

Hotel Updates



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Chairman, Crew Accommodations Committee*

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The past month has been quite slow in some respects for your committee, but we have been making some progress in a few areas. Many things were affected by the AFA situation, and your committee’s work was no exception.

We have been trying to get some site inspections done and finalize some decisions on cities that we have already inspected. But, it seems everything on the hotel front has been put on hold. We have had two different site inspections canceled because of special projects assigned to the Purchasing Department. As far as I can tell, these projects had nothing to do with securing hotel rooms for our crews. Quite a bit of work has piled up, and it will take time to catch up. It would be nice to see the Purchasing Department let the old Crew Accommodations staff get back out and do the job of investigating hotels for our crews instead of shuffling papers and filling out reports in the office. Hotel accommodations should not be purchased over the phone. We need to inspect the facilities and those that make the visits should have the power to make decisions, not someone in an office who is just looking at the cost of a hotel. With the knowledge that management would do nothing regarding hotels until the AFA contract was settled, we shifted our attention to other areas of responsibility.

One area where things seem to be progressing is crew meals. I had the opportunity to try two of the new meals this month, and I was happy with what was served. Keeping

meals hot seems to be the biggest problem. Company personnel or contract caterers may make deliveries of the meals. While several departments may be involved, I see no reason why hot meals cannot be delivered to our crews in a similar manner as they are to our passengers. We have also considered delivering the meals cold to be heated by the crew. However, not all aircraft have ovens, and this may not be practical due to time constraints. It is my preference not to do this, but we would like your feedback on the subject.

We also had a meeting about getting the computer program fixed (finally) to have the crew meals inserted in the trips where they should be. With your help, it will be easier for us to track the pairings where this is not being done. Please forward pairing numbers to us so we can build a good database.

We have also been tracking the lack of crew room facilities around the system. Orlando has been the biggest complaint generator in this regard. We have quite a few “productivity breaks” there, and what has been provided is totally inadequate. Since this is not handled through the folks in Crew Accommodations, we have seen a bit more action on trying to get this situation addressed. Again, crew feedback is essential to identify the stations where this is a problem.

We were successful in resolving the early van time problem at the long overnight in CMH. The crew van time had been set up one hour and 35 minutes early for the *hotel’s* convenience. That was ridiculous! The general manager of the hotel did this because he didn’t want to bring in

another van driver in the morning. The crew would arrive at the airport over one hour and 15 minutes early with no US Airways personnel on duty. Two things helped us to fix this problem. We received numerous OF-310 forms on the problem, and the general manager left the hotel. We then spoke with the company that manages the hotel about our problem and were able to get the time changed. We are awaiting the arrival of the new general manager, and we will make our position clear regarding the van service. I hope things will be much smoother with the new general manager.

We have also placed more emphasis on quicker replies to the OF-310 forms since the inspection schedule has been slow. At the present time, I've only had two forms to answer mid-March. We still need as much data as possible to improve our hotels system wide.

That is it for this month. It sure seems like everything has come to a standstill while the AFA contract was unsettled. Please continue to fill out the OF-310 forms. When the dust settles, we plan to be back at work on the hotels quickly.

Have a good overnight!



Disapproval List

The Disapproval List has not changed as all action was postponed due to the AFA-management dispute.

DTW long—Site inspection has been completed, and we are awaiting a decision.

EWR long—The contract is up at the end of April. We hope to have inspection trip in early April.

CLE short (Ramada)—Here too, we are waiting for action from management.

IND (Quality Hotel)—The inspection trip we were hoping for has been postponed by management.

TPA long—We were assured that a fix would be forthcoming. This also seems to have been put on the back burner.

Watch List

The Watch List only includes the long CMH hotel previously discussed in this article. Again, we believe we have solved the transportation problem there.

The OF-310 form count for the month was 92. Of those, five were good comments and eight concerned the transportation problem in CHM. Six comments were received regarding crew meals, while four were general in nature and two were on our crew rooms around the system.