



Association of Professional Flight Attendants
1004 W. Eules Boulevard
Eules, Texas 76040
PHONE: (817) 540-0108 FAX: (817) 540-2077

Media Contact:
Dane Townsend-Pepper
communications@apfa.org
(817) 540-0108 ext. 8308

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flight Attendants React to News of American Airlines' Announcement of New Planes
Call on company to resolve more than three year contract dispute

FORT WORTH (July 20, 2011) - This morning, American Airlines management announced that the company has ordered 460 new narrow-body planes, with options to purchase an additional 465. The company plans to acquire 260 planes from the Airbus A320 family and 200 Boeing 737s. The company will be taking advantage of approximately \$13 billion of committed financing provided by the two manufacturers.

“The APFA applauds American Airlines management’s decision to take the company in a new direction, diversify the fleet, and modernize the in-flight experience for passengers,” said Laura Glading, president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants. “But the work is not done. Shareholders should not be satisfied until management has secured both the physical and human capital to be successful and addressed a labor situation that has lingered for more than three years.”

The union is especially encouraged by the fuel efficiency these new planes will provide. This purchase represents a calculated and strategic move to bring American Airlines back to the forefront of this country’s aviation industry.

“Today’s announcement shows the company is capable of making strategic decisions,” said Glading. “We call on management to put the same effort toward reaching a comprehensive agreement with its employees that recognizes the sacrifices flight attendants and others made to avoid bankruptcy and allow for today’s promising announcement.”

That Boeing and Airbus were willing to provide American Airlines with favorable financing terms is a testament to the sacrifices that APFA’s membership and others made in 2003 when the company was in dire straits. Without the generous salary and benefits givebacks of the Flight Attendants, totaling over \$2 billion, American Airlines would have neither the capital nor credit needed to make such an ambitious purchase.

The introduction of the Airbus A320 family places particular emphasis on the state of contract negotiations for all of the airline’s unionized employees who will need to be trained and certified to operate and maintain the new equipment.

About APFA

Founded in 1977, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) is the largest independent Flight Attendant union in the nation. It represents more than 18,000 Flight Attendants at American Airlines. APFA Members live in almost every state of the nation and serve millions of Americans as they travel the nation and the world. In 2003, APFA played a major role in keeping American Airlines solvent and out of bankruptcy by giving back an employee bailout of \$340 million in annual salary and benefits, for a total of over \$2 billion and counting. Today, American Airlines is one of the nation’s leading air carriers and after three years and over 125 meetings APFA is still in frustrating and stalled contract negotiations with company management. Laura Glading is serving in her first four-year term as president of the union.

###