

CREWMEMBERS

Written by GO Crewmembers, for GO Crewmembers. Email organizers at INFO@IAM141.org.

JetBlue Bids \$3.6 Billion for Spirit; Union Representation Needed Now More than Ever Before



JetBlue management yesterday announced it offered \$3.6 billion to purchase Spirit Airlines. Airline mergers create many uncertainties, especially when workers do not have a contract with legally enforceable language to protect their rights.

JetBlue management will likely make many promises regarding what will happen if this merger with Spirit occurs. Many of these promises will center around how the merger of JetBlue and Spirit will create more competition and how workers will benefit. As history tells us, these promises, made by every airline executive

after a merger, often turn out to be false.

What's at risk for JetBlue Crewmembers? Short answer, everything. Our jobs, wages, benefits and working conditions can be changed at anytime for any reason now and also throughout the merger/acquisition process. And, during a merger/acquisition, management teams often change and promises made are routinely broken.

The only real way to make sure our interests are protected is by unionizing and gaining representation through this process. Once we gain IAM representation, we would enter into legally recognized negotiations to protect what we currently have and then negotiate for more.

In every IAM contract there is strong language to protect the rights of IAM members. Such language mandates that IAM members' contracts are recognized and respected during a merger. Wages, benefits, job protections, seniority and working conditions are completely protected. And, when we are unionized, we would then enter into negotiations to combine workgroups and seek further gains and protections. This has occurred in every merger in which the IAM was the union.

Remember that a-cards are only valid for one year, so if you haven't signed within the last year, renew today. We are making strong progress toward filing for a union election, so don't delay, sign today!

