

# Kiwi Kaleidoscope

The National Newsletter for Members of The Kiwi Club of American Airlines  
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## A Message from Your President

### Welcome to Spring!

Our website has our beloved National Secretary **Eileen Clifford**'s family mailing address for sympathy cards to her family. We lost Eileen on February 20<sup>th</sup> and it still doesn't seem real.

*Rest in Peace Eileen...*



**Sherri Engle Lowe**, our convention chairman and her activity chairmen are busy preparing for our 2026 national convention at the Contessa Hotel on the Riverwalk, San Antonio. Only one year to go. Start rounding up your friends and mark those calendars (April 30-May 1). Can't wait to see you there. Come and say hi and chat with me.

If you are considering running for national office, go to our national website ([www.thekiwiclub.org](http://www.thekiwiclub.org)) and read officer duties and how to volunteer.

Let's now look forward to all the positive aspects of being a Kiwi and how you are making a difference locally and nationally.

*Vicki*



### Great News!

We are happy to announce the new national secretary for the remainder of the 2024-2026 term: **Anne Marchesano Elfant**. Anne brings a wealth of experience to our board. She recently retired after 27 years as a flight attendant and is a proud member of the Long Island Chapter. Over the past 20 years she has been deeply involved with the WINGS Foundation serving as a past president, vice president and case worker. We welcome her to the national board and look forward to her contributions.

## Time to start thinking of Kiwi Convention 2026!

### Fiesta Flight Royale-Nacho Ordinary Convention

Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> with pre-events of fun beginning April 28<sup>th</sup>

#### Saucy San Antonio!

By Sherri Engle Lowe, Convention Chairman



In little over a year from now Kiwis everywhere will be packing their bags to head for Texas to celebrate our 36<sup>th</sup> biannual Kiwi Convention. San Antonio is an inviting, accessible, warm, and friendly city rich in colonial heritage and hospitality. With its colorful personality forged across three centuries blending the best of Texas and Mexican cultures. Something for everyone. From art lover's mecca with street art, to museums, and galleries showing artifacts, to mission churches dating back to the 1700's to the iconic Alamo and

tower of the Americas. Delightful LA Villita Historic Village to the beloved Riverwalk-the scenic and winding waterway described as 'landmark pedestrian promenade' lined with shops, charming cafés, and beautiful appointed hotels. The Hotel Contessa Suites on the Riverwalk will await your arrival as you prepare your imagination for a round trip first class 'royal flight' experience aboard the Contessa. Your fantastic flight crew is already hard at work on an amazing flight plan and cannot wait to welcome you aboard! Destinations: Fun, Friendships, Philanthropy, with plenty to 'taco' about business.

Be sure to check out TKC website ([www.thekiwiclub.org](http://www.thekiwiclub.org)) for more convention information including hotel reservations will open in **June**. How to make your reservations will be posted there and other communications to come. Plus, lots more as the details continue to unfold for the 'whole enchilada!'



In the meantime, so please to introduce 'Kiwi Contessa' another treasured creation by Mary Richter Thrasher. For a closer look see Beyond the Art the 2026 convention logo on page five. Thank you, Mary for the joy, and inspiration you and the Kiwi Contessa brings to us, and our next Kiwi convention.

Sherri Engle Lowe, Convention Chair  
(Aka Contessa Captain-CC)  
[rslowe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rslowe@sbcglobal.net) (713-412-4891)

### Something you should know...

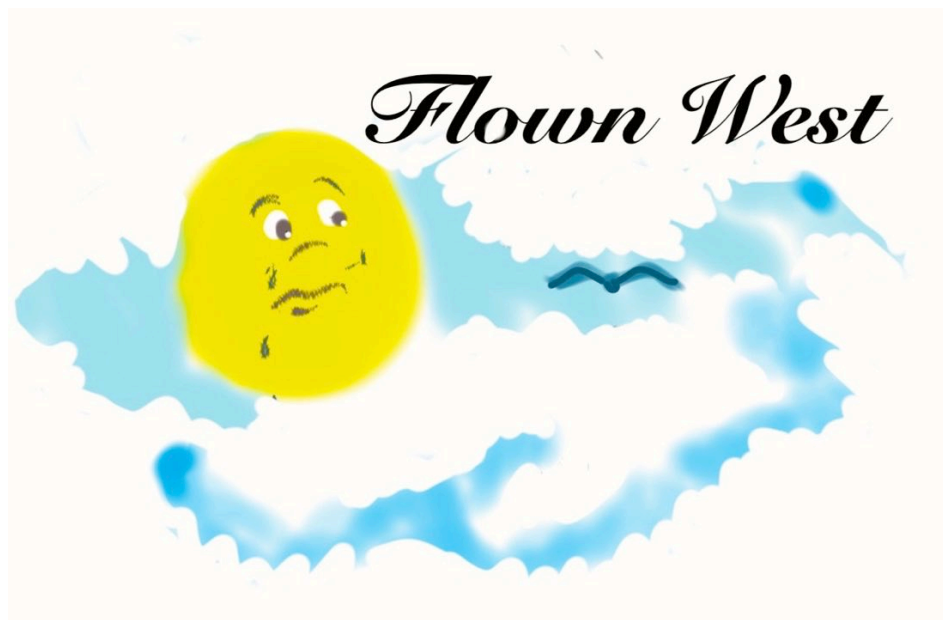
A good friend of mine was scammed out of \$27,000-just gone!



To help determine what is a real or fake email try this quick procedure:

Take your cursor and click on the 'from' on your email. Should a different address appear that looks more personal than a company you are probably being set up for a scam. Delete immediately and do not ever click on the 'button' that asks for more action from you. Such as 'verify', 'update now', 'claim your prize now' etc. Always go to the website for any updating etc. These scammers are very clever, be very cautious!

Did you know that you can update your own information on the website? Go to [www.thekiwiclub.org](http://www.thekiwiclub.org) and select MEMBERSHIP at the top of the page. Click on 'update your membership here, -easy! You need not complete all the information-just the information that has changed.



We are sorry to hear the deaths of our fellow Kiwis. We offer our condolences to their chapters as well.

#### **Rest In Peace:**

**Jan Allen-Los Angeles Chapter,  
Eileen Clifford-Long Island Chapter,  
Patty Fitzgerald-Washington D.C. Chapter  
Barbara Olszewski-Long Island Chapter**



**And we really mean it!**

**Welcome Aboard to the newest members The Kiwi Club**

Eunice Agnello-Florida Gulf Coast  
Rebecca Bartlett Anderson-DFW/Mid-Cities  
Doris Arthur-MAL  
Bettye Betts-Atlanta  
Barbara Bielagus-MAL  
Diane Brenden-Golden Gate  
Evie Brumfield-Orange County/Long Beach  
Ginny Capp-MAL  
Eve Castaneda-MAL

Rosina Coburn-Dallas  
Jan Drago-Memphis  
Diana Evans-Club EWR  
Trish Farley-MAL  
Peggy Ganopole-Las Vegas  
Deaun Golding-MAL  
Jane Hancock-MAL  
Sharon Hildren-Sierra Nevada

### **American Airlines- 1980-1990's (cont.)**

These are the decades that changed airline business significantly due to deregulation and competition. The airline deregulation act of 1978 had taken effect and under the leadership of Bob Crandall aggressively expanded its network of operations. Crandall was instrumental in the invention of hub and spoke with major hubs in DFW and ORD. In 1981 AA introduced the AAdvantage program which was one of the first loyalty programs. In 1986 AA acquired AirCal (routes in West Coast, Mexico) and in 1990 Eastern Airlines Latin America routes. Men were added to the cabin changing the stewardess image to a gender-neutral roll. Hence, they became flight attendants.

The lure of glamor and travel created 1,000's of applications for each open flight attendant position. Standards were strict-especially in the earlier years for a stewardess/flight attendant 'look' and grooming.

Unionization (APFA) and key labor actions in 1993: A major protest (sick-out led to court involvement. In 1999: 'Christmas Sick-Out: A large-scale action in resulting in 300 flights being canceled due to contract issues. Pay and work conditions were central union issues throughout the 90's.

## Beyond The Art – 2026 Convention

### By Sherri Engle Lowe

Logos are artwork, open to imaginative interpretation by both the gifted artist and the beholder, and our Kiwi Convention 2026 convention logo is no exception by Mary Richter Thrasher. Here are some things you may find, among other things not all were even intended but discovered as you take a closer look at our happy, joyful, even whimsical, and playful 'Kiwi Contessa'.



- With Hotel Contessa as our hotel venue, our Kiwi wears a Contessa's crown with jewels.
- With a fiesta theme, our kiwi holds one big colorful flower symbolizing one of the many flowers to be featured at convention-in decorations, in bloom on the Riverwalk, and even worn in Kiwi attire.
- With royalty comes a magic wand with a star on top, which can mean a Texas star, shining stars as in our Kiwis and awards, and/or a special expression of *May all your wishes come true*.

-Imagery includes the connection to FA/ Stewardess wings: clouds and wings- as Mary designed, but also WINGS as our philanthropy and a special tribute to our dear Kiwis who have 'flown West', including our remarkable National Secretary this term, **Eileen**...

Did you discover something else in the logo? Most of all, as you discover more and more about Kiwi Convention 2026, we are excited to bring you closer and closer to packing your bags for San Antonio late next April.

For any questions or comments to share, please feel free to contact your CC (convention chairman).

Sherri

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#### Editor's Note:

Designing a logo (for those of you who have done it) know it is hard work and very time consuming. Most of the work is coming up with that idea and transferring it to a piece of paper. Then editing, adding, editing, adding, until you feel that the logo art you created is something you can be proud of. Most importantly, is that your customer is pleased.

Sherri gives me lots of credit-mostly undeserved-we worked together in the elements she wanted to have, and I worked on getting those elements in the logo the best way possible without looking too crowded. It is most gratifying that she is pleased! Thank you, Sherri, for the kudos that I am not sure are deserved.

Mary



A little bit of memories...



A part of aviation that will never return...

**D**INING on the roof-garden of the world is an Epicurean experience—with atmosphere galore. Just look at those ever-changing murals outside your Flagship window!

And food? You be the judge of that. We'll only say that we hope you will enjoy your meal today in our cafe above the clouds.

AMERICAN AIRLINES, Inc.

*Flagship Menu*

MELON BALL COCKTAIL

CELERY HEART      RADISH ROSE

SPICED GRAPEFRUIT RIND

ROAST ROYAL SQUAB, MUSHROOM DRESSING

BUTTERED FRESH GREEN BEANS

PARKERHOUSE ROLLS

TOMATO AND LETTUCE SALAD

MAYONNAISE DRESSING

FRESH PEACH MELBA

COFFEE      ICED TEA      MILK

MACADAMIA NUTS