

TWU NEWSROOM



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Attention aviation, business, labor and Dallas-based reporters and editors

Transport Workers Union and American Airlines File for Federal Mediation after Collapse of Latest Round of Negotiations for Ground Workers

DALLAS – After a week of intensive bargaining and no significant progress toward a contract, the Transport Workers Union (TWU) and American Airlines (AMR) have jointly filed today for federal mediation.

“The company didn’t seem very serious about getting an agreement,” said TWU’s Air Transport Division Director John Conley. “Union negotiators neither ignored the competitive realities that American faces nor ignored the economic fragility of the current environment. We gave them our equivalent of a ‘red tag sale.’ This was a great opportunity for the company to award workers who have sacrificed and to lock in a labor agreement that was both fair and affordable. Next year, if industry analysts are correct in their predictions and profits rise, the price of jet fuel stays low, competition is thin and ticket prices are stable, you can bet the cost of a settlement will be greater.”

“It is our hope that a federal mediator will now move us toward an agreement,” said Conley. “Our members are angry. They have taken deep cuts in pay and benefits, while significantly boosting productivity and new sources of revenue. This airline can’t run without TWU members, but American’s executives wrongly think they can run away from their workers.”

A federal mediator will likely be assigned in before the end of the year by the National Mediation Board (NMB). TWU contracts for ground workers including baggage handlers, flight simulator technicians and instructors became amendable on May 1. Aircraft mechanic and other TWU-represented workers are covered by a separate set of negotiations. TWU represents more AMR employees than any other union.

Transport Workers Union of America (TWU) represents 200,000 workers and retirees, primarily in commercial aviation, public transportation and passenger railroads. More than half the union’s membership works for commercial airlines. The union is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO.