

SARA NELSON

International President

Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO

Sara Nelson has served as the International President of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO since 2014, and she is currently serving her second four year term. She first became a union member in 1996 when she was hired as a Flight Attendant at United Airlines and today she represents nearly 50,000 of aviation's first responders at 17 airlines. The New York Times called her "America's most powerful flight attendant" for her role in helping to end the 35-day Government Shutdown and InStyle Magazine placed her on their 2019 Top 50 Badass Women list.

When COVID-19 decimated the airline industry this spring, Sara fought to secure the Payroll Support Program (PSP), the federal payroll grants that kept aviation workers employed and connected to healthcare during the coronavirus pandemic while banning stock buybacks and capping executive compensation through March 31, 2021. She also served on the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force as co-chair of the Economy Task Force with Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), during the 2020 Presidential Election.

Sara has served as a leading voice on issues facing women in the workplace and across the country, encouraging women everywhere to "Join Unions, Run Unions." In addition to the New York Times, CBS Sunday Morning, The Nation, The New Republic, Cosmopolitan Magazine, Salon, and PBS Newshour have featured her work.

Sara is passionate about AFA's continued mission to achieve fair compensation, job security, and improved quality of life for aviation's first responders as well as a safe, healthy and secure aircraft cabin for passengers and crew alike. She believes Flight Attendants can play a pivotal role in strengthening the Labor Movement with more public contact than almost any other job and access to every corner of the earth.

Sara grew up in Corvallis, Oregon and earned a bachelor's degree from Principia College with majors in English and Education. She resides in the DC area with her husband, David Borer and son Jack.