



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA
AFL / CIO

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Local 562

JFK-LGA-EWR-PHL-SJU-BOS

www.twu562.org

November 13, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As reported on the TWU Negotiations website the mediated sessions of contract negotiations reconvened in Chicago. In some respects the week was positive, in others not.

Good news first, the June supposal which turned out to be inferior to the September Continental proposal to the IBT was removed off the table when the company said "NO". I thought for sure the company would accept it, I'm glad I was wrong. We are back to the November 2008 table position on the open articles, all the articles that were TA's up to June 2009 remain TA'd.

The company is still insisting that we give them a concessionary contract. They are maintaining their "cost neutral" position and want things like OSMs on the line, the elimination of retiree medical and to abolish the pension. They expect that any nominal increase in pay be paid for by permanent compounding concessions elsewhere in the agreement. In other words 40% wasn't enough of a real pay cut, they want more. They expect us to accept a pay cut every year through inflation and medical premium increases while their revenues soar. (We pay the highest medical rates and saw the biggest out of pocket increases in the company because our formula is based on total costs for the company. So as other work groups have language that caps their premiums those costs are passed on to the TWU group.)

Upon the direction of the International the committee that does the actual negotiations was reduced to two representatives from the bases, two from Title II and three from the Line Stations. Since pretty much everyone wanted to be in the negotiations subcommittee it was decided after some debate to have a secret ballot vote. As a result of the secret ballot vote the overwhelming majority of the sub-committee comes from the Midwest. The high cost West and Northeast locals are not represented at the table. The majority of the subcommittee was also in favor of the June supposal.

Needless to say I'm disappointed.

The sub-committee is set to reconvene in January, however sub-committee meetings can be scheduled at different dates as well but the full negotiating committee is to be available at that time should the sub-committee have any agreements in principle to be brought back for a vote.

On November 18, 11am to 2pm, at JFK, LGA, and BOS the APFA will be conducting informational picketing. I would encourage all who are able to join them in the picket lines. If you cant be there you can show your support by joining the Virtual Picket line at www.apfavirtualpicket.com

I would also like to inform you that in addition to us and Continental, UAL will be working under an agreement that's past its amendable date on Jan1, 2010. Several smaller unionized carriers are in the same situation. SWA recently signed an agreement that puts them around \$10/hr ahead of us and the IBT at Continental is seeking similar compensation. Our table position is considerably less and more than fair to American Airlines.

Fraternally;

Bob Owens
President Local 562