



# MEC NEWSLETTER

June 15, 2022



## CONGRATULATIONS LEA!

We'd like to introduce you to our newest Master Executive Council (MEC) Secretary-Treasurer Lea Sekimoto. The start of her position began on June 10, 2022 and will serve for the remainder of the MEC Officer term until June 30, 2023.

Lea has been with Hawaiian Airlines since 2005, she began in our Reservations department and in 2006, she became an HNL based Flight Attendant.

Lea has been interested and active in learning about our Union and Contract. She recently got married in Nevada, where she has been commuting from for the last 10 years. Lea enjoys hiking and one of her favorites spots to hike is Havasu Falls.



Reference: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Juneteenth>

Juneteenth, official name of federal holiday Juneteenth National Independence Day, also called Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Black Independence Day, and Juneteenth Independence Day, holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, observed annually on June 19. Juneteenth is celebrated on Sunday, June 19, 2022.

In 1863, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared more than three million slaves living in the Confederate states to be free. Celebrations of freedom have continued across the United States into the 21st century and typically include prayer and religious services, speeches, educational events, family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with music, food, and dancing.



June 19, 2022

"A Father's love is forever imprinted on his child's heart."

Jennifer Williamson



AFA Staff Attorney Richard Wrede is in town to assist the Hawaiian MEC this week with specific cases to ensure the contractual and legal rights of our Flight Attendant members under federal law, provide legal, strategic and policy advice for the exclusive goal of enhancing our Flight Attendant profession.

Through grievances and mediation, AFA attorneys ensure that the language in our contracts is applied as was intended in negotiations. We commit to working hard and following through with all that needs to be done.



### AFA POLITICAL BOOTCAMP

I was excited and honored to finally be able to attend the in-person AFA Government Affairs Bootcamp June 6-8th in Chicago, IL and be present among motivated individuals representing different age groups, seniority status, airline carriers and backgrounds (racially, culturally, and professionally).

I was reminded of the incredible power we have not only as individuals, but collectively when fighting for the same cause: our protections and initiatives as Flight Attendants. Although the days were long, filled with information about union history and power, mobilization, and the importance of the labor movement I could not have imagined a better way to fuel and prepare me to continue alongside Rick Schwabauer (MEC Government Affairs Committee Chair) in informing our flight attendant group about the happenings on Capitol Hill which directly affect us and our work group. Most importantly, we touched on FlightPAC, the many initiatives and protections we have been able to secure because of it (most recently PSP saving many of our jobs here at Hawaiian Airlines- including mine) and the need to strengthen and continue our contributions to FlightPAC in order to have our voice heard in Washington D.C. when no one else will.

The saying: "It's better to legislate so we don't have to negotiate" really hit home at the end of this training after being able to see how far we have come and how much further we have to go as a workgroup and union. After connecting with those in attendance I was reminded that this is OUR union, to be proud of it and that everyone has something to give. Whether one has one year of service or 55, there is a place for us all and a way for us to make a positive impact; I encourage us all to take an active role in staying informed and participating in our union.

Written by: MEC Government Affairs Member Bruni

As always please submit any questions to the AFA Questions Form link: [TinyUrl.com/AFAQuestionForm](https://tinyurl.com/AFAQuestionForm)

In Unity,

Chasity Theno, Melissa Teshima and Lea Sekimoto