



Dear Anchorage Co-Workers:

Happy November 1<sup>st</sup>!

As you probably know, A LOT has happened over the past month, so I'd like to highlight at least some of it for you!

**Jumpseat Protocol/Non-Rev Travel:** On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Bulletin 2013-0199 came out addressing the AS/QX jumpseat protocol. Bullet point 5 states: "J/S will be awarded at 30 minutes prior to departure by seniority order, then first come, first served." It also states, "Commuters do not have priority." On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Bulletin 2014-0090 came out, entitled "FA Jumpseat Change." The only change in this bulletin from the preceding bulletin is the ability for FAs to simultaneously list as a non-rev **and** request the jumpseat. This change has caused some consternation among the FAs, especially due to the continued difficulty we experience attempting to fly in and out of Alaska.

I recently discussed these challenges with Wayne Newton, Managing Director, System Operation Control. Please see below for his explanation as to why we continue to see flights departing with open seats leaving non-revs behind...

- System-wide: The extra 9 seats on the 900 add additional weight to the aircraft, cutting into the total weight we can carry.
- Specific to ANC: ANC is notorious for high bag counts
- Specific to Alaska: Club 49, which allows Alaskans to check up to three bags, free of charge, often weighing 50+ pounds, significantly impacting our payload.

At our most recent Employee Meeting, I again had the opportunity to speak with Wayne, who informed me that as of today, November 1<sup>st</sup>, we can expect the non-rev situation to become even more challenging due to schedule changes, more bags, etc.

Susan also addressed this topic as well in her recent email, encouraging us to attempt to accommodate as many carry-on bags as possible, decreasing the number to be tagged and checked which are counted toward the overall payload.

**RingCentral:** By now, you all should have received the ANC AFA Hotline lanyard card, providing quick and easy contact information for your local officers and committees. This same contact information can also be found on the AFA bulletin board in Inflight and on our website at [afaalaska.org](http://afaalaska.org).

**Inflight Service Committee:** There have been numerous “complaints” about the amount of plastic wrap used by catering to wrap First Class appetizers and salads, etc. The Committee took your concerns forward and soon there will be one layer of plastic wrap on most items. Other items may have only plastic wrap loosely placed over the plate/bowl, as applicable. *Thank you ISC!*

**Reserve:** We once again hosted a new hire Base Orientation on October 29th and would like to extend a warm welcome to our new hires! At this time, it is my understanding that although there is one more Flight Attendant training graduating this year, we are not expecting to have any of those graduates based in Anchorage. Thank you, Harold, Karrie, Stephen, and Adrienne for conducting the AFA portion of the Base Orientation in October!

**Inflight Mobile Device (IMD) Training:** On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Amber Forth, Stephen Fritts, Harold Sunkel, and I attended training in Seattle on the IMD. This “leadership group” will be assisting the Early Adopters in Anchorage who signed up to help test the devices. If you have not already, you should soon see these preliminary devices being used on the aircraft, as folks involved attempt to put the devices through the necessary paces, to ascertain whether they will meet our needs. Thank you, Amber, Stephen and Harold!

**Benefits Meet & Greet:** On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Company hosted a Benefits “Meet & Greet” in Seattle. On the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>, those Benefits Committee members available (from all bases) met in Seattle with MEC Benefits Chair Terry Taylor to discuss Benefits topics and issues that they are seeing/encountering. Following that, everyone met with Management staff in Benefit positions, as well as representatives from Matrix Eberle Vivian and J Donnelly to ask questions and discuss potential issues/problems.

**Town Social and Employee Meeting:** Andy Schneider and Ron Calvin, as well as several other Seattle management staff, hosted a Town Social in Anchorage on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. At this gathering, they shared information about the IMD, the new Award program they are instituting to replace the present system and the AlaskaListens.com program.

I met with Andy, Ron and Susan this month to discuss several topics. At the top of the list was the extreme frustration we are all feeling with regard to our Anchorage pairings and how they compare to other base pairings. I shared with them your concerns, feelings of disparity (among bases), and wants that you all shared with Lisa and me. We again talked about how Anchorage consistently meets and/or exceeds the attendance goal, yet we feel we suffer the challenges of poorer-quality pairings, longer duty days, and/or more legs per duty day. Andy agreed to have those trips that are consistently put into OT as being the most “detested” studied more closely, to see if anything can be changed; I agreed to obtain more information on the “locked” trips by base; and we all agreed to come together again, with Lisa joining us, as soon as Lisa’s schedule permits.

**Negotiations Update:** As you all know, the Negotiating Committee (NC) has reached a Tentative Agreement (TA) with Management. They are diligently working to get all of

the language finalized and the document completed for presentation to the Master Executive Council (MEC). They will present the TA to the MEC on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws, the MEC will then vote on whether to bring the TA out to the members for a ratification vote. I know the process seems tedious and long; however, it is imperative that the NC and MEC follow the appropriate steps to ensure we do right by our members.

Remember, in order to have the opportunity to vote on a TA brought forward:

- If you have been on a leave for more than ninety (90) days, you are ineligible to vote unless you have remained active in accordance with [Article II.C.1.b of the C&B](#).
- You must be a member in "Good Standing" (dues current) in order to cast a vote.
- Non-members or agency fee payers are not eligible to vote. Although you will receive the voting instructions with a 16-digit activation code, you will not be allowed to cast your vote.
- **If you have dues or membership issues, please call AFA Membership Services 1-800-424-2401, and then press 7.** (Their office is staffed Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.)

***Remember, it is imperative that you stay informed and involved!!***

In Solidarity,

Becky Strachan, LEC-P