



## AIRCRAFT MECHANICS FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION

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To: All AMFA Locals

Re: **Assistant National Director's Monthly Update for September 2009**

Dear Members:

The month began with our weekly conference call on Monday morning. We discussed the Membership survey, Foreign A&P mechanic visa issues, Accident Investigation Team procedures and policies, the proposed NMB rule change, legislative update, the National office lease, membership survey, and the ASAP ERC election policy. I also completed my article for the latest edition of The Grapevine on the grievance process; give it a read, it's simple and will provide you some good insight into the process.

The second week I again participated in the NEC Conference Call. We followed up on many of the same issues as the first week's meeting. On the foreign A&P mechanic visa issue I have been consulting with an immigration attorney to better understand the various types of visas, and their requirements. This information will be used to close the loopholes that are allowing foreign A&P's to enter our country and steal the jobs of fellow A&P's. I attended the Local 14 general membership meeting as both the Assistant National Director and Local 14 Alaska Airlines ALR. We discussed several grievance wins, including the return of a large number of components to the shops at the Alaska Hangar in Seattle. There was then some spirited discussion over concerns related to Alaska's ASAP program; this issue is in the process of being addressed at both the Local and National levels.

The third week, I again participated in our NEC conference call. We reviewed the tracked items, we then discussed new issues. A Mesaba LOA/Grievance Settlement related to pay while on field service missions, Assistant National Director Elections, and a NWA retiree grievance. On September 25, the Alaska Airlines membership received their retroactive performance-based payout for 2008. This was a part of the newly ratified contract extension that provided a payout based on a different profit sharing plan.

The last week of the month I again participated in the NEC conference call. A new issue that was discussed was the Alaska Airlines ASAP program and concerns related to several rejected ASAP reports.

As a final note, I ran into an interesting article detailing products that are household names, which have long been synonymous with America. It went over many of these products that are either no longer American made, or no longer American owned, and it was a bit shocking. Here are a few: Ben and Jerry's ice cream, Gerber baby food, 7-11, Trader Joes, Rawlings baseballs, Miller Beer, Firestone tires, and yes even our beloved Levis! It takes a lot of thought to buy American anymore, but I encourage all of you to do what you can!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Fraternally,

Timothy Cullen

Interim Assistant National Director

**SAFETY IN THE AIR BEGINS WITH QUALITY MAINTENANCE ON THE GROUND**

