President of Local 562 in New York, recently sent out a letter outlining his frustrations over the progress of contract negotiations. My letter today is written in support of John and in agreement with all his points. I want to re-emphasize just a few of the things he noted.

First

Is the disappointment and loss of faith in our International representation? Many of the presidents, me included, feel that the International union representatives are not in line with the membership's wishes. We have seen the manipulation of information without time for proper review and approval by the presidents. Plus, dates and deadlines are being changed without the local presidents' approval.

Second

Countless hours have been invested by the Negotiating Committee with little to show for our intense work. In a quick calculation, I estimate that the presidents have been at the negotiating table for more than 25,000 hours since, November 7, 2007. During that time we have been bargaining in good faith with the goal of a contract that restores all the concessions given in the last contract. That has been the goal of the presidents because it is the goal of the membership. We represent the membership. Many of our efforts toward this goal have been negated by the company and, even more troubling, by the actions of our International reps.

Third

John mentions the many sacrifices by TWU members caused by reduced salaries and fewer benefits. He points out again a recurring theme that gets us all angry and frustrated. AMR executives are still getting millions of dollars in what is laughingly called "performance" bonuses. How can they be based on performance? In one quarter I recall that the company had a \$338 million loss and millions were awarded to the executives. Had it been a **performance** bonus, the executives should have been paying AMR!

What's next?

On September 18th the Negotiating Committee is scheduled to meet with the company to learn if they have accepted our most recent proposal. Of course, this is the proposal that the International representatives chose to alter somewhat when many of the presidents were unavailable to review and approve those alterations. And, with all the dates that have become moving targets, we really don't know if that deadline will be observed.

Be assured that I and the other presidents like John are working feverishly to get a non-concessionary contract that will restore your pay and benefits. The presidents were charged with steering the negotiations, but lately it feels like International has commandeered the steering wheel. We intend to take it back and get back on track. Stay tuned.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Pike". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Pike
President
TWU Local 567

LP: ts