



TEAMSTER AVIATION PROFESSIONAL

Newsletter of the Teamsters Aviation Mechanics Coalition

SPECIAL EDITION



Teamsters File for Election for US Airways Mechanics

On Tuesday May 7, US Airways mechanics and related held a press conference in Charlotte, NC where they announced the Teamsters had filed for a representation election with the National Mediation Board. This is big news for the Teamsters, the TAMC and the mechanics who have been organizing and getting Teamster authorization cards signed since October of last year. After years of weak representation under the IAM, the mechanics are ready to become Teamsters. This filing puts the Teamsters one step closer to representing mechanics at the world's largest airline as US Airways merges with American Airlines.

Meanwhile, the ongoing Teamster campaign by mechanics at AA continues on track. The mechanics expect to join their brothers and sisters at US Airways by filing very soon as well. AA mechanics, who have endured years of concessions under the TWU, have been organizing since June of last year.

"Because of the Teamsters' solid, documented track record of excellent representation, the Teamsters Union is the best and most logical choice to represent us for the future as professionals in the airline industry," Jim Blanton, a 25-year US Airways mechanic, announced at the press event in Charlotte with mechanics and related workers from other airports across the country.

"We have seen what the Teamsters have achieved at other airlines, including United and Continental," said Ted Vallandingham, an inspector at US Airways in Pittsburgh and 29-year employee. "We want a strong union backing us up so that we have a strong voice at work, at the bargaining table and when we have to face off with management."

"I want to congratulate the US Airways mechanics who started this campaign to become Teamsters," said TAMC Chair Chris Moore. "This has truly been a rank-and-file mechanic-led organizing effort. The workers have been

running a phenomenal campaign with the help of the Teamsters Organizing Department, the Airline Division and the TAMC."

Teamsters Airline Division Director David Bourne also congratulated the US Airways mechanics, who launched their campaign last year to seek industry-leading representation with the Teamsters. With more than 4,000 mechanics and related across the country, the workers have been building toward majority support to change their representation from the IAM to the Teamsters. They now have a substantial majority of Teamster cards signed among both active and furloughed mechanics. It is expected that the NMB will hold an election within the next 90 days.

"Today's filing is a big step toward growing the ranks for the TAMC to over 30,000 mechanics," Moore said. "That gives us huge power to fight for the aviation mechanics craft nationwide."

Check out the new Teamsters Airline Division website! www.TeamsterAir.org