



Members of the TWU Organizing Team attended a 3-day Advanced Organizer Training course at the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute. Left to right, Andrea Farwell, Mariluz Ramos, Klarisa Principe, Heather Laverty, Laura Enosara, Leah Weintraub and Angelo Cucuzza.

IFCs BUILDING A BIGGER STRONGER UNION

The Vanguard of Another JetBlue Organizing Campaign

There's strength in numbers.

After fighting successfully to join the Transport Workers Union of America, Inflight Crewmembers at JetBlue are urging Airline Operations and Reservations Agents to follow their example and unionize.

IFCs Leah Weintraub and Abigail Valencia are full-time members of the TWU organizing team, which is led by TWU Special Projects Coordinator Angelo Cucuzza.

More than a dozen JetBlue IFCs also are assisting the effort, serving as campaign volunteers promoting the benefits of unionizing to Operations and Reservations Agents. Those benefits include securing fair pay and job security, and restoring a sense of camaraderie among the workforce.

"I believe all workers should have fair pay and job protection," Valencia told The B6 Flyer. "The 'at will/direct relationship' doesn't work in a company as large as JetBlue anymore. The AO are my brothers and sisters. We built this company together. For a long time, the company has divided us the same way they used to divide flight attendants from the pilots. It's time to take control back and be one strong, united work force."

IFCs voted to join the TWU last year. An elected Negotiation Team, assisted by TWU headquarters in Washington, D.C., is negotiating a contract with JetBlue's management.

IFCs ultimately will elect their own officers, including a president. The goal is for Operations

and Reservations Agents to also form their own Local under the same TWU umbrella.

"To many of us, this company used to feel like one big family, but in recent years management has turned all of us against each other," Weintraub said. "I tell the Operations and Reservations Agents, 'if you vote in TWU, we'd be one big family again. And we'd be stronger together.'"

"Stronger Together" (#StrongerTogether) actually is the slogan of the campaign, which has featured Valencia, Weintraub, Cucuzza and other members of the full-time organizing team (see photos) reaching out to agents as they enter and exit airports across the country.

Management has responded in a typical fashion whenever workers band together to have a greater say in their future and their terms of employment. It spreads lies and uses

scare tactics.

JetBlue wants Operations and Reservations Agents to believe they will lose existing perks, like the ability swap shifts or fly for free, if they unionize. The opposite is true, Cucuzza said. Such benefits will be cemented in legally binding contracts.

"It's a smokescreen thrown up by the company," Cucuzza said. "Every TWU member in the Air Division – that's tens of thousands of men and women in several job titles - still enjoys flight benefits, the ability to swap shifts, and ability to work additional hours. We all have that and have had that for decades."



TWU organizing team members at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport: Leah Weintraub, Mariluz Ramos, Andrea Farwell and Heather Laverty.



TWU Wants You!

The Transport Workers Union of America is looking for JetBlue IFCs to volunteer and help organize JetBlue Airport Operations and Reservations Agents into the TWU family.

Volunteers supplement and assist the efforts of the TWU organizing team, which was put together by TWU International President John Samuelsen, International Administrative Vice President Mike Mayes, and TWU Special Projects Coordinator Angelo Cucuzza.

Team members come from various Locals across TWU's Air Division, the TWU's central headquarters in Washington and developing Locals currently negotiating their first contracts with two companies, Spirit Airlines and JetBlue. (See list of team members and affiliations).

IFCs who are interested in volunteering should contact:

- Angelo Cucuzza, acucuzza@twu.org
- Abigail Valencia, abbyfabbyart@gmail.com
- Leah Weintraub, mailforleah@hotmail.com
- Brendan Moriarty, bmoriarty@twu.org

The TWU JetBlue Organizing Team: Angelo Cucuzza, TWU or America Special Projects Coordinator • Abigail Valencia, JetBlue IFC • Leah Weintraub, JetBlue IFC • Brendan Moriarty, JetBlue IFC • Mariluz Ramos, Spirit Airlines, Passenger Service Agent • Andrea Farwell, Southwest, Flight Attendant, TWU Local 556 • Heather Laverty, TWU Campaign Organizer • Klarisa Principe, Allegiant Flight Attendant, TWU Local 577 • Laura Enosara, American Airlines, Fleet Services, TWU Local 502 • Patti Phillips, Southwest Flight Attendant, TWU Local 556 • Liz Blewitt, Allegiant Flight Attendant, TWU Local 577