



May 4, 2022

Dear Flight Attendants,

**Celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month**



AFA is proud to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month in May, an annual national observance celebrating the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

While we celebrate the contributions of trailblazers, this month is not just a time to highlight history – we must take on racism, poverty and inequality today to make lasting change. That starts in our union, in our industry and our country.

In 2020, COVID-19 forced the world into an unprecedented, ongoing emergency – and hate against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities rose exponentially during the pandemic, stemming from racist rhetoric surrounding the origination of COVID. Between March 2020 and December 2021 there have been nearly 11,000 reported hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, according to a [report published](#) by Stop AAPI Hate.

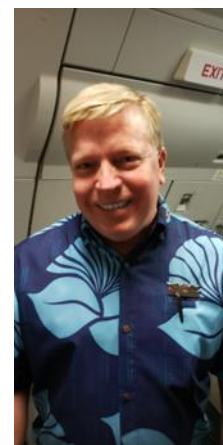
This year, our union has developed an AAPI pin. Local Councils will receive and distribute these pins. Diversity and Inclusion pins were a concept put forward by AFA members through AFA structure. We now have a PRIDE pin, a Black History Month pin, Black Lives Matter pin, and AAPI pin. This year, we will also introduce a Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month Pin, and Native American pin. We expect to hear from additional members who want to celebrate our diverse history, and we will take similar action when we do.

**MEC Hotel & Transportation Committee Chair Matt Mitchell**

This week we are featuring our MEC Hotel & Transportation Committee Chair Matt Mitchell. Matt has been flying for 37 years and his favorite destination is Sydney – a beautiful city with friendly people and a great variety of food and drink. For the past several years, Matt has been commuting back and forth between Hawaii and Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. He recently purchased a home and has plans to retire there when his flying career is finished.

Many years ago, Matt read a Union notice announcing upcoming elections for MEC committee chairpersons and felt he could make a positive contribution. He applied for the position, was elected as the Hotel & Transportation Committee Chair and the rest is history!

The Hawaiian Airlines Hotel Committee is made up of several people from different groups and departments. There are two management representatives, Jon Baron from Inflight, along with Kyle Thompson from Flight Division. Will Davis, an A321 Neo Captain is the pilot union (ALPA) representative and Matt represents our Flight Attendant group. Please call, text, or send messages via WhatsApp 1-808-782-4749. You can also email at: [hawaiianhotelmec@yahoo.com](mailto:hawaiianhotelmec@yahoo.com). He can also be reached via Facebook Messenger.



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

In Unity,

Joni, Scott and Chasity

[AFA-CWA Mutual Respect Policy](#)