



AIRCRAFT MECHANICS FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION, REGION I

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May 30, 2008

To: All AMFA Locals in Region I

Re: **Region I Director's Monthly Update for May 2008**

Dear Members:

Our AMFA National Convention was held in Orlando Florida May 5 through May 9 with a reception held Sunday May 4, Delegates from all AMFA represented Locals attended, Local 11, Local 14, Local 18, Local 32 and Local 33. Our Region I delegates for Local 14, from SeaTac Washington were; Jarod Mills, representing Alaska Airlines and the Local 14 president, John Clark, representing Alaska Airlines and Secretary for Local 14, Kevin Jurasinski, Alaska Airlines and the ASAP ERC, and Jim Bolin representing Horizon Air. Our delegates from Local 32, and the great city of Phoenix Arizona, were; Patrick Dunlap, representing Southwest Airlines and Vice President of Local 32, Mike Young, representing Southwest Airlines and the Communications Coordinator for Local 32, Frank Amore a Shop Representative from Phoenix and Earl Clark, from Alaska Airlines was an observer.

As the acting Region I Director I hand the opportunity to visit with Southwest Line mechanics in Las Vegas, Alaska and Horizon mechanics in Seattle and Portland Oregon. Many of our members were interested in the convention and the upcoming vote to amend the AMFA Constitution. A Brief description of the proposals endorsed by the delegates is available for your consideration, a complete text will be made available prior to the vote.

The convention guess speaker was Richard A. Levins, Ph.D., and author of the book Middle Class Union Made. Doctor Levin is Professor Emeritus of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. An award-winning author about policy and market power issues affecting the food system. Numerous copies of the pocket edition Middle Class Union Made are available and are circulating through the hanger, please read the book then pass it along, don't throw it away or put it on a shelf! We need lots of people thinking the right way about unions if we are going to make any progress.∞

If Unions made the middle class then Free Trade has destroyed the middle class and union homes. The trade issue is back and in a big way. For Blue-collar workers in industrial states, NAFTA is a code word for betrayal. CEO's are rushing to move production out of the United States to cheap-labor countries like Mexico and China.

Every American worker has been effected by NAFTA's free trade and open boarders American workers know it and feel it. In 2007, the U.S. trade deficit with Mexico has soared 16 percent to \$73 billion. Mexico actually ships more cars to us – than we ship to the world.

SAFETY IN THE AIR BEGINS WITH QUALITY MAINTENANCE ON THE GROUND



The U.S. trade deficit has doubled under the current administration. 3 million manufacturing jobs have vanished. In 2007, the United States had a trade deficit of \$499 billion just below our 2006 record deficit of \$526 billion. Yet that trade deficit in manufacturing goods with the world is more than twice as large as our \$224 billion bill for OPEC's oil. America has begun a trade deficit in advanced technology goods as well. Our trade deficit in advanced technology goods with China is \$67 billion, eight times what it is with Japan. ∂

America rose to power behind a tariff wall. What has free trade brought us? Lost sovereignty, a sinking dollar, hollowing of U.S. manufacturing, and stagnant wages. Housewives have been forced into the labor market to maintain the family income, indebtedness to foreign nations, deepening dependency on foreign goods is at an all time high and borrowing on credit to pay for them.

Each and every one of us are representatives of the American Union Worker. Our union must stand together and educate non-unionized workers on the dangers we all face. Read Doctor Levins book, Middle Class Union Made and pass it on.

For other carrier specific updates and more in depth information regarding AMFA and the airline industry please visit AMFA National's website at www.AMFANational.org, the AMFA Information Line 1-800-520-AMFA (2632) and the Region I Local websites; Local 8 at <http://www.amfa8.org>, Local 9 at <http://www.amfa9.org>, Local 14 at <http://www.amfa14.org> , and Local 32 at <http://www.amfa32.com>.

∞ Richard A. Levins, Ph.D., Middle Class Union Made

∂ Patrick Buchanan, The Second Battle of NAFTA, March 2008

Sincerely,

Tom Imlah
Region I Director