

Teamsters to Discuss CAL's Decision to Outsource at Seven Stations

Teamster leaders will have discussions later today with Continental management about the company's announcement Thursday, March 25, that it would be closing seven fleet service stations effective May 31, 2010.

The affected stations are: Greensboro, N.C.; Kansas City, Mo.; Norfolk, Va; Pensacola, Fl.; Providence, R.I.; Richmond, Va.; and St. Louis, Mo. About 150 fleet service employees will be affected.

"Airline Division Attorney Nick Manicone and I are working hard to get as much information out to workers as possible and we will have further discussions with the company today," said Dan Smith, Teamsters Airline Division Representative.

Each of the stations to be closed is staffed by Continental fleet service employees who service Continental Express operations. Continental announced that it would replace its employees at these stations with vendors in an effort to cut costs.

Several hours prior to the public announcement, while employees in the affected stations were first being notified, Mike Bond, Vice President of Labor Relations and Jeff Wall, Senior Director, Labor Relations met with Smith, Robert Rasch, Local 19 President, and Manicone, to announce these changes.

Continental management confirmed that the company would be offering furlough benefits and early retirement options to affected employees. The Teamsters requested to discuss the furlough benefits to be offered, and the company agreed. The parties will meet as soon as possible. Explanations of the benefits to be afforded affected employees should be announced early next week.

Obviously, the Teamsters Union does not agree with the company's decision to close these stations. The union will attempt to secure the best protections possible in this situation. The union will make fleet service employees aware as soon as possible of any further developments, and will work with Continental management to get an explanation of furlough benefits and transfer options to employees as soon as possible.