Captain Jonathan L. Weaks is the president of the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association (SWAPA). In the fall of 2018, he was elected president for the 2019-2020 term making it the third consecutive time he has been elected to serve his fellow pilots.

Captain Weaks, 58, was born in Plainview, Texas and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance with an emphasis in investments from Texas Tech University.

He holds an FAA Airline Transport Pilot License with Boeing 737, Boeing 727, CE-500 and Lear Jet type ratings. He is a Certified Flight Instructor (single engine, multi-engine, instrument) and has a glider rating.

Coming from an all-civilian background, Weaks began employment with Southwest Airlines in 1990. His service of SWAPA began when he was first elected in 1997 to serve as the union’s Oakland Domicile Representative and a member of the SWAPA Board of Directors for the 1998-1999 term. Then, in 2000, he was elected to serve as SWAPA President for the 2001-2002 term. During his first term as president of SWAPA, Weaks guided the organization through the retirement of Southwest founder and CEO Herb Kelleher while negotiating what became an unprecedented side letter in the middle of a 10-year pilot contract.

More recently, Weaks was elected to serve as the union’s Las Vegas Domicile Representative and a member of the SWAPA Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 term. After the resignation of the union president in late 2015, Weaks ran unopposed to fill the unexpired term of his predecessor. He was elected with 97 percent of the vote. He again ran unopposed for the 2017-2018 term in the fall of 2016 and was elected by 98.5 percent of the membership vote.

After his election in 2016, Weaks transformed the organization in record time, earning the highest approval ratings SWAPA leadership had ever received from its membership. He led SWAPA in their first-ever picketing events, which included the largest single-day picket in commercial aviation history when 1,000 SWAPA pilots picketed Southwest Airlines’ home at Dallas Love Field. The following day, the union reached an agreement-in-principle on a new contract with the airline after four contentious years of negotiations. The new contract was passed by the SWAPA membership with 84 percent support – the largest margin in SWAPA history.

Jon and his wife, Dawn, live in Zephyr Cove, Nevada. He has a daughter, a stepdaughter, and a stepson who is serving in the U.S. Navy, as well as three rescue dogs and two rescue cats. The family devotes much of their spare time to animal rescue efforts.