

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 50,000 of aviation's first responders at 20 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.

Sara led AFA's efforts to achieve eighteen legislative victories in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, including achieving a two hour increase in minimum legal rest for Flight Attendants and other efforts to combat fatigue on the job. Before that, she led the 90-day campaign to reverse national security policy to keep knives and other weapons off planes. She also crafted the campaign for "100,00 Eyes in the Skies," which successfully resulted in mandatory training for Flight Attendants to recognize and report human trafficking.

Sara has served as a leading voice on issues facing women in the workplace (NewsHour piece) 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.