

# KIWI KALEIDOSCOPE

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

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Editor & Art: Mary Richter Thrasher  
thekiwiclubkeditor@gmail.com  
Co-Editor: Jane McDonald Jamison

National President: Vicki Valenciano Kubal  
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## A Message from Your President

Summer is here and schools are out for summer break. This means families have begun



traveling and flights are full. If you choose to non-rev buying a ticket may be less stressful and less expensive in the long run.

Please be aware that your National Board is constantly updating The Kiwi Club website ([thekiwiclub.org](http://thekiwiclub.org)). To see what is happening in chapters (there are lots of ideas there) and with the National Board, try to make it a habit frequently. Our webmaster **Jill Rohan** (ATL Chapter) is not only creative but constantly updating information.

As most of you now, our 2026 National Convention is being held in San Antonio, Texas at the Hotel Contessa, located on the Riverwalk. The hotel is now accepting

reservations for the “Fiesta Flight Royale.” *Let’s make this convention as big as Texas! Make your reservation now.*

*Have a great summer Kiwis!*

**Hotel Reservations:** See information at: [www.thekiwiclub.org](http://www.thekiwiclub.org) and within this newsletter.

## MAL Message!

### From Linda Hessler Radke

Summer is heating up and so our plans for convention 2026.

We’re thrilled to announce hotel bookings at the Hotel Contessa on San Antonio’s Riverwalk are open. You won’t want to miss the chance to reserve your spot at this at this elegant all-suite hotel, nestled right in the heart of one of Texas’s iconic cities. The Convention page will be your go-to for all things convention.

Details on events, schedules, registration information all will be posted there. While you’re browsing, take some time to explore the rest of the site too. You’ll find newsletters and highlights from across the country, fun photo galleries, and maybe some familiar faces.



Even if you aren't connected to a local chapter, you are still important part of our Kiwi family. We'd love to see you in San Antonio and consider attending this special gathering. Until then, stay in touch, stay positive and cool this summer! *Linda*

## American Airlines (cont.)

### 2000-2014

The new century was met with the devastating attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, involving American and United Airlines. Flight 11 & 77 were hijacked and crashed into the Twin Towers. Two other hijackings at the same time crashed into the ground, United in Pennsylvania, and American into the Pentagon. As a result, the airline industry suffered massive financial losses. American cut routes, grounded aircraft and laid off thousands of employees and training at AA's learning center came to a rapid halt.

In 2001 American acquired TWA. American aimed to expand AA's presence worldwide, but it added to financial and operational burdens. From the early 2000's to the mid-decade, rising fuel costs and intense competition from low-cost airlines led to continued ongoing losses. American avoided bankruptcy while Delta & United filed for Chapter 11. Employees took pay cuts to help the airline survive.

The 2008 worldwide economic turndown impacted travel demand. American responded with capacity cuts, job reductions and fuel surcharges.

American finally 'bit the bullet' and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Goals were to reduce debt renegotiate labor contracts and restructure operations. In **2013-2015** American Airlines merged with US Airways forming the world's largest airline. Integration between the two airlines included unifying frequent flyer programs, reservation systems, operations centers, expanding international routes, and labor contracts. American being the larger and better-known airline retained its name and brand.

American undertook the largest fleet renewal programs in the industry. In 2014 MD-80s were retired and introduced new models: Boeing 737 MAX, 787 Dreamliner, and the Airbus-A321.

## A Little Bit of Humor

### RE: FACEBOOK

*I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel now, what I have done the night before and what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations and give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook! I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist.*



## Plan for Convention 2026

Reservations at The Contessa Hotel are **OPEN**

Dates of Bookings Monday April 27-Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Convention Dates: April 30-May 1**

**Reservation number: 210-229-9222**

(mention The Kiwi Club) **Or go to: [thekiwiclub.org](http://thekiwiclub.org)**

**For a direct link to the hotel.**

Make your reservation if you haven't already! The hotel has limited amount of rooms at convention discounts.

The hotel is an intimate all-suite retreat, boutique, set directly on San Antonio's beloved Riverwalk. Hotel Contessa delights guests with a portrait of the Contessa herself at registration. The whole hotel reflects San Antonio's rich history and vibrant culture. Touting 265 renovated suites, which are loft-like retreats that captures the city's diverse culture through San Antonio's rich history.

**Rooms:** Flatscreen TV in living room, and bedroom

Pillow-top mattress

Sofa bed in living room

Premium bedding

Floor-to-ceiling windows and blackout drapes

1 bathroom

Bath amenities

Hair dryer

Laptop compatible personal safe

Small refrigerator

Iron and ironing board

City views or river views

In room dining options, fitness center, Ambler Restaurant

**WOW!**



**Jeanne Lyons-South Bay Chapter**  
**Barbara Rich-Nashville Music City Chapter**

## Our History (a blast from the past)

### “There’ll Always Be an American Airlines”

“THE thing that men live by is FAITH; faith in themselves, in the job, in their home and family and in their country. Without faith, life is destitute and the man who loses faith loses one of his greatest attributes and assets.

“Right now a lot of us are worrying about the future. To be specific, we are worrying about whether or not we will be needed in military service.

“Worrying will not accomplish a lot in the settlement of that question. If the country needs us more in the army than it does in civilian life, we will want to go and we will be in the army. If we can serve better in air transportation, we will not go and we will remain in our present occupation.

“Let’s think about our present job. If we do not go into the army, that is the job which we will have. If we do go into the army, that is the job to which we will return. In either event, it is our job and we intend to do it well.

“If my number comes up and they blow the bugle for me, I am going to march off to training camp with the satisfaction of knowing ‘I did my level best, up to the last working day.’

“If they make a soldier out of me, I will believe then, as I believe now, ‘There’ll always be an American Airlines,’ and I will plan to be back in the outfit soon after they muster me out.

“That’s my platform. I feel a lot better about things since I figured it out that way. Perhaps that kind of platform would be helpful to you.”

*Editor’s Note: Written by C. R. Smith for the FLAGSHIP NEWS of November, 1940.*



C. R. Smith



**Happy Summer!**