

# Air Transport District 143

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International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers AFL-CIO

January 8, 2010

On December 22, 2009, the National Mediation Board (NMB) granted the IAM's request to declare that Delta and Northwest Airlines were operating as a single carrier for representation purposes for the combined airlines' flight simulator technicians (Sim Techs). Additionally, the NMB agreed with the IAM's arguments that the Sim Techs were their own separate and distinct class or craft and, therefore, eligible for their own representation election independent of other classifications.

The IAM's original application was filed on August 13, 2009, but the process was delayed because Delta had argued that flight simulator technicians should be included in the currently unrepresented mechanic and related classification. The NMB rejected Delta's claims and found that both Northwest and Delta have historically treated their Sim Techs as a separate class or craft apart from their mechanic and related employees.

If Delta had been successful in combining the Sim Techs with mechanics, Northwest Sim Techs would have lost their union representation without a vote and Delta Sim Techs would have lost an opportunity to make up their own minds about union representation.

***Delta tried to prevent Sim Techs from voting on whether or not they want to be represented by the Machinists Union.***

Nobody knows what is best for Delta employees other than the employees themselves. Delta tried to silence the Sim Techs, but the IAM fought so they could have the opportunity to make a choice. Under NMB rules, the IAM had until January 5, 2010 to supplement its August 2009 application to prove sufficient interest for a Sim Tech representation election.

Accordingly, the IAM on January 5, 2010 presented the NMB with signed election authorization cards from Delta Sim Techs. Also, the NMB ordered Delta to submit the list of potential eligible voters. That list is due by January 19, 2010. Once submitted, the IAM will have the opportunity to review the list and file challenges, if appropriate, to make sure all employees listed are eligible to participate in an election. The NMB will determine the final list of eligible voters and set an election date. Eligible voters will receive voting instructions directly from the NMB mailed to the last address they had on file with their company.

Voting will be conducted by telephone and through the Internet.

Fraternally and in solidarity,

Stephen M. Gordon  
President/Directing General Chair

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