



APFA

NEWS RELEASE

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972 Flight Attendant Jobs Saved at American Airlines Far Fewer Layoffs Than Projected

Union and Management's Innovative Involuntary Leave Program Played Key Role

Washington, DC – Of the 1,200 American Airlines Flight Attendants slated to be furloughed in October, 972 will not be laid off indefinitely by the airline next month. This is due in large part to Flight Attendants who stepped up to take a voluntary leave and an innovative “involuntary leave” program developed by the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) and airline management.

“We worked many hard hours to find as many ways possible to save the jobs of our members,” said Laura Glading, APFA President. “What was going to be 1,200 jobs lost has been limited to 228. While it breaks my heart to see any of our Flight Attendants put on the street, even saving one job was well worth the effort and time. You can be sure we will not rest until all furloughed American Airlines Flight Attendants are back to work.”

In June, the airline announced it would be reducing its Flight Attendant staffing levels. The airline and the Union have been offering Flight Attendants several options, including voluntary leaves of absence, to reduce the number of people that will have to be involuntarily furloughed.

The carrier’s fall schedule reductions will trigger its highest Flight Attendant overage during October and November. Under this innovative one time only program, 244 Flight Attendants will have to take a short term Involuntary Overage Leave of Absence for these two months and return to work in December.

This is what can be accomplished when labor and management make a collaborative effort to find solutions to benefit the Flight Attendants,” Glading continued. “We hope to continue this collaboration in our ongoing contract negotiations and get an agreement that recognizes the sacrifices made by the Flight Attendants,” said Glading.

APFA has been in negotiations with the carrier since May 2008.

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