

# *Kiwi Kaleidoscope*

*The National Newsletter for Stewardess/Flight Attendants of American Airlines*

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## **Kiwi Convention 2026 San Antonio**

**April 29-May 1**

This is a convention that you don't want to miss! Wonderful happenings are on the schedule. The highlight is our guest speaker at the opening luncheon—**Captain Bev** of 9/11 fame. The play **Come From Away** debuted in 2015 and is a continuing smash hit currently touring the country. If you have the opportunity to see it-go!

In January I, (your editor) attended the Kiwi National Board Meeting in **San Antonio**. It was a quick stay, but much was accomplished. Board meeting, a hotel “walk-through,” and a comprehensive update from our convention chairman **Sherri Lowe**.

**Rooms:** Your individual room is a suite. It contains a living room, bath, and bedroom in that order. Your bedroom has a large window that provides lots of sunlight. The bedroom and living room have large screen televisions. There is also a writing desk and very large sofa. What I loved the most was in between the bedroom and living room was a large raised “desk like” surface with coffee maker and plenty of room for spreading out your makeup, beverages, and snacks! Opposite is a very large bathroom. Gratefully there are plenty of outlets for our multitude of devices.



**Dining:** On the lower level there is a small restaurant for breakfast and lunch, but you have a large variety of restaurants on the **River Walk**. There is a very large bar (lower level) where we birds love to gather for refreshment, conversation, laughter, and lots of catching up!

**To-do:** Check your brochures in your welcome bag when you arrive at the Kiwi registration desk for things to do and see in **San Antonio**. If you need more information on hotel amenities check out the Contessa Hotel on the Internet.

The **River Walk** is at your feet. Wonderful restaurants, bars, and shopping. You must take the boat ride (ask for the senior discount) to appreciate the beauty and thought that went into the River Walk's creation.

Very important: There is a Walgreens and CVS in walkable distance for your adult beverages, snacks and aspirin. Come to convention!

Any form that you need is on The Kiwi Club website: [www.thekiwiclub.org](http://www.thekiwiclub.org) such as registration (chapter or individual) to participate in Boutique. The deadline is March 9<sup>th</sup>. Convention Registration deadline: April 10<sup>th</sup>

***Time is growing short, make sure you have your hotel and air reservations***

**Sherri's** convention team is working hard to bring you a first-class convention. You will be "wowed" by the detail they have put into each event. Working hard is what Kiwis do-and this team is exceptional. When you see these Kiwis, please thank them for their hard work.

**Contessa Captain: Sherri Engle Lowe** (HOU),  
**Flight Planning: Logistics &Details, Kathy Joy Minner** (MAL)  
**National Meeting Site Coordinator: Stephanie McCauley Butler** (ORD),  
**Convention Treasurer: Polly Toll Goodman** (LAX),  
**Art Design & Logo: Mary Richter Thrasher** (ORD),  
**Web Hostess & Convention App: Jill Richey Rohan** (ATL),  
**Communications Proofing Liaison: Jane McDonald Jamison** (MEM),  
**AA Advantage Miles Prize: Jane Fullen Haag** (ORD)  
**Registration, Database & Banquet Seating: Kay Middleton** (Golden Gate),  
**Welcome/Check in Desk: Lisa Nelson Sgamboti** (Carefree),  
**Boutique, Auction, Uniform, Wings: Chris Strommer Moekel** (ATL), **Sam Gooch** (BNA Music City),  
**Hospitality: Paula Brodnick Schmickrath** (BNA Music City), **Connie Nemes** (SW Florida),  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coordinator: Millie Amadeo Rusak** (ORD),  
**Optional Event: Sherri Lowe, Kathy Minner, Kathy Schmidt Kuzminski** ,  
**Advisors: Polly Toll Goodman, Caroline Ballachey Womack** (Golden Gate)

**Standby Crew:**

**Jo Sharp Mc Fadden** (Den, OKC),  
**Susie Beers Clark** (DCA), **Linda Sterlacci** (DCA),  
**Connie Leighlighter Budge** (Low Country),  
**Keryl Ball** (SW Florida),  
**Eileen Pearson** (SW Florida),  
**Kay Sutter** (SW Florida).  
Members of the National Board: **Vicki, Linda, Kathy, Anne, Melissa, Stephanie, and Sam**  
*And others who do not wish to be named. **Fabulous Talent=Fabulous Convention***

## ***A Message from your president ... Vicki Valenciano Kubal***



This is February, the month of LOVE. The Kiwi Club is all about loving their neighbors and working towards helping others. Our members are truly dedicated to assisting other kiwis whenever and wherever we can. Send me your request for assistance and I will forward it to the proper department for review.

Convention is getting closer, the hotel is booking up. Your hotel packet that arrived by mail has all the details. Fill out the forms and mail them today.

Thank you to our members for your dedication, and welcome to those visiting our site. We look forward to a year filled with connection, service, and shared experiences.

## **A message from Jane Haag...**

I have mailed the opportunity tickets to all Chapter Presidents and MAL Coordinator. This is The Kiwi Club's fundraiser, which is held before Convention, so that we can have the drawing at the final night banquet. All non-profit organizations hold fundraisers, and The Kiwi Club is no different.

American Airlines graciously donates AA Advantage Miles to help us raise funds for all our endeavors. We invite you to participate by selling or buying tickets. Everyone gets excited at the opportunity to win miles! So please participate and mail your ticket stubs and checks to: Jane Fullen Haag, 18816 Oxbow Drive, Marengo, IL 60152. See you in **San Antonio!**

## **MAL CORNER: Greetings Members At Large!**

### **Linda Hessler Radke 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

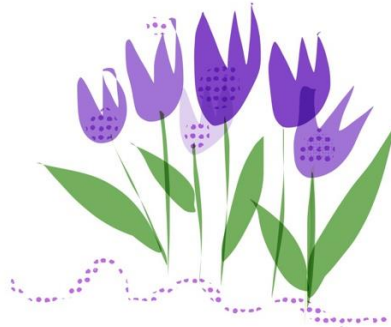
It's always amazing how quickly the year moves along. No matter the season, it's a wonderful reminder to celebrate friendship, kindness, and the special connections we share as Kiwis. Whether life feels busy or beautifully calm, I hope you're finding moments to bring a smile to your face.

One of the things I treasure most about our organization is how we span the whole country-from sunny skies to blustery days and everything in between. No matter where you call home, please know that you're thought of often and appreciated for the unique spirit you bring to our Kiwi family.



Looking ahead, Convention is getting closer and closer-and it's shaping up to be fantastic! If you are planning to attend, or even considering it, I'd love to know. The excitement is building, and it's always wonderful to see familiar faces and make new connections.

And of course, Happy Birthday to all our Kiwis celebrating this month! May your days be filled with joy, good health, and a little extra celebration. Stay safe, stay connected and most of all, stay Kiwi-strong.



**Flown West** Julianna **Lipshy**, Glenna **Bragiel**- O'Hare Chapter, Bettye Jo Beeson **Betts**-Atlanta Chapter, Rebecca Hitchcock **Rogers**-TUL Chapter, Dee Van Hoy **Grinnell**-LAX Chapter, Jerry Ann Wheatley **Piontkowski**-MAL, Dorothy (Dottie) **Gough**-SW Florida, Janice Dee **Carletti**-MAL, Jeanne Wightman **Lyons**-South Bay Chapter, Patricia Ann **Fitzgerald**-DCA Chapter, Katherine (Kathy) Clements **Crandall**, Mario Thomas **Pedano**-DFW Mid-Cities, Connie **Clark**-South Bay, Eileen Vaquilar **Clifford**-Long Island Chapter, Diana (Dee) Kay Devotie **Reddington**-Louisville Chapter, Barbara Damon **Olszewski**-Long Island, Barbara Stulginki **Rich**-Nashville Music City, Colleen **Maley** Hughs-LAX Chapter, Vel Lynne **Morgan**-South Bay Chapter, Laura Schaub **Brenen**.

Janice Marcell Zinno **Allen**, Sandy Marlowe **Gardner**, Vivian Fitzgerald Kiley-Orange County-Long Beach Chapter, Susan Marie **Cycon**. **And our special friend Michael Engler**

*Rest in Peace*

This is what Kiwis are all about...fun, laughter and lifelong friendships!



O'Hare Chapter



**Think Spring!**