



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

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Contact:
David Roscow, 202-487-4990

No Deal for AA Flight Attendants, Company Walks Out of Talks

Association of Professional Flight Attendants to Seek Release from Mediation Final Step Before Possible Job Actions

Washington, DC — Negotiations between American Airlines Flight Attendants and management broke down today when the company left the bargaining table with ten hours remaining before the scheduled end of the intense five-day bargaining session.

At 6:30 pm ET, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) gave the company a realistic proposal that addressed the Flight Attendants' needs and the company's concerns. Rather than take any time to consider this offer, the Company exited the room informing APFA that it would not be in position to make a counter-proposal this evening.

"This conduct is just another demonstration of the Company's bad faith bargaining that has been in full bloom for the past 23 months," said APFA President Laura Glading. "This display shows complete disrespect and disregard for our hard working Flight Attendants.

"APFA remains prepared to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement, but it is clear, now more than ever, that the company does not share the same interest," Glading continued. "Delay only serves the company. Each day without a new agreement equals another million dollars in the pocket of American.

"The company's actions speak loudly. When the bargaining party that sits across the table does not want to reach an agreement, that leaves the other party with no recourse other than to move to the next step," Glading continued. "We have exhausted all of our options and will now meet with our Board this weekend to move forward with the balloting of the membership for a strike vote."

APFA will be contacting the National Mediation Board tomorrow to schedule a meeting to request a release into a thirty-day cooling off period, at the end of which, APFA can choose to engage in a strike or other forms of self-help.

"Flight Attendants have been down this path before and we remain unified and strong. Now, with no other options on the table, management has forced us to take the next step necessary to get the contract we have worked so hard for," Glading concluded.

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