



Association of Professional Flight Attendants
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American Airlines Flight Attendants on AA Preparations to Recruit & Train Replacement Flight Attendants

Statement of Laura Glading, APFA President

“Confronting the reality of a 96.8% strike authorization by American Airlines Flight Attendants, the Company has decided to try to recruit management volunteers to staff flights in the event of a job action. With a 90% turnout, Flight Attendants have put American on notice that they will do whatever is necessary to achieve the contract they deserve.

“The Company claims that a mere 17 days of training will prepare these recruits to assume all the responsibilities a Flight Attendant must perform. In its memo to managers, the Company recognizes that the job is ‘demanding and at times unpredictable and flexibility and patience are a must.’ American management -- and more importantly the flying public -- have to recognize that less than two and a half weeks of training is not a substitute for years of experience.

“As we saw in Detroit, Jamaica and on the Hudson River, Flight Attendants are the first line of defense and passengers deserve experienced, highly trained Flight Attendants to ensure their safety. Our members are committed to protecting the integrity of our profession.

“Despite some progress in contract talks last week, we believe negotiations have reached an impasse. The Company continued to put forth concessionary proposals in the form of unacceptable compensation, benefits, and work rules. In fact, under the Company’s proposal, most Flight Attendants in 2015 would still be behind where they were in 2003.

“American executives continue to claim AA Flight Attendants have the highest labor cost in the industry, but have not provided the details to back it up. It’s just not true. Their analysis is flawed and does not use the industry standard.

“One of the airline’s most valuable assets are its frontline Flight Attendants who are the face of this airline to our customers. To date the Company has failed to recognize the worth of that asset and until it does American Airlines’ investors, shareholders, and customers should be concerned.”

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