

CHICAGO REGIONAL APFA OFFICE CLOSES MAY 1, 2006

After nearly 20 years, the Chicago Regional Office will close on May 1, 2006. We have leased office space from one company this whole time. They went into bankruptcy, were bought and sold, and have now emerged from bankruptcy with rents that are just too high for us to continue. We have moved into smaller and smaller offices to save money. For years, we enjoyed the use of free conference rooms throughout the country for training, arbitration prep, case interviews and prep, council meetings and not the least, the 1993 Strike. Now, those same conference rooms are costing around \$900 per day. We cannot use them at that cost and our office rent is just too high.

Along with the cost to the membership is the cost to the Reps who work there. As we are all experiencing, the cost of gasoline has soared. The location of an office has to be near the airport with access to the train. Reps that drive were spending hundreds of their own dollars to staff the office. The belief is that the cost of gasoline will not go down.

Also, our base has reduced in size. APFA Base Budgets are set up according to head count. ORD's budget has been reduced substantially. We just cannot afford to staff the office to the level of expectation that we all have come to know. We don't want to have anyone believe that because the call isn't answered right away that no one is working. We could be at the airport, in DFW or flying a trip. It has become impossible to have at least one rep in the office 5 days a week.

This office is a Regional Office, meaning it encompasses both ORD and IOR along with Division Reps. IOR has had no interest in staffing the office for many years now. Our Division Rep, Cindi Simpson, has used the office extensively for representation and prep, however, the cost of the conference rooms for prepping has made that prohibitive. Considering all of the above, we made the decision not to renew our lease.

So, how does that affect the base? Well, the 773 714 7925 phone number will no longer exist. We have set up a voicemail box at APFA Headquarters for calls. It is 800 395 2732 or if you have unlimited long distance or minutes, please use 817 540 0108. The extension is: **8752**. This mailbox will be continually monitored throughout the day.

Unless we are unavailable due to representation issues at the airport or DFW, then we should get back to you right away.

Use your ORD Base Council Roster for other phone contacts. Also, *Skyword* has a tear out card with all appropriate APFA phone numbers. APFA Reps are available by phone at APFA Headquarters between the hours of 0900 and 1700 Central Time, Monday through Friday. There is also an Officer on Duty from 1700-2300 Central, Monday through Friday and 0900-2300, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays, for emergency calls.

We know this will be a time of transition and hopefully it will run smoothly. ORD APFA takes great pride in representation of our base. If you ever do not receive a call back within the same day, please, call again. Systems do fail and calls do get dropped. We continue to have some problems with cell phone calls that are garbled. There are times when FAs tell a whole story on a message but forget to leave their name, employee

number or phone number!! They just end the call with “call me back right away!!” What to do??? Again, please don’t get mad that your call hasn’t been returned, just call again.

We will miss the office. Many wonderful FAs have been trained there. Many memories have been created there. But, it’s time to move on.

Base Issues: We have 2 cases that are scheduled for Arbitration in July. One is the issue of Article 8I, reassignment pay, and the other is the ATC Arbitration.

Simplification Part 2: we’ve received numerous complaints regarding the lack of cleaning of aircraft by ground personnel. Nothing in our contract has changed regarding the cleaning of aircraft. We do NOT clean terminating flights or flights over 1100 miles. If you find yourself in a situation where your terminating flight was not cleaned and your next flight is a through flight where you do have to clean, please contact Liz or Geri right away.

We now have monthly scheduled meetings with Debbie Carvatta and some of her staff. It is a great opportunity to raise base issues. Our main issue this month was the out of base flying done by our reserves. While we all now that some out of base flying will naturally occur due to weather, ORD’s out of base flying is out of whack. Thank you to Todd Breckenridge for pulling the daily documentation needed to prove our point. We are looking at pursuing this issue to get some resolution to our very high reserve list.

Vacation Bidding: There is no noon rule. The only rule for removal is if any part of your trip touches your VC then you are removed and paid for that trip. NO NOON RULE. There is also no noon rule for line holding FAs and duty free periods. Only reserves have the noon rule. However, there had better be a strongly substantiated reason as to why anyone is busting your DFP as a line FA.

Carry over time: If you are on reserve and are available the last day of the month, you can be flown into a DFP or another trip in your subsequent month. The only way to fully protect the first days of your new month is to have a DFP on the last day of your reserve month. If you fly a trip into your reserve month’s DFP then that DFP will be moved down accordingly.

FML: if you take FML for a family member, your vacation is automatically docked. PVDs are used, at your option, after your VC is gone. At this point, we are still waiting the outcome of the 2 FML Arbitrations.

That’s it for now. Short and to the point. We wanted to get the Office closing out to everyone before May 1.

Fly Safe!
In Unity,
Liz Mallon
Chairperson

Geri Coleman-Foley
Vice Chairperson