



BOTTOMLINE

The Official Newsletter for the
Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization/AFSCME
 Division of the Federation of Physicians & Dentists / AHPE

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*Controller Fatigue Still
 Plagues the FAA*

plus

Jerry Sez ...

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along with,

LOCAL NEWS,
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And be sure to check out the
Member Benefit Center
 And put your membership
 dues to work everyday!

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They're Just Now Getting The 'Wake-Up' Call? Why You Need A Union

Message from the Director, Jack Seddon

The FAA is just *now* doing something about keeping the flying public safe? It always amazes me that when something goes wrong in a big way, the powers that be, in this case the FAA, try to fleece us into thinking that it's a new issue and look how fast we fix the problem. Just how stupid do they think we are? Fatigue and sleeping air traffic controllers on the overnight shift has plagued the FAA for decades.

But, the FAA's Randy Babbit only now decides to sacrificial-lamb the head of FAA's Air Traffic Organization, Hank Krakowski, after the most recent string of incidents involving sleeping controllers, declaring, "*We absolutely cannot and will not tolerate sleeping on the job.*" And the government is only now deciding to change the rules governing staffing and hours, with Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood claiming, "*On my watch, controllers will not be paid to take naps.*"

So, effective immediately the FAA and Department of Transportation will place an additional air traffic controller on the midnight shift at 27 control towers around the country that are currently staffed with only one controller during that time. And, they will now be giving an extra hour off between shifts so they don't doze at work. Additionally, a nationwide "Call to Action" has been launched on air traffic control safety and professionalism, along with the FAA's current review of staffing and scheduling issues.

Well, PATCO/AFSCME has been saying all of this all along, making these issues top priority since the 60s. We've always been outspoken about how we believe that the one-person overnight shifts are unsafe, not only for the flying public, but for the controllers themselves. We've had instances where a controller has suffered a heart attack and would not have survived if it weren't for the fact that there was another controller present.

The PATCO/AFSCME membership remains committed to aviation safety and will continue to oppose one-person staffing on any shift. And we will not allow propagandists such as Fox News' Chris Wallace to get away with trying to make it seem as though the unions are to blame for the problem of air traffic controllers falling asleep during their late night shifts. We will not sit back and let Fox News spread their anti-union propaganda unchallenged, as Transportation Secretary LaHood did in his interview last month.

Indeed, PATCO/AFSCME is certainly relieved that the FAA and the government has finally gotten their "wake up call," but what happens on down the road, when the spotlight dims on this issue once again? Will they go back to their old ways because they think the problem's been fixed? Rest assured, PATCO/AFSCME will never sleep on our watch and will always work to reduce the effects of controller fatigue to keep the flying public AND our controllers safe.

MEMBER BENEFIT CENTER



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Planning on sending your kids to college?

Looking for a career?

Need help completing college admission forms?

Start here!

The **Union Plus College Planning Center** is your one-stop education website that has the information you need to find a career, choose a college, university or career school, apply and pay for post-secondary education, then move into the working world.

For easy links to your "Money Saving Member Benefits" visit PATCO/AFSCME's web page at PATCO1199.org

Apply for a **Union Plus Scholarship** with cash awards ranging from \$500 to \$4,000 for undergraduate and graduate students. Union members and their children are eligible.

The 2011 *Union Plus Scholarships* have just been awarded!

The 2012 Union Plus Scholarship application will be available by June 2011. You will be able to download it from the "Money Saving Member Benefits" link on your PATCO/AFSCME web page at PATCO1199.org.



In tough economic times, we could all use a leg up. If you're looking to increase your earning potential, or advance within your union, consider additional training or even a cost-effective degree from the **National Labor College**.

And union members get exclusive discounts on NLC's tuition rates.

Register now for **Unions Skills Classes**.

Visit "Money Saving Member Benefits" at PATCO1199.org for details.

Put Your Membership Dues to Work For You Right Now

Just because you may not be at the bargaining table right now doesn't mean your dues aren't hard at work. Did you know that you and your family can save up to \$3000 per year simply by using your **Union Plus** benefits?

Thanks to the collective buying power of millions of union members, **Union Plus** is able to offer valuable, discounted products and services exclusively for working families.

Start using them today and every day!

The Union SAFE logo features a stylized blue figure holding a shield, with the words 'union SAFE' in blue. Below the logo, the text reads: 'Security. Assistance. Financial Education. Unique benefits for union families at risk.'

Hitting Hard Times?

Union SAFE grants provide a SAFETY NET for union families struggling in today's tough economy.

Visit "Money Saving Member Benefits" at PATCO1199.org

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH DEBT?

You're not alone! Americans are getting deeper and deeper into debt. As a dues paying member, you have resources through our website that can help you identify any problems you might have as well as provide tips and resources to help you take action.

In addition to these resources, eligible union members may apply for **Union SAFE** grant money (which does not need to be repaid) and access *Union Plus* benefits and advice to help combat the problems in today's economy.

For easy links to find out more about "How to Manage Your Debt," visit the *Union Plus Member Benefits* page through your web page at PATCO1199.org



JERRY SEZ ...

Messages from Jerry Tusso, your PATCO/AFSCME National Coordinator

This is the time of year when negotiations with several contractors is really cranking up. PATCO/AFSCME has already had several sessions with Midwest ATC on the tower side, CSR with new NAVY Weather Sites coming on board and Data Monitor Systems with Grissom AFB Ops. PATCO/AFSCME has also had preliminary talks with Condor Reliability. Other contractors will be contacted this month. All of our bargaining units have been very good getting me their requested issues and they will all be put on the table. You can trust that I will be watching the DOL Wage Determination closely over the next several months and as usual, you can expect an increase in Health and Welfare around the middle of June.

As a side note, in the past year or so, most of the contractors have been greatly concerned about the implementation of "Obamacare" and were making some comments about having to take the H & W cash payout to provide mandatory health care. Well, our position was that it's not going to happen and if they wanted to do that, they could just raise the wages to cover it. Now it appears that mandatory coverage is suffering a slow death and is no longer a concern. We don't wish to argue the pros and cons of the health care proposal, we just want to insure that the membership doesn't suffer any financial hardship.

Hang in there!!! Its going to get better!!!



**WELCOME
ABOARD!**
**Navy Weather
Observers Sites
at
Fallon, NV
Key West, FL &
Mayport, FL**

LOCAL NEWS & UPDATES:

Ongoing Negotiations

Over the last several weeks we've seen the Weather Observers currently employed by CSR, Inc. at **Mayport, FL, Key West, FL** and **Fallon, NV** join the ranks of PATCO/AFSCME. In the cases of Mayport, FL and Fallon, NV, wage and benefits have been finalized and discussions are set to begin shortly for Key West, FL.

With respect to *Midwest ATC* negotiations, as always they remain contentious and it is clear that *Midwest* has no intention of bargaining in good faith or in a timely manner. At the request of *Midwest*, PATCO/AFSCME has provided numerous economic incentive and cost of living proposals, yet, they fail to respond. We are once again preparing to file an *Unfair Labor Practice (ULP)* against *Midwest* for its failure to bargain in a timely manner and for its failure to bargain in good faith.

"Sleeping" On The Job

All of our members should be mindful of the "sleeping" issue and ensure that you are not doing so on the job. The FAA is amending the minimum time between shifts for its controllers to nine hours from eight (big deal!), and instituting staffing policies to require two controllers on the mid-shift; interesting, as PATCO fought for such staffing since 1967. That fight continues for contract controllers.

WHAT HEALTH CARE REFORM MEANS FOR YOU

So you're confused about what the new health care law will actually mean for you. Don't feel like reading the more than 2000-page bill yourself? Not sure what's fact and what's a down right lie?

We'll help you sort it all out.

In short, the health care law puts us on a path to provide health care coverage for all Americans, empowers consumers over insurance companies and ensures we are moving to reduce health care costs in the long run. Although there are still battles by some to repeal this health care law, sweeping new policies have been ushering in. Many outlets are trying to tease out what this will mean for the average consumer. We will continue to sift through the many resources that have been providing information about this historic reform so you don't have to. You can now find this information online at our **NEW Resource Center**.

Look for the link to our "NEW Resource Center" by visiting PATCO1199.org and click on "News & Updates," then scroll down toward the bottom of the web page.



Retirement Planning Center

If you're a PATCO/AFSCME dues-paying member/retiree, not only do you have a whole host of money-saving member benefits available to you, you also have access to valuable educational tools that can help plan your life. One such planning tool is the *Union Plus Retirement Planning Site*. **UnionPlusRetirement.org** was created to help union families and individuals learn more about how to begin to prepare for retirement using practical information, tools and links.

So visit **UnionPlusRetirement.org** today and learn how to set your retirement goals, support yourself and your family financially during retirement, make your money last through retirement and protect your family.

Don't Let Scammers Scare You About ObamaCare

Scam #1: Con artists show up at the door claiming the new health care law requires everyone to have insurance (which they happen to sell) or go to jail. DON'T be taken in! Health insurance isn't required until 2014, and you CAN'T be arrested for not having it.

Scam #2: Scammers on the phone say seniors need to provide personal identification (Medicare, Social Security, or bank account numbers) to get a \$250 "donut hole" rebate check. Just hang up! If you qualify for the check, it will be mailed to you automatically.

For more information on how ObamaCare may affect you, visit **UnionPlusRetirement.org** today!

DID YOU KNOW - One in Four Workers Won't Retire On Time. Will You?

For the second straight year, 25% of workers say they expect to retire later than they'd planned. Among the reasons given by those responding to the *2010 Retirement Confidence Survey* conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute:

29 % say, "the poor economy"

22% say, "change in employment situation"

16% say, "they can't afford to retire"

Are you on track for a comfortable retirement? Find out by completing the Union Plus interactive *Retirement Roadmap* at **UnionPlusRetirement.org** today!

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