

## Support Grows for Continental Ramp Drive



*IAM-represented Flight Attendants at Continental Airlines (CAL) are working together with CAL Ramp workers to win representation for the 7,500-member unit. Left to right: CAL Ramp workers Mitchell Buckley, Jamie Herrera, Harrison Owens (Flight Attendant) and Jerome Richards.*

The 7,500 Ramp workers at Continental Airlines (CAL) are getting help in their bid to win collective bargaining rights and a voice on the job. At major hub locations in Newark and Houston, IAM-represented CAL Flight Attendants are explaining the benefits of a lawful, binding union contract.

"The simple fact is that

IAM representation gives you rights on the job you can't get any other way," said Rosalie Canton, a 38-year Flight Attendant and member of Local 2339H in Houston, TX.

"Without a contract, work rules, pension benefits and pay schedules can all be changed without notice. In an industry as volatile as ours, it's crazy to

expect a company to honor commitments that aren't in writing."

In Newark, NJ, CAL Ramp workers welcomed the Flight Attendants' support.

"A successful organizing drive would be good for the Ramp workers and good for the Flight Attendants," said Jamie Herrera, a 17-year Ramp worker at Newark. "We may work in different environments, but we should be on the same side of the table when it comes to protecting the jobs and careers we've built with this airline."

## Amtrak Negotiations Inch Forward

After more than seven years of negotiations, the IAM continues to press the National Mediation Board (NMB) for a release from mediated negotiations.

"Amtrak management has proposed totally unacceptable concessions," said Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr. "A release is long overdue."

Under the NMB rules that govern rail and airline negotiations, a release signals the end of mediated negotiations and the start of a 30-day countdown. If no agreement is reached during that

time, the union would be free to strike unless President Bush intervenes and appoints a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB).

A PEB would trigger an additional 30 days to investigate the dispute and issue its non-binding settlement recommendations. After the PEB reports to the President, both sides have a second 30-day cooling-off period to consider the PEB's recommendations.

"We are fully prepared for a Presidential Emergency Board," said GVP Roach. "Our attorneys and economists are

primed to defend the positions our negotiators have taken at the bargaining table."



*Amtrak workers have been waiting more than seven years for a new contract and are pressing for a release from mediated negotiations.*