

Kiwi Kaleidoscope

Official publication of The Kiwi Club,
a social and charitable organization for former and current American Airlines and American Eagle Flight Attendants,
including those from airlines acquired by or merged with American Airlines.

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Mary Richter Thrasher, Artist, Coeditor

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www.thekiwiclub.org

Term 2020-2022
Spring 2020

The Year 2020

Or How the Grinch Stole Convention and How Kiwis Made History

SUBMITTED BY SHIRLEY WATTERS, PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT (BY DAVID PAUL, SR. PASTOR, CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR)

“How the Virus Stole Easter (with a nod to Dr. Suess)”

Twas late in '19 when the virus began,
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.
People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.
As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.
People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.
April approached and churches were closed.
“There won't be an Easter,” the world supposed.
“There wont be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about.
Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.
“Easter can't happen this year,” they proclaimed.
“Online and at home, it just won't be the same.”
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.
The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people estranged.
“Pooh pooh to the saints,” the world was crumbling.
“They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.
“They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open and then all will cry boo-hoo.

That noise,” said the world, “would be something to hear.”
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.
And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.
But the sound wasn't depressed, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn't be so, but it grew with abundance!
The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!
Each saint in each nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!
It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same.
And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling, “Just how can it be?”
It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money.
The world thought of something it hadn't before:
“Maybe Easter,” it thought, “doesn't come from a store.
And what happened then?
Well...the story's not over.
What will YOU do to help in this blight?
Will you share with those needing hope in this night?
May the world find faith and joy in a time of dejection
And may 2020 be known as the year of resurrection.

Editor's Note: This take on Dr. Zeuss was written by a Christian minister. Some of it was omitted, and the last ten lines were added and/or paraphrased by your editor. Since the poem spoke of our problems in this year, we decided to use it with the hope that those who are not Christian would not be offended. The Kiwi Club members come from all faiths and their faiths are respected. We are one.

KIWIS MAKE HISTORY

During the year 2020, not only did the world have to adjust and make changes, but The Kiwi Club did also. We made history! Agendas were eBlasted to chapter presidents/delegates, voting was done via email, discussions were held over cell phones, landlines, texts, and any way possible to get information to and from the National Board. This was the first part of our making history. The second is in our choice of National President.

Newly elected National President Sam Gooch, an online flight attendant, is the first male National President in the history of our Club!

HANG IN THERE, KIWIS!



FROM YOUR PREZ'S...THEN AND NOW

Dear Kiwis,

Welcome to the new world of Social Distancing. On May 1, 2020, under unprecedented circumstances, I took over the reins as The Kiwi Club National President, 2020-2022. This is one for the records: I will be the first male Kiwi Club president and the second active line Flight Attendant to become President of The Kiwi Club. I am proud of both.

During the 2018-2020 Term, I held the position of National Treasurer, and prior to joining the National Executive Board of The Kiwi Club, I held the position of President of the WINGS Foundation, as well as National Secretary, NYC Term Director, Case Work Manager, Wings/Kiwi Liaison, and more.

As you are all aware, this past term has not been the norm. The virus, pandemic, social distancing, cancellation of our beloved Kiwi Convention, and so much more in our private lives can't be considered normal. We are flight attendants, then and now, and we learn to adapt and maneuver to accomplish what needs to be done. Under the guidance of Kathy Kridel and the NEB, we were able to accomplish our final meeting for this term via Zoom, plus holding an installation of officers. It is a learning process for all of us, and I think we did well.

Going forward, I must tell you I will lean on many of the Past Presidents and former NEB members for guidance. The first thing I want to pass on to all our Kiwis is that you must take care of yourselves. You are no good to anyone else if you are not well yourself, mentally and physically. If you need help or simply someone to talk with, reach out. Once we get back on our feet and can completely re-evaluate the situation, we will then discuss and make plans for a possible gathering in the fall.

Thank you all for your support throughout this new term.

Sam

Sam Gooch
National President, 2020-2022



Dear Kiwi Friends,

What a ride it has been! Two years ago in OKC, Jo Sharp McFadden offered her congratulations to me on becoming the 34th National President of The Kiwi Club. She also offered a bit of wisdom, "It's your rodeo now." Little did I, or any of us, know what a ride it would be. Armed with an excellent board instead of a six-shooter, and a seasoned Support Staff instead of a lasso, I took on the challenge enthusiastically to make my mark on an organization that I hold so dear: to hit the bullseye, but stay on the bull.

In my term, we have increased membership and started new chapters. I have personally visited chapters near and far, attended Wings functions, and had the onerous task of representing you in dealing with AA and the C.R. Smith Museum in their quest to get our memories preserved for generations to come. It immediately became clear that the objects we hold dear are the "graduation" staircase and the mosaic medallion gracing the stone wall. I have great satisfaction in knowing that I played a part in saving these memories for all to enjoy. I will continue to work as an adviser for the implementation of a memorable representation of the career we all share.

Needless to say, I am devastated we had to cancel Convention 2020 as our team had worked tirelessly to accomplish what would have gone down in our history as the most amazing convention ever. Our thanks go to Stephanie Butler and Caroline Womack, co-chairs, and their fabulous organizational skills, to Polly Toll Goodman who did amazing things getting us in and then *out* of our contract with Caesar's, to Sherri Engle Lowe and Kathy Minner who had planned a never-to-be-forgotten 50th Class Reunion, and Kat Walton for working on the outstanding events décor for over a year. And to others who contributed to putting the event together.

The Board and I began the next challenge: formulating procedures to conduct our last board meeting and installation of officers via Zoom, a teleconferencing program, and establishing voting protocol via emails to delegates. I am happy to say it went off with only minor glitches. We held another Zoom "get-together" to induct the officers of the 2020-2022 National Executive Board. Past President Ernie Schade Reis presided over a moving ceremony to induct the officers and especially our new National President, Sam Gooch, the first male president of The Kiwi Club! Sam and I have worked together for the past two years and I am confident he will do an outstanding job leading our flock.

My new position on the board is Parliamentarian and National Endeavor Coordinator, so I will continue being involved with our club. We've made Kiwi history, and as of May Day 2020, we have a new Sheriff in town!

Kiwi hugs to all,

Kathy

Kathy Kridel, National President 2018-2020





2020-ERA BUSINESS

The 2020-2022 National Executive Board was installed via Zoom on May 1st.

You can see the old and new boards at left in the not-too-good photo.

From the top, L-R:

Kathy Kridel, outgoing National President now Past Pres. Parliamentarian; **Shirlee Albrecht**, outgoing National Secretary; **Jo Sharp McFadden**, outgoing Past President now Advisor; **Vicki Valenciano Kubal**, National Treasurer; Past President **Polly Goodman**, National Meeting Site Coordinator; **Connie Budge**, National 2nd Vice President; Past President **Ernie Reis**, AA-Liaison; **Jane Jamison**, Editor, *Kiwi Kaleidoscope*; **Christine Dudd Carlson**, National Secretary; **K.Lynn Yelvington**, Vice President; **Ginger Paul**, Website Hostess; **Jane Haag**, Past President/Advisor; and new National President **Sam Gooch**.

Kudos to the old and congratulations to the

new.

Inasmuch as Kiwi conventions are held not only to have fun, but to also conduct the Club's business, and because of the cancellation of convention this year, the board had to look at new ways to conduct business.

Kathy Kridel, President, organized meetings via Zoom, an electronic program that allows face-to-face meetings on cell phones, iPads, and computers. The first was held on April 27th when procedures were put in place for contacting chapter presidents/delegates in order to present them with the agenda, which included electing a 2020-2022 National Executive Board and approving the new budget.

On May 1st another meeting via Zoom was held to conclude business for the 2018-2020 term and install officers for the 2020-2022 National Executive Board.

KIWI AWARDS

THE KIWI AWARD OF MERIT, a good-neighbor award presented to a chapter that has performed outstanding services to its community: **Golden Gate Chapter**.

THE KAY HANSEN AWARD, to honor the first official AA Kiwi Counselor: **Denver Chapter**.

THE MEMORIAL AWARD, given in honor of the first stewardess and subsequent stewardesses/flight attendants killed in the line of duty: **South Bay Chapter**.

THE KIWI AWARD OF EXCELLENCE, awarded for continual dedication to and support of The Kiwi Club and its local community: **Club EWR Chapter**

THE MILLIE ALFORD MEMBERSHIP AWARD, honors the chapter with the largest percentage of increased membership during the preceding two years: **DFW/Mid-Cities Chapter**

THE VIRGINIA WOODBY CONRAD AWARD, honoring the first president of The Kiwi Club and all Kiwis: **Florida Gulf Coast Chapter**

THE PRESIDENT'S CUP, given to an individual for outstanding services to The Kiwi Club and the National President at the discretion of the sitting National President: **Shirlee Keyes Albrecht**, Golden Gate Chapter

THE POLLY TOLL GOODMAN AWARD, awarded to recognize an outstanding Kiwi for exceptional service to the Club. This Kiwi is held in high esteem by the membership, and the award is one of the most prestigious awards given by the Club to an individual member: **Ernie Schade Reis**,

THE BLUE PENCIL AWARD, recognizes an editor of a chapter newsletter for excellence in keeping the chapter informed and making the newsletter attractive: **Linda Hessler Radke**, South Bay Chapter

THE KIWI AWARD, given for continuous – not less than five years – dedication, assistance, support, or promotion of their local chapter: **Peggy Wright Lane**, Kansas City Chapter; **Marilyn Sommers Sylvan**, Tulsa Chapter; **Rita Wilkinson Pirie**, Member at Large; and **Sandra Gladney**, American Airlines Credit Union, retired.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP, **Jane McDonald Jamison**, Editor, *Kiwi Kaleidoscope*, Memphis Chapter

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP, **Beverly Bass**, DFW/Mid-Cities Chapter, and **Lloyd Wiborg**, Golden Gate Chapter





The winners of the Opportunity Tickets are:

- First Prize: **Debra Coryell**, Los Angeles Chapter
 Second Prize: **Sandra Pagden-Gribaudo**, Florida Suncoast Chapter
 Third Prize: **Jackie Guza**, related to Las Vegas Chapter Kiwi

The winners were drawn by O'Hare Chapter Kiwis Mary Richter Thrasher and Jane Fullen Haag, both Past Presidents, and Stephanie McCauley Butler, Co-Chair of the 2020 Convention. Go to the Kiwi website and you can see a video of this unusual pandemic drawing.

STEPHANIE AND CAROLINE - GROUNDED

It was a great disappointment for all of us when "The Sky's the Limit," 2020 Kiwi Convention was canceled. However, we are so grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of the planning process. Feeling the excitement build as we moved forward as part of a fantastic team of Kiwis was a joy. We would like to thank everyone for the wonderful support we were given, particularly our mentor, National Meeting Site Coordinator Polly Toll Goodman, from whom we learned so much, and our volunteer committee chairs:

Kay Middleton, Golden Gate Chapter – Treasurer and Registration
Kat Applegate Walton, Florida Gulf Coast Chapter – Decorations
Mary Richter Thrasher, O'Hare Chapter – Boutique
Sherri Engle Lowe, Houston Chapter, and **Kathy Jo Minner**, Florida Central Florida Chapter – 50th Class Reunion
Carol Kiley Buchanan, Las Vegas Chapter – Local Liaison
Cindi Youts Sanders, Anaheim Chapter – Silent Auction

Additionally, we would like to thank all of the chapters and individuals who sent donations that went a long way toward making the convention another fun-filled time for all. And lastly, thank you to all who sold and purchased prize Opportunity Tickets, with a special nod to **Susan Henry**, Wings Foundation, for spreading the word by including the drawing in the monthly Wings newsletter. Until we meet again,

Stephanie McCauley Butler, O'Hare Chapter
Caroline Ballachey Womack, Golden Gate Chapter
 Co-Chairpersons of the Kiwi 2020 Kiwi Convention



Thank You!

I want to congratulate my friend, Jane Jamison, for receiving Life Membership in The Kiwi Club. She so deserves this award!

Jane and I have worked on the *Kiwi Kaleidoscope* since the Special Holiday issue in 1989 when Jane became "acting editor." In 1990 I asked her to join me as co-editor. We joined ranks completing a short issue – only four printed pages – but Jane was off and running.

This position was perfect for our new editor. Her history as an editor prior to and after the Kiwi world made her the expert that we all needed to publish a first-class newsletter. Jane is the brain behind the outfit. She manages to make each issue fun and interesting without help from me; I just draw what she tells me to and it works well.

We have worked together for 31 years, not only as editor and artist, but also as great friends, sharing rooms during conventions and seminars and countless phone calls. Jane is the "rock" that we all need. Her advice and counsel have gotten me through many rough times and she will never know how much it has meant to me.

Jane was the recipient of the Polly Toll Goodman Award in 2010. The national board was pleased to honor her for the dedication she has for The Kiwi Club. But Life Membership is really special; it means that the entire club recognizes her contribution to The Kiwi Club. This is the way we say "thank you for everything."

Carry on Jane; there are many more issues in your future....

Mary Richter Thrasher

HONORED

As you can read in the list of awards given out for the 2018-2020 Kiwi term, I was honored with Life Membership in The Kiwi Club. I can't begin to tell you how much this honor means to me and how humbling to be so recognized for just doing a labor of love.

I have been active in the club since 1965 when I went to my first Kiwi meeting/luncheon in Cincinnati, OH, and from there belonged to several chapters: Atlanta, Memphis, Washington DC, Southeast Florida, Central Florida then back to Atlanta and Memphis, making friends along the way who made each move easier.

My years providing publishing services to this organization have been such a ride. My friend, co-editor, and innovator, Mary Thrasher, and I have done so many things together; she brings the idea to me and we go from there. Newsletters, brochures, member directories, convention booklets, posters, whatever, all was fun, not work.

Over the years, I found out just exactly what makes this club tick: love of flying and American Airlines, camaraderie among those who shared this love and like experiences, working with charities, helping others, and making life-long friends.

I have been blessed. My heartfelt thanks go to all who were instrumental in honoring me with this special gift.

Jane McDonald Jamison



NATIONAL ENDEAVOR WINGS FOUNDATION

Jo Sharp McFadden, Coordinator

May 2018 – April 2020

Monies collected during National Endeavor Month: \$11,906.00.

Nineteen chapters, including MALs, participated in National Endeavor Month.

Monies collected May 2018 - April 13, 2020: \$85,971.40

Total amount collected since 1996: \$562,982.41

WELCOME TO THE KIWI CLUB!

Lamar Thomas, O'Hare
Janet Gold, Member at Large
Mitzi Sutton Clark, Member at Large
Eileen Utecht Berg, O'Hare
Christine Cseplo Stenze, Member at Large
Linda Booth Goodwin, NMC
Mary Patterson, Washington, D.C.

Jane Haigh Purdy, Carefree
Roberta Rubush Psarakis, Carefree
Dale McCaleb Fitzgerald, Houston
Pamela Abbey Stepanian, Member at Large
Ben Norwood, NMC
Margaret Monroe, Member at Large
Sue Cole Martin, NMC



The stars are bright and big at night, deep in the heart of Texas!

Big D 2022

Hosted by the DFW/Mid-Cities Chapter

Stay tuned to the Kiwi Website to get details as they are available.

www.thekiwiclub.org



DENISE MCCORMICK
Albany/Twin Cities Chapters
Class 1950s
Died March 2, 2020

BARBARA O'BRIEN MILLER
Dallas Chapter
Class 1952-6
Died March 27, 2020

DEBBIE SPEEGLE
Oklahoma City Chapter
Class unknown
Died March 2, 2020

PHYLLIS RYAN GAREIS
Atlanta Chapter
Class 1951-10
Died April 6, 2020

MARIAN ROBERTS
Florida Gulf Coast Chapter
Class 1961
Died April 21, 2020

HEALTHY GREETINGS TO OUR RESILIENT MEMBERS AT LARGE

Embrace Life with an Attitude of Gratitude

*The last of the human freedoms:
To choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances,
to choose one's own way.*

Victor Frankel

Recently, a most insidious pandemic embarked upon our lives, resulting in a government mandated restrictive world, where we continue processing the gravity of how the situation's affecting our lives, and we're wondering if we'll ever return to life as we once knew it. While we may experience bouts of fear along with feelings of frustration and confusion, each one of us possesses the ability to choose a preferred attitude. Why not choose an attitude of gratitude?

When we approach the world with a grateful heart, we move from a realm of negativity into the glow of love. Gratitude allows sky-high takeoffs while grounding the depths of despair. An attitude of gratitude affects all aspects of everyday life because, through gratitude, we focus on seeking the beauty this life offers us. Through appreciation, our lives become more meaningful and we become more content.

As we focus on an attitude of gratitude, let's start by including our heartfelt appreciation to all of the Kiwis who worked tirelessly during the last two years, toward a successful 2020 Las Vegas convention. Despite the disappointing postponement, these committed Kiwis continue working on alternate plans, knowing how Kiwis love flocking together. We appreciate the first-class effort and look forward to the laughter and fun.

With love and gratitude to all,

K-Lynn

K.Lynn Hoffmann Yelvington
National Vice President

What am I going to do? I can't find my cowboy boots or hat anywhere!!



Just head for Nieman's when you get to Dallas!

MY DAY-TO-DAY CALENDAR 2020

Day 1 – I can do this! Got enough food and wine to last a month.

Day 2 – Opening my eighth bottle of wine. I fear wine supplies might not last.

Day 3 – I just found out that some strawberries have 210 seeds, some have 235! Who knew?

Day 4 – Eight PM. Removed my day pajamas and put on my night pajamas.

Day 5 – Today I tried to make hand sanitizer. I now have Jello Shots!!

Day 6 – I get to take the garbage out today. I'm so excited! What should I wear?

Day 7 – Laughing too much at my own jokes!

Day 8 – Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen." You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

Day 9 – I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting all dressed up and going bar hopping.

Day 10 – Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

Day 11 – Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said "What the hell do you want now?"

Day 12 – I cut my hair for the third time. I sent in my application for a license to be a hair stylist.

Day 13 – I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside when going for a walk or a car ride. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

Day 14 – Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals led the Blue Jays 3-1.

Day 15 – Anyone else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this month?

Day 16 – Dragged out ironing board and iron and basket jammed with two years of clothes. I'm set for another year at least.

Day 17 – I think I'm on a coronacoaster! One minute up, the next down.

Day 18 – Today I'm glad of social distancing. I used the health precautions as an excuse to snub a neighbor who irritates me.

Day 19 – Put lots of make up on my eyes and brows, put my mask and gloves on and headed for the liquor/wine store; my wine supply is running low but I wanted to make sure my eyes "popped." Thank goodness liquor stores are considered essential!

Day 20 – Oh well, I'll worry about this tomorrow, after all tomorrow is another day. I think Scarlett O'Hara said something like that and look what happened to her! Hang in!!!



Boutique SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

Get your credit card or checkbook out and be prepared to purchase some lovely gifts and help our chapters as well as charities. Many of our chapters were prepared to earn money for their charities by selling items in the Kiwi Boutique at convention. However....

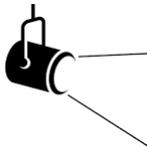
The chapters invested time and money for their Boutique items and not only did it impact their treasury, it hurt their charities.

Some of the items are featured on the Boutique link on the Kiwi website: www.thekiwiclub.org The beautiful medallions, the lovely crystal glasses featuring a kiwi bird, Kiwi tumblers, "memory" throw, cookie cutter, an AA stewardess book, and silk scarves are just a few.

If your chapter has items it planned to sell at convention and want to feature them on the website, contact Ginger Paul and she will happily display them.

Support your chapters and charities in an easy way.

thekiwiclub.org



SPOTLIGHT 1959

Part One

From the day we're born, life is full of "Firsts!" Some we don't remember as we were too young; others, such as going to the dentist for the first time, we'd rather forget. Then, of course, there are the ones we continue to fondly think of throughout our entire life – like working our first flight for American Airlines. Many of these "first" experiences we continue to do over and over, but they won't ever again be like the "first" time. In 1959, American Airlines entered the "Jet Age." Its first commercial jet flight was on a Boeing 707 and took off on January 25th. The four stewardesses chosen to work this flight were handpicked from 2,000 stewardesses. One of them is our very own Kiwi member AA Stewardess Argie Ella Hoskins (Shumway). As the four powerful turbojet engines roared down the runway and gently lifted "Flagship California" into the sky, Argie was onboard.



This first jet flight made world headlines. A commemorative coin was minted, and C.R. Smith, President and CEO of American Airlines, was featured on the cover of Time Magazine. Both are shown here, along with a picture of the crew that worked this historic flight. Argie is pictured fifth from the left. The other crew members are, L-R: Flight Engineer Norman Rice, Stewardesses Marilyn Rutkowski and Edna Garrett, Captains Charles Macatee and Lou Szabo, Stewardess Claire Bullock, and Flight Engineer Bill Duncan.

All of the stewardesses, except Edna Garrett, are in AA's new navy winter uniform. Edna is pictured in the previous one. Seen in these photos, the new uniform design featured a much tighter, very form-fitting modern look. The jacket was made shorter with four buttons and three-quarter-length sleeves. The uniform was completed with a pencil skirt and a matching navy overseas hat.

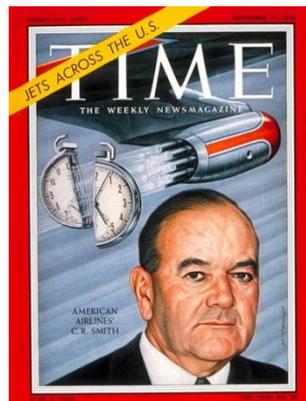
Finally, I would like to extend a very heartfelt Kiwi "Thank You!" to Argie for providing the picture of this 707 and its first commercial jet flight crew. This picture may also be seen in her book "More Than a Ticket," available on the Kiwi website Boutique link.



For those of you who didn't figure out who the stewardess was in my last article, it is none other than Jane McDonald Jamison, the very editor of our newsletter *Kiwi Kaleidoscope*. After some effort on my part, she agreed to let me use her picture. I hope you all agree it was a good choice.

Next time, in part two of this story, after 17 years AA stewardesses got a new summer uniform.

Craig Bowerman, Historian, Archival Uniform Collection



LEARNING CURVE



As a Kiwi, you probably have been asked many times “What’s a Kiwi?” We aren’t shoe polish or fruit or bird (at least not the feathered kind), but we are unique. And, as most of you know, we were named “Kiwi” since in the olden days you had to quit flying at the ripe old age of 32, or if you got married, or pregnant; we didn’t have the option of flying as long as we wanted. So...we took the name of a New Zealand bird, the kiwi, a bird that doesn’t fly.

A kiwi isn’t the largest bird in the world, the ostrich is. Thus, it makes sense that the ostrich lays the largest egg of any bird species. If you look at egg size relative to the size of the bird that lays it, however, a different feathered, flightless creature comes out on top – the kiwi bird! According to the Kiwi Trust, the egg of the kiwi is about 20 percent of a female kiwi’s body weight. For comparison, an ostrich egg is only about two percent of its mother’s body weight. It’s not clear why the kiwi lays such a huge egg, but its size apparently gives kiwi chicks an advantage.

The moral of this story is that you don’t have to be big to be big! And our Kiwis have shown that countless of times over the years, and are doing it right now by looking out for members and others who might need help during this trying time.



Washington DC Chapter

Front Row: Ann Signore Muench, Peggy Kuniewicz Hoffend, Wanda Gadson, Lonnie Mervis Hill

Back Row: Roberta Richards Brown, Debbie Maitland Roland, Ann Stephens Rice, Linda Cowperthwaite Sterlacci, Jane Mansfield Lam, Gail McLean Butterfield, Phyllis Taylor-White, Toi Smith Chambers, Susie Beers Clark

“Peggy had been fighting a brave and valiant battle against cancer for the past few years. We were so glad to see her at our last Kiwi meeting. This was our last time with her...a picture to treasure.” Susie

Because We Flew

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 ever worn them with pride, integrity, and guts can ever 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, who may have already retired, wonder. We 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 the flight 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*





God Bless Them Thar Dern Cowboys!

In light of these very difficult times, maybe a little humor will bring a smile or laugh and make life easier. Hang in thar, Kiwis!

I ain't much for shopping,
Or for goin' into town
Except at cattle-shipping time,
I ain't too easily found.
But the day came when I had to go –
I left the kids with Ma.
But 'fore I left, she asked me,
"Would you pick me up a bra?"
So without thinkin' I said, "Sure,"
How tough could that job be?
An' I bent down and kissed her
An' said, "I'll be back by three."
Well, I done the things I needed,
But I started to regret
Ever offerin' to buy that thang –
I worked me up a sweat.
I walked into the ladies shop
My hat pulled over my eyes,
I didn't want to take a chance
On bein' recognized.
I walked up to the sales clerk –
I didn't hem or haw –
I told that lady right straight out,
"I'm here to buy a bra."
From behind I heard some snickers,
So I turned around to see
Every woman in that store
Was a'gawkin' right at me!

"What kind would you be looking for?"
Well, I just scratched my head.
I'd only seen one kind before, "Thought
bras was bras," I said.
She gave me a disgusted look,
"Well sir, that's where you're wrong.
Follow me," I heard her say,
Like a dog, I tagged along.
She took me down this alley
Where bras was on display
I thought my jaw would hit the floor
When I saw that lingerie.
They had all these different styles
That I'd never seen before.
I thought I'd go plumb crazy
'fore I left that women's store.
They had bras you wear for eight hours
And bras that cross your heart.
There was bras that lift and separate,
And that was just the start.
They had bras that made you feel
Like you ain't wearing one at all,
And bras that you can train in
When you start off when you're small.
Well, I finally made my mind up –
Picked a black and lacy one.
I told the lady, "Bag it up,"
And figured I was done.
But then she asked me for the size,
I didn't hesitate.
I knew that measurement by heart,
"A six-and-seven-eighths."

"Six-and-seven-eighths you say?
That really isn't right."
"Oh, yes ma'am! I'm real positive –
I measured them last night!"
I thought that she'd go into shock,
Musta took her by surprise
When I told her that my wife's bust
Was the same as my hat size.
"That's what I used to measure with,
I figured it was fair,
But if I'm wrong, I'm sorry ma'am."
This drew another stare.
By now a crowd had gathered
And they all was crackin' up,
When the lady asked to see my hat,
To measure for the cup.
When she finally had it figured,
I gave the gal her pay.
Then I turned to leave the store,
Tipped my hat and said, "Good day."
My wife had heard the story
'fore I ever made it home.
She'd talked to fifteen women
Who called her on the phone.
She was still a-laughin'
But by then I didn't care.
Now she don't ask and I don't shop
For women's underwear!

THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS and the DFW/MID-CITIES CHAPTER
are planning a Texas Welcome for You!
SEE YOU IN 2022!



On the road again...

Don't unpack that suitcase! Although the Fall Kiwi Cruise had to be canceled, don't count traveling out. Whether by car, train, plane, ship, whatever, Kiwis will be traveling. Stay tuned.



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