



## **AIRCRAFT MECHANICS FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION**

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August 30, 2011

To: All AMFA Locals and Members

Re: **National Director's Monthly Update for August 2011**

Dear Members:

The month of August started off with the Association holding its quarterly Joint Advisory Council meeting in Chicago, Illinois where we discussed the multitude of issues we are working on across the union. I was able to spend time visiting the SWA members at the Midway flight-line as well as the hangar.

The following week we continued with the Alaska Airlines negotiations in Seattle continuing to focus on Article 2, Scope and Article 3, Status of Agreement. We have additional dates scheduled for the first week of September.

The SWA Appearance Technician survey regarding the Tentative Agreement (TA) that the membership rejected July 2011 concludes on August 31st. The results of this survey, explaining *why* the TA was rejected, will be used by the Negotiating Committee to re-engage Southwest Airlines in further negotiations.

The AMFA – SWA Seniority Integration Committee and an ad hoc committee of AirTran mechanic representatives met on August 24th and 25th in Dallas to discuss the seniority integration process and to explore ideas for merging the two seniority lists. No agreement was reached but there was considerable dialogue on the interests of each employee group and both sides left with a more in-depth understanding of the other's concerns. We agreed to continue discussions in September. Everyone involved understands how important these seniority issues are to their respective membership base. As has been outlined in previous updates, if the two groups cannot reach an agreement that both sides can ratify through the negotiations process, there is legislation that provides for a final and binding arbitration process that would resolve the dispute. Both sides expressed that we would prefer to keep the matter under our control and not hand it over to an outside third party to rule on. I will be at Local 32's membership meeting on August 31st to speak to their members regarding this issue as well as the Alaska negotiations.

Mesaba Airlines continues their evolution of forming a combined carrier with Colgan and, in reality, Pinnacle Airlines. Pinnacle is offering preferential hiring to Mesaba employees as the regional jets transfer over.

For more carrier specific updates and further 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 only succeed with 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