



## AIRCRAFT MECHANICS FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION

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May 31, 2010

To: All AMFA Locals and Members

Re: **National Director's Monthly Update for May 2010**

Dear Members:

This month started off with a trip to Phoenix to attend the Local 32 general membership meeting. The meeting was very well attended by both the Southwest and Alaska members. Several Area Representatives from their outstations were also able to fly in and attend. There was a lot of discussion on current industry trends, the ASAP programs, the Accident/Incident Investigation "Go-Teams" and the upcoming contract negotiations at Alaska and the not too distant future, Southwest Airlines.

In mid-May the Association held its quarterly Joint Advisory Council meeting in Las Vegas. Each local and carrier had their representatives in attendance. At this meeting we had a special guest Fred Bruggeman, Secretary General of the Aircraft Engineers International (AEI). AMFA affiliated with AEI several years ago as we share a common interest in aviation safety that is achieved through quality maintenance and promoting a higher standard of skill and increasing the recognition of Aircraft Technicians. Mr. Bruggeman's presentation focused not only on a more in-depth understanding of AEI's structure but also one of the main issues they are dealing with of pilots "carrying" aircraft discrepancies until the end of the flight day or not writing up discrepancies until they reach a known maintenance base. This practice is extremely dangerous and has huge potential for turning into disaster as happened in this [Turkish](#) (hyperlink) accident in 2009.

At Alaska Airlines the contract proposal submission period has concluded and Locals 14 and 32 have moved onto the process of proposal endorsement. Once both locals have completed that process the endorsed proposals will be combined and then sent to the membership for prioritization.

There were no SWA Appearance Technician negotiations this month and the next dates are set for July in Dallas. Also at SWA, Mike Van de Ven, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer responded to the many letters received from our members regarding the change in jumpseat priority. He maintains there was no change to past policy, only that there may have been misapplications while administering the policy.

The Mesaba and Southwest ASAP Representative elections have concluded. At Mesaba Dave Dufour won the primary position and Darrin Ceason won the alternate. At SWA Scott Paine ran unopposed for the primary position and John Paonessa won the alternate. Congratulations and thank you for serving.

For more carrier specific updates and in depth information regarding AMFA and the airline industry, please visit the AMFA National Web site at [www.AMFANational.org](http://www.AMFANational.org) and remember our most determined efforts will not succeed without your continued support and participation – Please stay informed. With your participation we will jointly craft our collective future. Work together, support one another, and be proud of your important profession.

Sincerely,

Louie Key  
National Director