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News and Updates

United Airlines Teamsters National Negotiating Committee Hones Training Proposal to be Submitted to the Company

The United Airlines Teamsters National Negotiating Committee resumed the tenth round of bargaining with the airline on Wednesday.

As the union waits for the company's response to the initial economic package submitted yesterday, the committee prioritized discussions regarding Letter of Agreement (LOA) #24 –pay for rank-and-file members who serve as Designated Station Trainers (DST's) and On the Job Trainers (OJT's). The Teamsters are calling on United to institute lead pay for full-time DST's and part-time OJT's.

“Teamsters who serve as full-time and part-time trainers play an indispensable role in ensuring the safety of United's passengers. They deserve to have the best pay possible for taking on this crucial responsibility,” said United Airlines Teamsters National Negotiating Committee Chairman Clacy Griswold. “United has a major incentive to make sure rank-and-file trainers are adequately rewarded for this work. The committee is determined to prevent United from exploiting these workers and ensure that technicians have the training they need to keep the flying public safe.”

In addition to fighting for lead pay for trainers, the committee proposed that United limit full-time DST's to 40 hours of training per week to prevent burnout and ensure consistent, high quality training.

“Since trainers are not eligible for overtime pay, the committee wants to ensure that United is not taking advantage of the people responsible for training at stations,” said Patrick Gelato, a technician from Local 19 and member of the negotiating committee. “If United sees a potential need for more training, it should provide more pathways for United Airlines Teamsters to become OJT's and DST's instead of overworking the current membership.”

The final session for this round of bargaining will take place tomorrow, January 16, before negotiations move to San Francisco next week. The committee's thoughts continue to be with United Airlines Teamsters impacted by wildfires in Los Angeles.