

Negotiations Update Video Transcript – 3.3.10

Hi, I'm Anne Loew, Chair of the APFA Negotiating Team with an update on negotiations.

Today, Wednesday March 3, concludes five consecutive days of bargaining with American Airlines, at the offices of the National Mediation Board in Washington, DC.

For two years we have faced in bargaining a company that was dead set on delay and denying us what we deserve for as long as possible. This session was no different, but the company took an even more outrageous tact this time. Rather than at least go through the charade of bargaining, management decided just to stop bargaining altogether.

With ten hours left in the time scheduled for this session APFA made its most aggressive proposal which should have been the basis for a tentative agreement. The company asked no questions, took no time to respond or even consider our proposal. Instead it simply exited the room and the bargaining process.

As much as we understand that negotiations are never easy, the process requires two participants. For one to leave before the opportunity for a deal is fully exhausted constitutes bad faith. It also demonstrates a deep disrespect for the process and for the Flight Attendants.

In the days before it abandoned our negotiations, the company's proposals were more of what we saw in January.

Its overall offer is still worse than zero sum.

Its meager wage offer would leave us behind our pre-RPA pay.

Taking into account AA's demand that we pay 20% of our health care costs, all Flight Attendants would remain below the 2003 levels. Some pay rates would be 32% lower than what they were before the restructuring agreement.

For most Flight Attendants they would accrue far less vacation and sick time than they did seven years ago.

The company's response to our demands for making our work lives better is to require Flight Attendants to work as many as four more days each month.

The company has left us no other choice but to petition the National Mediation Board for a release into a 30-day cooling off period.

We know how frustrating this prolonged process has been for all of you.

We've received your emails and phone calls of support and are very encouraged by them. Your participation in All Systems Red, and the executive email campaign was heard loud and clear.

Your continued active involvement is crucial. We need it now more than ever.

With the entire membership involved we will succeed. It's OUR TURN and we will not back down.

In the coming days, APFA President Laura Glading will give you an update on our next steps.

Remember to stay united, involved and engaged. And be sure to go to the APFA website and read the HotLine.