

Q&A



TWU International Vice President Thom McDaniel conducted the Peer Observer Training.

Question and Answer Session with International Transport Workers Union Vice President Thom McDaniel, a member of the TWU/JetBlue working group team negotiating the first contract for IFCs with JetBlue

You are moving into the 'economics' part of negotiations. What's the significance of this? What does it demonstrate in terms of the progress of negotiations?

It's the sessions you wait to get to. We negotiated the vast majority on non-economic items, and now we will enter into negotiations on what the economics areas of the contract cost and what improvements we can negotiate into these economic areas that our members will see in their paychecks. It's just beginning of most critical phase of negotiations and hopefully we can reach agreement sooner than later.

Question: What are some of the economic issues that will be covered in this phase?

Wage rates, raises, language pay, training pay, duty-day protections, sick pay, vacation pay and other non-compensation items like per diem, uniforms, and other expenses.

Question: Is this typically the most difficult stage?

It depends on the carrier. At the end of the day, it's just numbers. It should be easiest part, but both sides have to come together and agree on what the fair numbers are.

Question: Does this mean you are close to a deal?

It means we are closer to a deal. We can't come to a final deal until the economics are done, and we can't do the economics until we get through all the other parts of the contract. This is always the last part of the contract. We

The TWU/JetBlue IFC contract Negotiations Team is conducting a survey of Inflight Crewmembers as it enters the final phase of bargaining with the company. The survey will help the Negotiating Team set priorities on the many economic issues to be dealt with at the negotiating table.

If you did not get an email inviting you to participate in the survey, you must register. Go to the Contact Us option on the drop-down menu of the working group's official website: b6.twu.org

Survey Closes on Friday, February 7 at Noon, EST

have moved along pretty well. We're glad to be at this point and that's why we are looking for feedback from the members to see what their economic priorities are.

Question: What is your broad goal at this stage of negotiations?

Our goal is to bring JetBlue IFCs up to industry standards in every area, including wage rates. Our goal is to secure a fair contract that matches the industry and recognizes the contribution employees have made towards JetBlue's success. We intend to go in there with realistic proposals that are based on the rest of the industry to make sure JetBlue IFCs are being compared to their peers.

Question: How many years will this contract cover? Two years? Three? Four?

The duration of the contract will be part of the economic negotiations.

Question: What do you say IFCs who are eager to get their first-ever contract and feel this is taking a long time?

It's been 18 months. The first contract always take longer than the contracts that come after that because you have to build it from the bottom up. You have to build the foundation. After the first contract, you have the foundation and the language, and you only change things that aren't working and need improvement. We've made faster progress than usual on this contract and we're hoping we can continue that going forward through the economics.

