

Sam's Update – June 26, 2015

United and AFA have completed the third week of contract negotiations scheduled for June. We will recess for one week and then resume negotiations on July 6. We continue to hold July 23 as the target date for completing a tentative agreement, and we remain focused on reaching a deal that's good for flight attendants and the company.

In my message to you a few weeks ago, I outlined some of the significant challenges we face: combining vastly different agreements and approaches; finding new and common ground among flight attendants who value different things in their contracts; achieving consensus on the costs and benefits of a joint agreement; and ensuring United remains competitive while providing a top-tier package of pay, benefits and working conditions.

All sides feel the stress of facing up to these challenges, and while it's fair to say that we haven't accomplished everything we set out to do over the past few weeks, we will continue to work through the issues in a positive way. We remain committed to reaching agreement by, or relatively soon after, July 23.

Despite the ups and downs that are part of any labor negotiations, we recognize that everyone is doing their best under challenging circumstances. As we move into the more difficult stages of trying to finalize an agreement, it's important to step back from time to time and not lose perspective. While the road may be long and winding, in the end we will reach the right agreement.

We're focused on building a relationship between United and AFA that strengthens, rather than weakens, the ability to forge consensus and reach agreement, and we believe AFA leadership is similarly focused.

Thanks for all you do.

Sam