



AIR TRANSPORT DISTRICT LODGE 142



September 1, 2014
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2014-102

AMENDED OPENSKIES UPDATE

A meeting was held on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at the OpenSkies office at 2 Park Avenue, NYC to discuss the recently announced name change from “BAEL d/b/a OpenSkies” to OpenSkies. Present at the meeting for the Company were Johann Vivier, Human Resources Director & Tom Sleeman, USA Cabin Crew Manager. Present for the Union were shop stewards Syed Sharif, Francois Bisi and General Chair Mike Manzo.

The Company explained the reasons for the change and cleared up some misinformation that had been circulating concerning the change. The change does not have anything to do with any recent change in French labor law or any change to DGAC regulations. The reasons for the change are as follows:

1) British Airways European Limited (BAEL) was the original holding Company created when OpenSkies was still referred to as Project Lauren. The Company is streamlining their operation and wanted everyone employed by the operating company, OpenSkies. There was no point in having two Companies who employ staff for the same operation. The purpose is to have one company that employs all staff for the same operation.

2) The second potential issue was that staff were hired by BAEL and immediately seconded to OpenSkies. The Company was under the impression that down the road this could or would be looked upon unfavorably by either the French or U.S. labor departments or both, so it was time to change.

The Company stated there is nothing illegal about secondment (The temporary transfer of an official or worker to another position or employment within the Company) but it is usually not done immediately upon hiring.

The Union will be contacting our attorneys to see if it is necessary to create an addendum to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement to modify the sections of the agreement that reference “BAEL d/b/a as OpenSkies”. The name change does not change any of the terms & conditions of the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Johann Vivier has amended the letter the staff will be asked to sign and he will include references to their Collective Bargaining Agreement, the fact that their seniority date-of-hire will remain unchanged, that their staff travel seniority dates will remain unchanged and that OpenSkies is still a subsidiary of British Airways.

The Company is still going through the registration process, in the United States, over the name change, which will be completed closer to the end of the year.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely and fraternally,

Michael Manzo

Michael Manzo
GENERAL CHAIR

MM/slb

cc: S. Pantoja

J. Tiberi

T. Brickner

T. Klima

District Executive Board

opeiu #320

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