

Kiwi Kaleidoscope

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

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Vicki Valenciano Kubal
President

Term 2024-2026
#8 September 2024

A Message from Your President

Your 2024-2026 term of The Kiwi Club is in full swing. We had our first official board meeting on September 11th in Schaumburg, IL, and I can truthfully say it was a successful day.

During this term, we are holding three face-to-face board meetings; any other meetings will be held on Zoom. This is a cost-cutting schedule.

Additionally, the current board and the newly elected board will hold a meeting immediately after the election at convention. At this meeting, we will not only discuss the duties of each position and answer questions but get to know each other.

One of the items brought before the board at this first official meeting was the donations made to WINGS. To date, we have donated \$26,171.21 from individual Kiwi donations. As you know, November is dedicated to our endeavors. Currently, we have reached \$811,062.60 and are hoping to add \$100,000 more during this term. Our endeavor supports Wings, and contributions go toward helping our on-line flight attendants.

Your board is already looking toward the future – Convention 2026! **Polly Goodman**, who serves as our National Convention Coordinator, **Stephanie Butler**, our Past President, and I will be visiting possible convention sites for the 2026 convention and will make an announcement soon on the selected city and hotel.

Polly has served as our convention coordinator for many years is ready to retire. If any of you are qualified and are interested or know of someone who is qualified to take over Polly's job, please let Polly or me know so they can be considered for the position, hopefully to begin working on convention 2026.

The Kiwi Club's Officers Manual, describes the duties of each officer on the National Executive Board, will soon be posted on our website. The manual will be available not only for current board members, but Kiwis can also see the duties of each board member.

Our 2nd Vice President **Kathy Schmidt Kuzminski** oversees our database and keeping it up to date. The accuracy of the database depends on you, whether you're a chapter member or a MAL! Send Kathy any changes you may have.

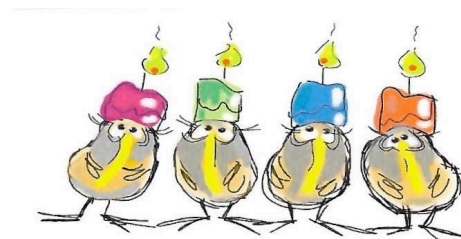


As a reminder, if you belong to more than one chapter, please be sure you give the names of *all* the chapters to Kathy. However, though you may belong to more than one chapter, you will only pay national dues through your *selected home chapter*.

I'm looking forward to a very successful and prosperous two years as your National President.

Vicki

Vicki Valenciano Kubal
National President



A Kiwi You Should Know!

HAPPY 105th BIRTHDAY



Susan Cycon was born in Chippewa Falls, WI on September 30, 1919. She earned her degree at University of Minnesota. Her first job after college was to write articles for the local newsletter and soon after she pursued a career as a stewardess for American Airlines where she happily cared for passengers for many years. She has been spotted still proudly wearing her wings! It was during this time that she met AA Captain Edward Cycon (formerly a member of the U.S. Air Force). She and Ed enjoyed 57 years together until his death in 2005.

She was an avid tennis player still playing doubles and horseback riding well into her 80's. Sue lives in her condo surrounded by cherished family photos as well as pets. She enjoys family member visits that are mostly out of state and the friendships from the many people whose friendships she has cultivated during the years.

Many wonder what her secret of longevity is, she has always lived a life of moderation and is a kind, loving and humble with a great sense of humor! She is a deeply devoted Catholic and prays the rosary daily. She was a founding member and was active in a group for over 60 years that met weekly to count the Sunday collection in a church.
Sue is on the right.



MAL Corner

Hello, Members at Large!



Did Summer fly by in no time? Here in Southern California, we were treated to our first 'real' Summer in four years...temps got into the mid 80's for a couple of weeks and the weather was A+!

The new Kiwi term is now in full gear and our chapters have had their first luncheons/meetings. Some of you have been able to attend a luncheon, whether with a chapter nearby or while traveling outside your hometown. I hope it's been a relaxing time for you all!

Please consider taking time today, if possible, to renew your dues online. Read my recent email inviting you to call me for assistance to that regard, if necessary. I'm in Los Angeles so phone calls any time AFTER 10am Pacific Time will be appreciated.

I'd like to ask you all to free your sense of humility and send me stories of your recent accomplishments and accolades. Also, I'd love to hear about charitable activity that you may be involved with on a regular basis. These are personal stories that would be so great to feature in the **Kiwi Kaleidoscope** and **MAL Corner** of our national website. I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Wishing all who celebrate September and October birthdays a most happy and memorable day, filled with love, and surrounded by those who love you!

Stay well and stay positive!

Kiwi Hugs,
Linda

Kiwi Poop! (What's happening now)

Are you in our new database **Neon One**? Even if you paid your national dues to your chapter treasurer you must go to the Kiwi website and register. It's very simple:

1.Go online to www.thekiwiclub.org

2.Click on RENEW NOW button

3.Fill in the online REWEVAL FORM. Please fill out all the information. It's important to get your latest and greatest information. **CLICK SUBMIT** You will get a message that your registration was successful.

Once you hit Submit you will be given the opportunity to pay your dues online via credit card.

If you paid your dues through your chapter or online since 7/1/2024 exit this page now..

2024-2026 Renewal Membership Fee: \$50.00

Online convenience Fee: \$1.80

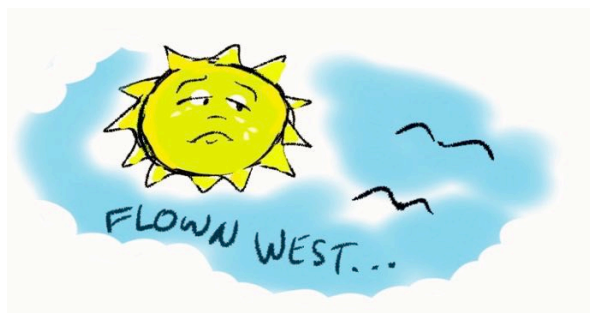
Or pay by check. Mail checks to: The Kiwi Club
c/o Melissa McGrath

The Kiwi Club National Treasurer

1019 W. Grove Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203



A bit of AA history: **Happy Thanksgiving! 1946**



Elaine Ehrich **Mesigh**
 Jean Johnston **Atherton**
 Beverly Sutherland **Barbarito**
 Nancy Davis **McKeever**
 Mary Alice Stringfellow **Wright**
 Velma Guy **Tolbert**
 Margo Crutchfield **Ries** *Past National President*
 Dorothy Stewart **Butts**
 Pilar Hornbuckle **Hale**

Velma Lyne **Morgan**
 Gloria West **Saucier**
 Sandra (Sandy) Gilman **Wilner**, *Past National President*
 Margaret Huett **Dillan**
 Peggy **Turley**
 Bette Burke **Nash**
 Karen Bloomquist **Bremer**
 Kay **Fasano**
 Rosemary Prigmore **Arrington**
 Anne Weise **Burns**
 Kathy Qualen **Roberts**
 Gail Weaver **Norwood**
 Kay Williamson **Barlow**
 Betty Posey **O'Neil**

Fly High Kiwis

Helene & Milton

As you know, Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton were devastating storms. Most of us made it through both hurricanes without sustaining major damage to our homes and properties, but others weren't so fortunate. Our hopes and prayers are that Kiwis living in the areas that were hit by these two storms didn't lose a loved one and had minor damage to their homes, if any.

Please be aware that The Kiwi Club has a disaster relief fund that is available to members if needed. Information regarding this fund and the procedures in procuring help should be directed to Sam Gooch at:

thekiwiclubadvisor@gmail.com.

Your conversation with Sam and any help you may receive is totally confidential. Please know we care about all of you and hope you are safe.

Sincerely,
Vicki Valenciano Kubal
National President

Because We Flew *The following was apparently written for men, most likely military fliers but it seems it is appropriate for all of us who have flown, whether in the cockpit or cabin.*



Once the wings go on, they never come off, whether they can be seen or not. They fuse to the soul through adversity, fear and adrenaline, and anyone who has worn them with pride, integrity and guts can never sleep through the call of the wild that wafts through bedroom windows in the deep of the night. When a good flyer leaves the job and retires, many are jealous, some are pleased, and yet others that may have already retired, wonder if he knows what he's leaving behind; we already know. We know for example that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.

We know in the world of flying there is a fellowship which lasts long after suits are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and, in his heart, still is.

Because we flew, we envy no man on earth. *Author Unknown*

Submitted by Joni Buck, O'Hare Chapter

Convention Corner **Kiwis only:** Correctly **name the chapter, year, and convention location**



of the picture and you can win a "priceless" Mary Thrasher print (of my choosing and cannot be exchanged). Email to KKnewslettereditor@gmail.com, put "**Contest**" in the subject line. Don't forget to add your name and address. First one with correct information wins.

Editor's Note: As you have may of noticed it's October and not the date on the front page. I took a well-deserved get-a-way and came home with lots of new memories. I was with a friend (former Kiwi) that I have known for over 50 years and hadn't seen in 6 years. It was catch-up time with margaritas and loads

of conversation and lots of laughs. I highly recommend it!