



**Laura Grace Gilliland**

## April Message from the President

Many of you have probably attended your Mid-Year Conference. LaMissTenn's was the third weekend of March, and we had 180 in attendance.

The following weekend, I was in Indianapolis for the Lieutenant Governor Membership Summit. It also included the Vice Governors, and all nine of us were present. We met with International Vice President

Cathy Szymanski, as she will be International President when we are Governors.

The Summit had 80 in attendance. Presenters included Past International President Sue Petrisin, International President-Elect Hope Markes, International Vice President Cathy Szymanski, International Executive Director Paul Palazzolo, Chief Operating Officer Jeff Oatess, Director of Membership & Engagement Chris Martz, Club Opening Manager for North America Kendra Morris, Area Directors: Brad Boyd, Emily Sharp, Rhonda Vrell, and Jhojan Restrepo. Volunteer Coordinator of Global Membership & Engagement, Gloria Bidgood, kept everything running like a well-oiled machine.

Before I went to the Summit, I made appointments for a Mega Opening, which involved four sites in Cal-Nev-Ha. Several Tigers were "boots on the ground" in Rancho Cucamonga, Moreno Valley, Hesperia, and Jurupa Valley: Past International President Jim Rochford, Candidate for International Trustee/Past Governor of Cal-Nev-Ha Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef, Candidate for International Trustee/Past Governor of Indiana Taka Ogata, Past Governor of I-I Terry Cunefare, and Club Opening Specialist Jay Hubbard.

Wherever I go, membership is emphasized. It appears that the push continues to be **BUILD, NURTURE, and RETAIN.**

I am so proud of every member of the Eye of the Tiger. You believe and are committed to **OPENING NEW CLUBS and SEEKING LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.**

Four of our members are seeking International Leadership Roles: **Mohan Lamsal** from Nepal is a Candidate for International Vice President, **Dr. Linda Ramsey** from LaMissTenn is a Candidate for International Trustee, **Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef** from Cal-Nev-Ha is a Candidate for International Trustee, and **Taka Ogata** from Indiana is a Candidate for International Trustee. We all know that more hands on deck translates to more children served.

**Thank you** for being a TIGER and making Eye of the Tiger a GREAT KIWANIS CLUB!



March 2026  
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May 2026  
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 31

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Passover 1-9th	2	3	4
5 Easter Sunday	6	7 World Health Day	8	9	10	11
12	13 EOT BOD Via ZOOM	14	15	16 EOT Meeting Via ZOOM	17	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE'LL PRINT  
 CALLING ALL **TIGERS** - WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR **ROAR!**

WE KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING EXCITING THINGS WITHIN YOUR DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS,  
 AND WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

WE INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT ANY NEWS YOU MAY HAVE TO US - WE WILL BE HAPPY TO INCLUDE IT  
 IN YOUR NEWSLETTER. DON'T WORRY ABOUT GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX - SUBMIT WHAT YOU HAVE,  
 AND WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL EDITORIAL MATTER TO BARBARA BREUER AT  
[BARBARA.KIWANIS.FINE9@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BARBARA.KIWANIS.FINE9@GMAIL.COM).

WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have you seen our Facebook page lately? Visit us here: <https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisTiger>  
 Website <https://kiwanistiger.org/> Contact Barbara Breuer [Barbara.kiwanis.fine9@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.kiwanis.fine9@gmail.com) with questions or comments.



## 2025-2026 Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis Board Members



President – Laura Gililand  
 President-Elect – Dr. MaryJo Brubaker  
 Vice-President – Coleen Lawson-Taylor  
 Immediate Past President – Charles Gugliuzza  
 Secretary – Barbara A. Breuer  
 Treasurer – Mark Petersen  
 Sage – Dr. Barbara "Barb" Thompson

Director – Dr. Delores B. Lewis, MD  
 Director – Joseph "Joe" Meyer  
 Director – Mark Petersen  
 Director – Belle Garcia  
 Director – Terry Cunefare  
 Director – David Roth  
 Director – Dan Brubaker  
 Sage – Jim Rochford



**Past President  
Jim Rochford**

## JIM'S GEMS

Happy Easter and Passover to all Tigers and their families!

Proud to announce that a very successful new club opening effort took place in California, involving six active Tiger club members and two members committed to joining in April! This way we can continue to grow this one-of-a-kind awesome organization, with a focus on encouraging and participating in the opening of new clubs. One of the members, our own club president, was involved in that effort by setting 26 appointments on one site and many more on a second site. It just so happened that those two sites secured the most new members out of four club sites being worked on during the week of March 22, 2026.

The site I was at for three days and went to another site on the fourth day, after we reached over 15 new members, was one of the most awesome organizational meetings I have ever been involved in. Twenty paid new members, and eighteen of them were in attendance at the meeting. A full board of officers was elected, including four directors and a membership chair. Both coaches were in attendance as well as all members from the team that helped open the new club, and also the current International President-elect of Kiwanis International, Hope Markes participated all week on our site, and I could see the fire inside of her grow, and so much that she had a glow about her throughout this entire week. I believe that will pay great dividends for our organization in the upcoming year.

The community we were in was one of the best ever in terms of responsiveness to bringing Kiwanis to the community. Ironically, that is where the district office for the California-Nevada-Hawaii district is located, and we held the organizational meeting at the district office with the executive director of the largest district in North America in attendance.

This is what the Eye of the Tiger club was meant to do from the time it was organized in the 2017-18 Kiwanis year. This past week was an experience that helped renew our faith in the mission of this club, its importance to the future of our organization, and the impact that four new clubs can have in the largest district in North America.

The CNH district is approximately 50% of the size it was when I was International President in 17-18, and I believe this was a turning point in stopping the bleeding and getting them back to a point of leading by example, which they have done successfully for so many years.

Utilizing the Rose Bowl float as an opportunity to recognize those who have performed in the area of new clubs and membership, started in the 17-18 year and continued to this day, the top governors of districts that perform at the highest level are recognized. In opening new clubs and growth get the opportunity to ride on the Rose Bowl float the following year.

Thank you to all who participated in the club opening. Carry on, Tigers, you are positively impacting our organization and the world.

Sincerely  
Jim Rochford



## Heart for Service Scholarship Recipient: Christina Kozman

At our March Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing from **Christina Kozman**, the recipient of this year's Heart for Service Scholarship, whose passion and energy for service left a lasting impression.

Christina shared how deeply **Key Club has shaped her life**, giving her a place where her love of service could truly grow.

"Everything I love to do, I root in service," she said. "When I found Key Club, it was perfect."

Her journey through Key Club reflects both leadership and impact. Christina progressed from member to club president and now serves as a **Lieutenant Governor**, where she helps guide and support approximately **20 Key Clubs**. Along the way, she has learned an important lesson: the more resources and support young leaders are given, the more they are able to accomplish.

During her most recent service year, Christina helped lead **12 service projects**, including an initiative that resulted in **31 students becoming CPR certified**. Her work demonstrates how Service Leadership Programs can create real, tangible impact in communities.

Christina also spoke about the importance of connection between Key Club and Kiwanis. While she feels fortunate to interact with Kiwanians, she noted that some Key Club members can feel disconnected from the larger organization.

"Being that bridge between the connection is one of the most important things," she shared. "When something feels within reach, you are more likely to go after it."

Her message was both heartfelt and inspiring, reminding us that the future of Kiwanis is already in motion through leaders like Christina.

She closed with a powerful expression of gratitude:

**"Without Kiwanis, Key Club doesn't exist. Thank you for your support."**

Christina Kozman truly embodies what it means to have a **heart for service**, and we are excited to see the continued impact she will make in the years ahead.



**KEY CLUB**  
FLORIDA DISTRICT

### EOT Membership Promotes Worldwide Friendships

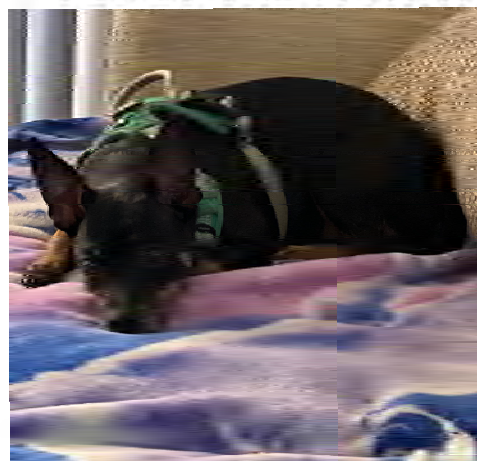


What happens when EOT club members reach beyond Zoom to meet in person? They go to dinner and celebrate! Dan and Mary Jo Brubaker (USA) met up with Ian and Angela Randall (Australia) in Melbourne for dinner at Angela’s brother-in-law’s Greek Restaurant. They spent the evening catching up on family news and sharing the latest Kiwanis ideas from their home clubs and districts.



**Melissa Guire**  
**Coleen Lawson-Taylor**  
**Joseph M Meyer**

### PET OF THE MONTH



Sissy is a 7 year old Manchester Terrier. she was rehomed 3 times before she met me. She is a very sweet but clingy little girl with a very loud bark! She loves children and her Buddy is "Buddy" a 9 year old Yorkshire Terrier, also a rescue. She is the love of Jeanette Igoe's life, she brings love to my home.

## Kiwanis International Leadership 2026

The Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis recently welcomed an outstanding group of candidates for Kiwanis International leadership. Each candidate shared their story, vision, and passion for growing Kiwanis and serving children around the world.

*We are proud that they are members of the Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis!*

### Mohan Lamsal

#### Nepal District of Kiwanis

*Candidate for Kiwanis International Vice President*

“Nothing is impossible when we work together.”

Mohan Lamsal of Nepal shared a powerful journey rooted in service. His passion began in 1986 through cataract surgery projects, where he witnessed firsthand how service can transform lives.

In 2015, he helped establish the first Kiwanis club in Kathmandu, launching a movement that continues to grow. During his time as District Governor in 2021, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mohan helped charter **36 new clubs**, demonstrating resilience and determination. Today, as a member of the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees, he continues to expand Kiwanis across South Asia, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan, and India.

His vision, “Mission 2030,” focuses on:

- Doubling Kiwanis membership worldwide
- Expanding into 100+ countries



### Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhofer

#### Cal-Nev-Ha District of Kiwanis

*Candidate for Kiwanis International Trustee*

“When Kiwanians connect, we grow stronger and make a greater impact.”

Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhofer’s campaign centers on one word: **connection**. Since 2015, she has helped build **over 70 Kiwanis clubs worldwide**, many earning recognition for innovative service projects. She has also pioneered specialized clubs, including those focused on literacy and serving youth with special needs. Through her global digital platform, *Kiwanis Connects*, she has amplified Kiwanis stories to a worldwide audience, generating **millions of views** and inspiring new engagement.

Her platform is built on three pillars:

- Growing membership through meaningful connections
- Strengthening leadership and stewardship
- Re-engaging members through impactful service



## Taka Ogata

### Indiana District of Kiwanis

*Candidate for Kiwanis International Trustee*

“Kiwanis grows when leaders are intentional.”

Taka Ogata of the Indiana District offered a thoughtful and practical perspective on the challenges facing Kiwanis clubs today.

He highlighted common issues clubs face, including changing communities, busy schedules, and fewer volunteers, and encouraged members to focus on solutions.

According to Taka, strong clubs share three key elements:

- A clear purpose
- Confident, action-oriented leaders
- A strong support system

His vision focuses on equipping leaders with practical tools, meaningful training, and systems that turn ideas into action, ultimately leading to stronger clubs and greater impact.



## Dr. Linda Ramsey

### LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis

*Candidate for Kiwanis International Trustee*

“Kiwanis is a family that changes lives.”

With over 35 years of service, Dr. Linda Ramsey brings a deep love for Kiwanis and a lifetime of leadership experience.

She has served at every level of the organization, including as the **first female district governor** in her district, and continues to support Service Leadership Programs such as Circle K, Key Club, and Key Leader.

Her vision is centered on creating a meaningful experience for every member while investing in the next generation of leaders.

She is a strong advocate for expanding youth programs and strengthening connections across Kiwanis.

If elected, she would become the **first female International Trustee from her district**, continuing her legacy of leadership and service.



## Looking Ahead

Each of these candidates brings a unique perspective, but they share a common goal:

**to grow Kiwanis, strengthen clubs, and expand our impact on children and communities worldwide.**

We thank them for sharing their time, their stories, and their vision with the Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis.

## ICON Manila Travel Update

June 21–28, 2026

Sample round trip fares (as of Feb. 19, 2026):

- **Philippine Airlines (Nashville)** – ~\$1,500  
1 stop (LAX) | 21½ hrs going / 20 hrs returning
- **United (Indianapolis)** – ~\$1,770  
1 stop (San Francisco) | 25 hrs going / 22 hrs returning
- **China Airlines (New York)** – ~\$1,200  
1 stop (Taipei) | 20 hrs going / 22 hrs returning
- **Delta + Philippine Airlines (New Orleans)** – ~\$1,450  
1 stop (LAX) | 22 hrs each way

Additional departures available from major U.S. cities, including Atlanta and Orlando. Recommended carriers: **Philippine Airlines or China Airlines.**

Compare fares at **Kayak.com**.

*Note: Prices and schedules change daily.*

### Arrival & Airport Information

- Most **Asia-Pacific airlines** arrive at **Terminal 1** (MNL).
- Most **U.S. and European airlines** arrive at **Terminal 3**, which has a sky bridge connection to the convention hotel.

Travel planning details:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/travel-planning-tips-for-manila/>

### Travel Requirements

- Passport must be valid for **six months beyond your stay**.
- U.S. and Canadian residents do **not currently need a visa** for stays under 30 days (check official government sources for updates).
- Travelers from other countries should check with the **Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines** for visa requirements.

All travelers must complete the **Philippine Travel Information System registration** within three days of arrival to receive an • **eTravel QR code** for entry.



IT'S OFFICIAL —  
THE 2026 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL  
**CONVENTION**  
IS COMING TO  
**MANILA!**  
**JUNE 24–27, 2026**  
WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY

REGISTRATION GOES LIVE ON DECEMBER 1, 2025

EARLY RATE: US\$409 (DEC 1, 2025–FEB 2, 2026)  
REGULAR RATE: US\$509 (FEB 2–APR 13, 2026)

CONVENTION WEBSITE + HOTEL LINKS:  
LIVE THIS NOVEMBER



**& get  
stay TOGETHER**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Kiwanis**  
CONVENTION 2026  
**MANILA**

*June 24-27*