



APFA NEWS RELEASE

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Flight Attendants Step Up Virtual Pressure Online Picket Builds Momentum As Negotiations Heat Up

5,400 Supporters Walking Virtual Picket Line for American Airlines Flight Attendants

Eules, TX — In a 21st century twist on picketing, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) have launched a Virtual Picket Line (www.APFVirtualPicket.com) to drum up public support for their struggle to get a fair contract as the union and American management hold two weeks of “lockdown” negotiations. To date, more than 5,400 supporters signed on to walk the online picket.

“We are using modern technology to allow people to show their solidarity for American Airlines Flight Attendants,” said APFA President Laura Glading. “As we take part in these intense negotiations over the next two weeks, the power of the Internet has enabled our army of supporters to virtually walk the picket line with us.

“We are inspired and energized by this show of support for our struggle to get a fair and just contract that recognizes the commitment and sacrifices Flight Attendants have made for our airline over many years,” said Glading.

In 2003, when American Airlines found itself in financial trouble, Flight Attendants helped bail them out by providing \$340 million annually in cost savings. Benefits and pay have shrunk by 33 percent for Flight Attendants since then, but the airline’s top five executives have taken multimillion-dollar bonuses and salary increases totaling more than 2,500 times the gains of Flight Attendants since the agreement.

APFA and American management have been mired in contract negotiations for more than 20 months. If no agreement is reached during these “lockdown” negotiations, APFA will ask the National Mediation Board (NMB) to allow a 30-day cooling-off period -- the final step before self-help.

“We remain hopeful that we will reach an agreement in our negotiations this month,” said Glading. “However, we are prepared to do whatever is needed to restore our pay, benefits and the respect we deserve. We will not back down.”

APFA is the nation's largest independent Flight Attendant union representing more than 18,000 American Airlines Flight Attendants. www.apfa.org

