

Kiwi Kaleidoscope

The National Newsletter for Members of The Kiwi Club of American Airlines

Editor & Art: Mary Richter Thrasher
thekiwiclub@comcast.net

Assistant Editor: Jane McDonald Jamison
Jmj1157@aol.com

Stephanie McCauley Butler
President

Term 2022-2024
September 2023 #4

The winter months will fly by once the holidays have come and gone. Spring will be welcomed! And what better place can you be than in the South and in beautiful Savannah, GA. Team Savannah is working hard to bring you the best convention ever! There will be kiwi business to tend to but lots of opportunity to be with our kiwi friends, former roommates, and flying partners. There will be cocktail, restaurants, and shopping galore in the hotel and within walking distance. There will be kiwis everywhere! There will be induction of the new national officers. Of course, we will have our money-making Silent Auction and sale of Kiwi cast-offs that has brought in over \$10,000 since 2014. Make sure you are there to enjoy the hospitality that Savannah is known for. **Please make your hotel reservations now for April 23, 24, 25, 2024.** See **Convention Bits & Pieces** for special news!



Team Savannah

Casey Cacioppo Bode-Hospitality Chair, Golden Gate

Connie Leighliter Budge-Savannah Specialist, Low Country

Eileen Vacquilar Clifford-Optional Event Chair, Long Island

Maureen Dormin DiCola-Dining Decorations Chair, Atlanta, O'Hare

Polly Toll Goodman-National Meeting Site Coordinator, Los Angeles

Jane Fullen Haag-Opportunity Chair, Invocation, O'Hare

Jo Sharp McFadden-Welcome Reception Co-Chair, Denver, Oklahoma City

Kay Middleton-Reservations Chair, Golden Gate

Christine Strommer Moeckel, Boutique Chair, Uniform Special Auction, Atlanta

Kim White Peterson-50th Anniversary Celebration Chair, Los Angeles

Cindi Youts Sanders-Memorabilia, Silent Auction Chair, Anaheim, San Diego

Paula Brodnick Schmickrath, Hospitality Co-Chair, Nashville

Mary Richter Thrasher-Reunion Keepsake, Logo, O'Hare

Caroline Ballachey Womack-Convention Chair, Golden Gate, Nashville



A Message from Your President



Greetings Kiwis,
Convention 2024 “Savannah Sojourn” is what I want to share with you. Our convention chairperson **Caroline Ballachey Womack**, and her committee have put together a wonderful schedule of events during convention week. You will find all convention information on our website thekiwiclub.org under the link convention. You won’t want to miss this event in beautiful Savannah, GA. **Jill Richey Rohan**, Kiwi Website Hostess, has done a fantastic job on our website concerning convention and other information you may need.

During the fall months The Kiwi Club focuses on our National Endeavor, The Wings Foundation. We ask every member to donate what they can to WINGS. As of January 2022, The Kiwi Club has donated over \$660,000 to this great foundation. Let us make this a banner year in the most we can give! National Treasurer, **Melissa Williams McGrath**, thekiwiclubmelissa@gmail.com will accept your donation along with the form that needs to accompany it. You can find the form on our website (thekiwiclub.com) under the link “Business” then “Forms.”

I would like every member to consider what it to keep our organization moving forward, vital, and active. It is you the members, your ideas, your time, and commitment you give to Kiwis. Every member has talents to share in serving on the local or national board. There are plenty of members that will offer support and guidance if needed should you decide to take a position on either board. In closing I thank you for your membership and support.

Stephanie McCauley Butler



Tersea Knight Bailey-MAL
Molly Boyd-MAL
Sherry Warchol Brooks-O’Hare
Dixie Casey-MAL
Marsha DeSanzo McConnell-MAL
Lynne Sterner Focht-MAL
Mark Ford-MAL
Steve Haas-Club EWR
Carolyn Freese Havens-ATL
Janis Hutchens-MAL
Mindy Kammeyer-ATL
Debra Marquis-MAL

Elizabeth McCauley-MAL
Susan McKee-MAL
Cynthia Meier-MAL
Diane Griswold Palmer-MAL
Barbara Greif Petraca-MAL
Kathy Murphy Pieri-O’Hare
Marguerite G. Sensoli-O’Hare
Margaret Somerville-MAL
Nancy Spector-MAL
Julie St. John Stracher-ATL
Robin Stoe-ATL
Barbara Wallace-MAL

A Little Housekeeping...



If you have moved or changed your email address, please inform our National 2nd Vice President, **Connie Leighliter Budge** (kiwiclb@aol.com) of any changes. If you are a “snowbird” please make sure we have your current address. Convention packets will be mailed in January, and we want to make sure you get yours!

On a sad note. Please inform the National 2nd Vice President of any deaths within The Kiwi Club. We want to be sure that her/his name is added to our “Flown West” column.

Haka!



Have you ever seen anything so cute? Those beady black eyes, the hairy snout, the dull brown feathers? **HE'S ADORABLE!** **Haka** is a real live Kiwi taken care of by the Columbus Zoo. Kiwi Keepers tend to his every need. For one, they keep a level of 3 feet of dirt in his home (40 bags and each bag is sifted to keep him from injury) and an ample supply of worms for him to find. I hear that **Haka** has been enjoying his new habitat. Apparently, he is exploring and probing more than usual. He spends time in his hollow logs, and the Kiwi Keepers are always looking for new ways to redesign his home to keep him busy and active. Would you like to donate (adoption) to **Haka's** care? Keep him in tasty, fat worms? The **Atlanta Chapter**

and the **O'Hare Chapter** have stepped up with a check to the Columbus Zoo (that I am aware of) that will go directly to his care and well-being. Chapters and kiwis send a bit of money (any amount is appreciated) for our “namesake” **kiwi**. Let me know that you helped keep our little guy in worms and I'll add you to my list. Send a check (tax deductible) made out to Columbus Zoo & Aquarium to:

**Stephanie Johnson 4850 West Powell Road.
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
P.O. Box 400, Powell, Ohio 43065**

New Zealand: United in Rage over American kiwi abuse (by Verity Johnson-The Week Magazine)

“The kiwi isn't our national bird, it's our national baby” said Verity Johnson. That's why New Zealanders “let out a howl of maternal fury” after seeing Americans manhandling one of the flightless birds at Zoo Miami. The video showed the “Kiwi Encounter” a moneymaker for the zoo in which certain zoogoers pay extra for the opportunity to pat Paora, a male hatched in 2019. As every New Zealander knows, endangered kiwis are shy, nocturnal creatures. Seeing Paora being kept awake in the daytime, trying to hide his poor face from the florescent lights as strangers pawed at him, united the nation in “immediate incendiary rage.” A petition to rescue Paora quickly attracted over 10,000 signatures and even **Prime Minster Chris Hipkins** weighed in saying what they were doing “wasn't appropriate, wasn't right, wasn't fair to the kiwi.” Zoo Miami was forced to apologize and has now ended Kiwi Encounter, but many of us are now wondering whether we should allow foreign zoos keep Kiwis at all. This obsession with our “fat, flightless, dung-colored pom-pom” of a national bird may seem odd to outsiders, but then, our island nation has no native land mammals besides bats. “New Zealand is a country of crazy bird ladies.” **Editors Note:** We don't think they're crazy!

Convention Bits & Pieces

Silent Auction

Treasured uniforms and hats among kiwis are most likely rare. Never suspecting that when we got older, we might want to have at least a few pieces from our “glory” days. Well, your regrets may turn into happiness! A donor has generously given up six full flight attendant uniforms, and they will be included in the convention Silent Auction. It’s rare to be able to get a uniform back that has been so important to each of us.



In addition, there is an actual piece of American Airlines aircraft fuselage, including the window and part of the lettering donated to the auction. All will be displayed in the Hospitality Suite

More information on what uniforms will be up for auction will come via this newsletter-Stay tuned!

Prize Opportunity Tickets

Once again **American Airlines** has extended a helping hand with convention expense with **AAdvantage Miles**. The tickets are \$10.00 each and each Kiwi will receive 8 tickets. 1st Prize 200,000 **AAdvantage Miles**, 2nd Prize 100,000 **AAdvantage Miles**, 3rd Prize 50,000 **AAdvantage**

Miles. Winners need not be present to win. Winnings deposited in American Airlines AAdvantage Account. Drawing will be held April 24, 2024.

Please make checks **payable to The Kiwi Club**.

Classes of 1973-74

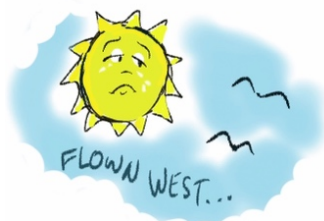
A planned celebration is for those Kiwis celebrating their 50th (73/74 classes) anniversary. **Kim White Peterson** is chair for the reunion, and she is looking for photos of early 70’s flying. Photos of aircraft (707,727, 747, DC10) aircraft interiors, inflight service, operations, layover hotels, airport terminals. Photos need to be a jpeg or a PDF. Start digging around and find your graduation photos and memorabilia for a display in Hospitality. Send your information to Kim at LAXkiwiclub@gmail.com.

Silent Auction

Time to clean out those Kiwi or AA items you are ready to pass on. Your donations will direct your possessions to a new home and raise money for the National Kiwi Fund (NKF) and WINGS. Please email a picture of the items that you wish to donate either bringing or sending with another Kiwi to **Cindi Youts Sanders** (cindisanderskiwi@gmail.com). A perfect combination-clean out those shelves and raise money!

National Board

Have you considered running for the national board? All positions are open (except for president). The National Board works as a team to bring the best possible experience to the members of The Kiwi Club. From leadership to communication, every position is important. We need a Webmaster beginning May 2024. Responsibilities include implement updates to keep contents fresh and relevant. Utilize the WIX platform, (known for easy user interface). Not familiar? It’s easy, intuitive, and simple to master. Previous web management not necessary, but your enthusiasm and willingness to serve is important. If you are interested or require more information, contact **Jill Richey Rohan** (kiwiwebhostess@gmail.com).



Joe Angelini-Long Island Chapter, Ginny Smith Dreher-Florida Gulf Coast, Ruth Paul Gibson-Dallas, Nancy Wrobel Hare-O’Hare Chapter, Kathleen Harrington-Florida Gulf Coast, Kitty Gross Hobbs-Nashville Chapter, Ester Moore-Dallas Chapter, Jane Meyer Reilly-Denver Chapter, Edith Swann, Deborah Smith Szymanski-O’Hare Chapter