

Reserve Committee: *FEBRUARY* 2010 Newsletter!!

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email in the future, please email ReserveLife@hotmail.com to be added to the email list.

Monthly Message from the Chairman:

Hello Reserves, I am happy to report that your reserve committee has finally set the date for the long awaited town hall meeting, I would like to express my gratitude to the Executive Board of our Local Lodge for supporting this event. I highly encourage you to make every attempt possible to be there! We want to hear from you. We want to know what issues you are having so we can best tackle them; we also want you to get informed with the negotiations process, the grievance process, as well as how we operate as a committee to best serve you! There will be guest speakers from the Grievance Committee, the Negotiations Committee, as well as a member of the Executive Board. We will also be providing you with free lunch! So come meet your Reserve Committee. The date for this event is March 9th, 2010. Reserve your seat no later than March 1st, 2010, by sending us an email to Reservelife@hotmail.com with your name, employee number, telephone number and email address.

Moving on to some sad news, after March 9th we will be losing a valuable asset to our committee, Jesse Lindborn has decided to leave after 6 months on the committee. With that, I thank him for his service; he truly has made this committee shine with his input, his hard work, and dedication. Jesse, know that

there will always be a spot on this committee if you choose to return. There is still so much work to be done for you reserves, therefore we are looking for new members to join our committee. If you are an individual who believes in maintaining a fair and just work environment for the Reserves, believes in unity and solidarity, is goal oriented and is dedicated, we want you on this committee! If you are interested, send an email to reservelife@hotmail.com. Please note that you are required to attend at least 3 union meetings for you to get appointed to any committee. I look forward to hearing from you, and meeting some new faces on March the 9th. Until then, fly safe!

*Marvin Molina
Chairman
Reserve Committee*

“What to do with that Holiday Incentive Coupon”

By Christine Diaz

If you worked without absence from Nov. 16, 2009 through Jan. 15, 2010, you should have received a “holiday incentive coupon” in your v-file. What do you do with it? There are 3 options available to us.

(a) Personal Drop – You can receive a non-paid personal drop by calling scheduling during the coupon window period (usually the day before the open window at 2 pm.) or use the “trip trade exception” line during the open window. Many reserves don’t think this is beneficial because we lose four hours of guarantee,

but if you are looking to make your vacation one day longer or are needing a guaranteed day off, this may be your option.

(b) Trip trade exception – In our world, this is “day off exception.” We can use this option to move a day off within our schedule. To do this call scheduling during the coupon window period or use the “trip trade exception” line during the open window.

(c.) Straight pickup – This option allows straight pickup of one (1) trip from open time. During the coupon window period, call and pick up a golden pairing for any time during the month. This option does not indicate it is only available for line holders. We may have not utilized this option in the past, but now that we have “golden pairings,” we must use all avenues available to us that offer stability. If you have problems utilizing this option, please see a grievance representative for assistance.

A few reminders when using a coupon are if you call after your base reopens the night of open window, you may be denied due to staffing needs. In addition, there are blackout dates when you are not available to use your coupon.

““NEW” Anti-Drug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Policy”

By: Rene Trujillo

Continental has revised our Drug and Alcohol Policy. This new

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policy was originally stated as mandatory. Now it is "optional." We have a drug and alcohol policy negotiated in our contract. Continental can not change it without negotiating it. While we cannot tell you whether to acknowledge it or not, we can remind you that it is "OPTIONAL." We can remind you that optional means you do not have to acknowledge it. If you would like to read it (all 51 pages), you can find it at mycoair/all about me/certifications. There are multiple subjects that raise questions. Read between the lines and think about the situations that it could lead to. This new policy, if accepted, could raise a whole new group of problems for flight attendants. Please notify other flight attendants about the issue.

"Free Makes Sense"

By Rene Trujillo

Some of us were lucky enough to get an opportunity to take advantage of falling housing prices last year. I learned the hard way that getting in the house is one thing, fixing and maintaining it is a whole different subject. That is compounded by having a restricted budget while on

reserve. We don't get a break very often, but here is one we all deserve. There are thousands of programs that can help us stretch our reserve dollars we work hard for. Currently there is an energy efficient program that we should all take advantage of. It is offered by Partners of Texas. They receive grants yearly from the federal government and are sponsored by utility companies in Houston. This is a program that updates your house to make it more energy efficient. The best part of this program is that it is FREE! Yup, FREE! Once you set up an appointment, they come to your house. They seal your doors and windows. They find any drafts in windows, door frames, ac vents, ducts, etc. They re-seal ducts in your attic. They change out all of your light bulbs to energy efficient bulbs (which are \$4 a piece). It is amazing how much work they do. ALL FOR FREE! This grant is given out yearly and they travel to anywhere in the Houston area. They have enough money to service 300 houses before their grant runs out. If you have a house, call before they run out of space. There are some rules that do apply. Upgrades can only be made to homes, not apartments. Also, in Houston, the house must have been built before 2000 (in the woodlands, homes built before 2007). The contact person/owner is Terry Buckley. His phone number is 713-569-0099. When you contact the company, if they don't answer, they will call you back. It may

take a few days, but it is worth it. We all understand the stress of reserve, but this is something we have to take advantage of. When the crew came to my house, they spent about 5 hours doing work. It would have taken me weeks and at least a couple of hundred dollars to do half the work they did. I had a great experience with this program and hopefully you can get it done before you get that "How much is my summer electric bill?" moment. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at ridingthecouch@live.com.

Union Quote: The role of a labor union is to ensure that the balance is not tipped in favor of the employer when employees do not receive wages and benefits commensurate with their contribution.

-- William Burrus

"Social Networking and the (Reality Show)."

By Roy Harper

As most of you are aware, we have new guidelines on social networking. It is worth taking the time to read through the guidelines to make sure you understand what is being asked of you from the company. Some of the points made by the company make perfect sense from both a professional as well as personal standpoint. Others, while well intentioned, may need a bit of clarification and refinement. Once you have taken the chance to familiarize yourself with the information, please ask for clarifications and adjustments. If

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not directly from the company, then bring it to the Union so that there can continue to have open, honest and insightful conversation on the topic. Having a policy is a prudent thing. Having a well crafted policy that balances needs with rights is a better thing.

Some of the points made are perfectly understandable and are good internet etiquette 24/7/365. The internet is a big place and quite frankly, if you put something up, you might as well be putting it on a huge billboard on your front lawn for all your neighbors to see. Be careful of what you let the world see because even on a good day positive things can be misconstrued and taken the out of context.

I certainly don't want people that I don't know, knowing private things about me or my life from my personal posts or worse yet, a third party. To know my personal information that choose not to share, opens up a world of possibilities (all bad). I don't want people to gain information about me more than they already do. Just like on a trip, be safe and be vigilant for you, your crew, your other coworkers and your passengers.

Social networking is the country club or high school at a volume level of 100 on a scale of 1 to 10. Volume gets you noticed, along with the work that you do. Our work as crew can be very high profile and very much in the public eye in social networking circles. What we get to do is special and specialized as well as unique. Unique gets you noticed in reality. In any good reality show, getting noticed is not always a good thing. There are times that the spotlight is wonderful, warm and rosy and sometimes that light is harsh and cold. That depends on what is being presented and how it is received. Our thinking (while we use social networking) has to follow on these dual tracks as well. We have to socialize professionally at work and we can socialize differently away from work. Just remember which reality show you are contributing to, or both at once. It makes a difference. Some crossover episodes work and some don't.

"A Final Farewell"

By: Jesse Lindenborn

Unfortunately, the time has come for me to say goodbye to the reserve committee. Life always gives us new challenges each day as mine has recently done. I have loved the work I've had the opportunity to do with the reserve committee. Now, due to events outside of work or the union, I will not be able to give the dedication our reserves

deserve to see, as well as the changes we need.

As I part, I would like to remind you all of several things. Know your contract and challenge scheduling when you feel they are violating it. If they still make you work the trip or whatever the violation may be, see a union representative and pursue it as a grievance if it truly is a violation! They are not going to consistently follow our contract unless we hold them accountable to it by doing this.

Negotiations are currently underway. I've heard many flight attendants complain that no one knows what is going on because the union isn't putting out notices. I URGE you to visit the union website for contract negotiations updates at <http://www.iamdl142.org/contract2010/>. The union is limited in what they can discuss this early in negotiations until all proposals have been negotiated with the company and we have a first contract to vote on. However, every time they meet with the company, they do update this website with what was discussed and what the next step is in the negotiations.

Lastly, the reserve committee is in need of a few dedicated volunteers to join the committee. It is not a paid position and does require commitment. I joined because I was tired of sitting back and watching and wondering what the future changes would be. Being a part of the committee means being a PART of the change rather than

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WATCHING the change. As a committee member, you are generally better informed on what is going on with the company and negotiations since you are required to attend all union meetings. You get to hear what most reserves want as a group for the new contract. Lastly and most importantly, you are a major part of ensuring that we are united as a group going into negotiations. This is the most important aspect, but easiest part. All it takes is a little jump-seat chat and a little talking during your airport alerts. If you are interested in being a part of the change, please start attending the monthly union meeting and speak to Marvin Molina or another reserve committee member when you are there.

I've enjoyed each moment that I've helped the reserves. See you around the crew room!

THE MONTHLY UNION MEETING
March 2010
March 16, 2010
Will be held at:
The Airport Marriot@
1:00pm

SIGN UP TO ATTEND THE 2010 TOWN HALL MEETING

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, March 1

- WHAT:** Reserve Town Hall Meeting
- WHEN:** Tuesday, March 9, 2010
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- WHERE:** Union Office- Weatherford Building
15710 JFK Blvd., Suite 160
Houston, TX 77032
(Next to the Sheraton Hotel)
- WHY:** To discuss reserve issues, what the reserve committee does, current contract issues, the negotiation process, the grievance process, and overview of the IAM.
- HOW:** Sign up sheet is available at the union table in the IAH crew room. Or sign up online at reservelife@hotmail.com
- HOST:** Local Lodge 2339H Reserve Committee
- SPEAKERS:** Cindy Commander, - Recording Secretary, Local Lodge 2339H
Nick Ruiz - Grievance Committee Base Chairperson
Brian Wozniak - District 142 General Chairperson
- QUESTIONS:** Contact Marvin Molina, Reserve Committee Chairperson, at tharus02@yahoo.com.

FREE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!

NOTE: 2010 contract negotiations will NOT be discussed at this presentation due to the early state of negotiations.

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