March 6, 2017

**Mesa AFA: We Have Your Back!**

Over five years and following bankruptcy cuts, management is still refusing to invest in Mesa Flight Attendants with meaningful improvements. Mesa Flight Attendants are on average 20% behind the pay of their regional counterparts doing flying for United and American. Last year Mesa Flight Attendants voted to overwhelmingly reject management’s paltry offer that included a 1% raise, but Mesa management’s position at the table has only gotten worse. As Mesa MEC President Heather Stevenson told the [Houston Chronicle last week](http://www.houstonchronicle.com), management has left Mesa Flight Attendants with no choice but to take a strike vote. The stall tactics and excuses from Mesa have got to stop. Let Mesa Flight Attendants know [we have their back](http://www.afa.org/sign-the-pledge-to-show-them-we-all-have-their-backs)

The standards at Mesa are a threat to all of us. But together we can change that! Enough is enough. We expect a fair contract now.

[Sign this pledge to show them we all have their backs](http://www.afa.org/sign-the-pledge-to-show-them-we-all-have-their-backs)>

**AFA International President Will Testify at House Transportation Committee Today**

AFA International President Sara Nelson will testify on our Fight for 10, No Calls on Planes, Bridge
the Gap and Enforcing our Open Skies Agreements to stop flag of convenience schemes like NAI and unfair competition against massive government subsidies for Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways. The hearing begins at 10:00 am eastern before the House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee.

The hearing in 2167 Rayburn House Office Building is open to the public. Or, you can watch the Hearing here >

Take Action on International Women's Day

Today is International Women's Day. This year, women are mobilizing an international day of action, A Day Without Women, and encouraging participants to avoid shopping, wear red and promote women's equality among other solidarity actions. Imagine aviation without women - it's just not possible. It is fitting that on International Women’s Day, our union that was founded by strong women and which remains largely a workforce of women, has the platform to testify in the United States Congress on the issue of equal rest and enforcing international agreements that maintain our rights to organize, collectively bargain and protect all of the advancements we've made for equality.

U.S.-based Norwegian Cabin Crew Look to Join AFA

Great news! AFA has long stood with Norwegian Flight Attendants to beat back attacks on our jobs. AFA helped U.S.-based Norwegian Flight Attendants gain union representation last year when Norwegian attempted to deny these U.S.-based Flight Attendants the right to organize under the Railway Labor Act. Now, these Flight Attendants who are members of the Norwegian Cabin Crew Association (NCCA) are voting to join AFA.

U.S.-Based Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS) cabin crew joining AFA strengthens our arguments against the flag of convenience NAI model, improves our efforts in Congress and allows us to combat this attack on our jobs by working with these Flight Attendants to raise standards at the bargaining table. Their jobs are also at risk with the flag of convenience model NAI creates. We will not allow this attack on our jobs to stand.
These Flight Attendants, based in JFK and FLL, are working for Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS). Their efforts to join AFA helps expose Norwegian’s attempt to confuse the public that their subsidiary, NAI, needed a foreign air carrier permit in order to fly to the U.S. That is a lie and these Flight Attendants are proof of that, having worked flights between the U.S. and Europe under the Norwegian air carrier certificate, not the flag of convenience Irish certificate set up by NAI. However, the conditions for these Flight Attendants are still deplorable including issues AFA beat back in the first contract negotiated in 1946. Welcoming them to our union and assisting them with negotiating their contract is critical in order to protect the jobs of AFA members today.

The arguments of Norwegian and their “employment firm,” OSM, against the rights of these U.S.-based NAS Flight Attendants are a direct attack on the right of all U.S. Flight Attendants to organize and collectively bargain. Norwegian’s game in establishing an Irish subsidiary, NAI, to skirt the laws of Norway is a familiar one about two things only: corporate greed and trampling labor rights. This corporate game is now attempting to create a flag of convenience model that will destroy U.S. aviation and all of our jobs including U.S.-based Norwegian Cabin Crew. It is not simply NAI that we oppose, it is more importantly the new business model it sets up.

All of our jobs are at risk because nothing would stop NAI from ending individual contracts with NAS Flight Attendants and instead hiring from Asia or wherever they can find the lowest labor standards.

If this all seems confusing, that is exactly what Norwegian has hoped to create by using the Norwegian name in all of its business ventures. Confusion is exactly what Norwegian wants as it hopes it's new model will not be stopped by the U.S. Congress. This is even confusing to some of the NCCA members as well. But the NCCA leadership is not confused and they are working to inform their members about the attacks on all of our jobs. It’s an age-old tactic of management trying to get us to fight each other while they undermine all of us. Not on our watch!

Our first objective is to unite all cabin crew. We work every day to bring Flight Attendants together because it is our power in numbers and coordination on lifting the standards of our careers that makes us successful. As long as one Flight Attendant is mistreated or without the benefits of an AFA contract, we are all subject to standards set by management that undermine our careers and our worth. Join us in supporting U.S.-based Norwegian Cabin Crew as they vote to join us.

We are Stronger and Better Together.