



Nashville Music City Kiwi Chapter April 2026

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Dear fellow Kiwis,

Welcome to Spring! It is an exciting time for kiwis as we turn the page on winter, and we prepare for our Kiwi Convention in San Antonio. We have a record number of kiwis coming from our Nashville chapter this time and there will be many wonderful memories and good times to share with our fellow Kiwis when we return. Many thanks to all of you who will be joining us. I am honored and grateful to all of you for giving me the opportunity to represent our chapter as President.

We will be inducting our board of directors in April at our Kiwi meeting in addition to voting for a new amendment to the National Kiwi Bylaws. The intention is to streamline the process of signing up or renewing and paying membership dues.

Thank you for your continued support and your caring ways as I have grown to appreciate all of you more with each passing month.

Thank you to those who have stepped up to be part of the board and everyone who has supported our chapter in so many ways.

I am looking forward to our meeting and luncheon at Sopapillas this Tuesday and to the May meeting at Melissa McGrath's home in Nashville.

As these will be our last meetings, until we break for summer, we would love to see as many of you there as possible. Thank you again for all your love and encouragement!



Kiwi hugs, *Paula*

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Music City Kiwi Club — Member Spotlight

Music City Kiwi Club — Member Spotlight Virginia “Ginger” Mandas Friedlob — Class 67-4



Virginia “Ginger” Mandas Friedlob enjoyed an incredible 39-year career flying with American Airlines, beginning in 1967 as part of Class 67-4. Though she had hoped to reach 40 years to earn her diamond “simulant” pin, an injury led her to retire just a bit earlier than planned. Even so, Ginger reflects that she would have gladly continued flying if not for the challenges of commuting — a testament to how deeply she loved her career.

Ginger’s journey took her across the country, beginning in New York, where she flew out of LaGuardia. Not loving life in Queens, she transferred to Los Angeles, then on to San Francisco, Nashville, Dallas, and Raleigh/Durham — eventually returning again to Dallas. Her flying career mirrored the ever-changing landscape of airline life, adapting with resilience and grace along the way.

Her inspiration to become a stewardess came from her cousin Carol, who flew for West Coast Airways and often had layovers in Oakland, where Ginger lived. Listening to Carol’s stories sparked something special — and from that moment on, Ginger knew exactly what she wanted to do. She never considered another path.

One unforgettable highlight of her career was having Dolly Parton on a flight from Nashville to Los Angeles during the filming of the movie 9 to 5. Traveling alone in first class, Dolly graciously agreed to visit the cockpit and even posed for a photo wearing the captain’s hat. Ginger remembers her as kind,

genuine, and completely unpretentious — a true reflection of her admiration for her fans.

Flying taught Ginger nearly everything she needed to navigate life. Starting at just 20 years old, she learned about people, teamwork, responsibility, and how to adapt to both the good and challenging moments. These lessons stayed with her long after her flying days ended.

Today, Ginger embraces life with enthusiasm. She treasures time with her family and friends and carries a deep love for her country. She describes herself as enthusiastic about life and learning, continuing to grow and stay engaged in the world around her.

Being part of the Kiwi Club holds special meaning for Ginger. It keeps her connected to her American Airlines family and the unique bond shared among flight attendants. As she beautifully describes it, airline people share a language and camaraderie that only they truly understand — built on mutual respect and pride.

When asked about her favorite layover city, Ginger admits it's hard to choose, having visited so many wonderful places. Still, Paris stands out as a favorite — a city she explored often on her own with her Michelin Travel Guide, navigating the underground and soaking in its beauty and history.

In one word, Ginger describes her flying years as: Amazing.

Music City Kiwi Club — “No visible wings. Endless spirit.

Our Members Love to Travel

In December 2025, Tommy Thompson



Tommy took a short visit to Glasgow before Christmas where it was very festive but not too touristy. The trip was an easy air schedule out of Nashville (BNA) on Icelandic Airlines, allowing a stop over in Reykjavik where she stayed 2 very busy days and nights. During this short stayover she was able to see glaciers, waterfalls, geysers and the northern lights. Iceland is very barren in the winter. The sun comes up about 10am on the Titanic Plate and Glacial River and starts to set at 3pm.





April and May Birthdays

April Birthday(s)

Tommy Thompson – April 1st

May Birthday(s)

Cecilia “Kay” Little – May 15th

Happy Birthday



NEXT VOLUTEER DATE:

Second Harvest May 14th, 2026, from 1 pm until 3 pm.



Second Harvest

March 2026 Numbers:

2 ½ Pallets
94 Boxes
658 Bags
2632 meals

April 2026 Number

2 ½ Pallets
86 Boxes
602 Bags
2408 meals

Next meeting dates and location

*May 12, 2026, will be at the home of Melissa Williams
McGrath*

Follow me to The Kiwi Club Convention 2026



Convention Schedule - Fiesta Flight Royale 2026

Main Events: April 30 - May 1, 2026

Pre-Events begin April 28, 2026

Tuesday, April 28 - Pre-Convention

All Day: National Board Meeting — ON THE MOOOOVE

Evening: Early Registration

Wednesday, April 29 - Pre-Events & Opening

Morning TBD: Kiwi Fiesta Crew Meeting — BUENA SUERTE

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM: Registration Open — HOT TAMALE JUNCTION

11:30 AM: Past Presidents' Luncheon — CROWN JEWELS & CHANDELIERS

12 PM - 6:00 PM: Boutique & Silent Auction, Hospitality — MERCADO & KANTINA

4:30 - 6:00 PM: Delegates & Officers Reception — BOOTS, BLING, BIGOTES & BLUE

Thursday, April 30 - Convention Day 1

8 AM - 11 AM: Registration continues — HOT TAMALE JUNCTION

9 AM Boutique & Hospitality Open before & after Luncheon, until 6:00 PM

9 AM: National Officer Candidates Meeting — LAS CANDIDATES SESSION

10 AM: Members-at-Large Caucus — MEMBERS AL GRANDE

11 AM - 12 PM: Reception — Photo Opportunities

12 PM - 3 PM: Opening Luncheon & Awards — ROYAL FIESTA DE FLORES

Optional Evening Excursion — NOCHE DEL RIO

5:15 PM: Photo Opportunities

6 PM: Board Go Río Riverboats (private dock at Hotel Contessa)

6:45 - 8:45 PM: Dinner at Casa Río

Friday, May 1 - Convention Day 2

8 AM - 11 AM: Boutique & Hospitality Open — KIWI MERCADO & KIWI KANTINA

9 AM - 12 PM: Delegates Meeting & Election of Officers — KIWI ASSEMBLEA

Evening Banquet — SOMBRERO SERENADE - OLÉ!

6 PM - 7 PM: Reception



Fun memories...



In 1960, American Airlines installed moving walkways it dubbed “Astroways” in its Terminal 4 satellite at Los Angeles International Airport. TV star Lucille Ball was on hand for the dedication.

THE 13 SEASONS OF TENNESSEE

WINTER

FROZEN TUNDRA FOR LIKE 4 DAYS

FAKE SPRING

SECOND WINTER

TORNADOES

THE POLLEN PERIOD

SPRING FOR A WEEK

SUMMER

THE SURFACE OF THE SUN

THE CORE OF THE SUN

FALSE FALL

SUMMER 2.0

FALL FOR A DAY