



**Laura Grace Gilliland**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kiwanis World, Hear the Eye of the Tiger eClub ROAR with membership growth and seeking leadership roles. Our club is growing, and many of us have been out in the field opening new clubs. I am so proud that five of our members are seeking International Positions. Those running for International Vice President are Mohan Lamsal from Nepal and Michel Fongue from New Caledonia. Those running for International Trustee are: Dr. Linda Ramsey from LaMissTenn, Dr. Valarie Brown-Klingelhoefler from CalNevHa,

and Taka Ogata from IN. If you are attending the International Convention in Manila, introduce yourself and get to know them.

Mother's Day is right around the corner, Sunday, May 10, 2026. If you haven't done your shopping yet, look no further. Order your mother some See's Candy, as it is a WIN-WIN! Your order will let her know how much you love her, AND Eye of the Tiger eKiwaniis Club will benefit, as well. More money means more children's books for the new clubs we open.

Please welcome our newest member, Michel Fongue, from New Caledonia. He gave his member profile at our April Meeting, which was quite impressive. His sponsor is one of our Board Members, Belle Garcia, from Guam. She gave an awesome member profile at our April Meeting, as well. Both of them make perfect TIGERS, as they are great recruiters and club openers.

I want to thank our Past International President, Past Eye of the Tiger President, and Sage for our club for his recap of the Mega Opening in CalNevHa. Governors-Elect, International Staff, Eye of the Tiger members, and locals were "boots on the ground" to recruit for four sites. Members of our club were: Jim Rochford, Terry Cunefare, Jay Hubbard, Taka Ogata, Valarie Brown-Klingelhoefler, and Douglas Chadwick. In addition, I set nearly 40 appointments on two of the sites. DO YOU HEAR US ROAR?!?

Our Eye of the Tiger Newsletter is unsurpassed, and I am thrilled with it each and every month! Barbara Breuer and Jeanette Igoe make it so informative and so much fun to read. If you have not sent in an article about your home club or what the latest and greatest is in your district, please get it to Barbara Breuer for our next issue. We also need a photo and a little information about your pet for the "Pet of the Month." Also, don't forget to tell us, "What Makes You Happy."

By the next meeting, Thursday, May 21st, the Officer and Board Selection Committee should have our 2026-2027 Slate of Officers and Board Members ready to present. It is unfortunate that Coleen Lawson-Taylor has requested to step down from moving forward to the position of Eye of the Tiger President-Elect. This is due to taking care of her loved ones hit by the hurricane. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Always remember, Tigers, we roar for territorial marking and to convey our strength. Kiwanis World, HEAR US ROAR!

## May is recognized as Membership Month for Kiwanis International

It is a dedicated time for local clubs to host events, raise awareness, and invite new members to join their service-focused mission.

- **Goal:** To celebrate existing members and grow club impact through new recruitment.
- **Action:** Clubs are encouraged to plan special events, service projects, or fundraisers and invite prospective members to join them in May.
- **Focus:** It is often used as a "24-hour" push to share success stories and welcome new volunteers to help the children of the world.



**Past President  
Jim Rochford**

## JIM'S GEMS

EOT is living up to its purpose. In late March, one of our members, President Laura Gilliland, made appointments for the new club openings for two sites for an effort in California. No one does it better than President Laura!

We then had the following club members involved, leading teams out in the field: Terry Cunefare, Jay Hubbard, Taka Ogata, Dr. Valarie Brown Klingelhoefer, and Doug Chadwick. Gary Jander and Kendra Morris also participated. In the three new clubs organized, more than 53 new members were recruited. Most of the teams had two groups out in the field. Each team had a Governor-Elect to train them on what they need to do when they become the Governor of their district, leading by example in new club openings and membership. Both Gary and Kendra have agreed to become members of the EOT, knowing that our Club is based on supporting Kiwanians by helping to open new clubs throughout the Kiwanis world.

Speaking of opening new clubs and supporting Kiwanis International, Hope Markes was on my site in California, and I know she was thoroughly impressed. She has also asked one of our own, Lee Kuan Yong, to serve as her World Membership Chair, and she could not have chosen anyone better.

The purpose of the EOT is to open new clubs and help build membership, and we continue to live up to our name, as we have for the past eight years! Keep spreading the great opportunity to help a community through a Kiwanis club and all of the youth leadership clubs. We will be helping to make Kiwanis better by one plus one equals three.

When we come together and work together, what we can achieve collectively clearly exceeds what we could do individually.  
**Carry on, Tigers!**

Sincerely,  
Jim Rochford

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 Gilliland  
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



*Congratulations to David Roth on receiving the highest honor an adult Kiwanian can receive from Key Club. This prestigious recognition requires nomination and selection by Key Club Lieutenant Governors and the Executive Committee, making it a truly meaningful achievement. David has faithfully served as the Zone J Key Club*

*Administrator for the past five years, demonstrating outstanding dedication to leadership and youth development.*

*David is also currently a candidate for Vice Governor of the Florida District of Kiwanis, with the election to take place at the District Convention in Orlando this July.*



Last surviving charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Red Stick, Baton Rouge, Louisiana - 67 Years a Kiwanian

Obituary for Gerard Adam Ruth

APRIL 23, 1931 – APRIL 2, 2026

Gerard Adam Ruth, age 94, of Baton Rouge, passed away at his home on April 2, 2026, of natural causes.

Born on April 23, 1931, in New Orleans, Gerard lived a long and meaningful life, and truly enjoyed the ride. He was a beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

A lifelong resident of Baton Rouge he attended St. Stanislaus Boarding School, Baton Rouge High School and LSU. From 1950-1953, he served in the United States Coast Guard during the Korean War on the Coast Guard cutter Tampa. He was the proud owner of Gerard Furniture Company, established in 1966, until his retirement in 2018.

He loved serving the Baton Rouge community and making countless friends over those 52 years. He looked forward to his twice a year trips to the furniture market in High Point, North Carolina, spending time in the Smoky Mountains, and at his camp on the Tickfaw River. He loved the pursuit of fine Louisiana artwork, antique furniture, and especially Louisiana decoys. He was full of energy and always on the go seeking his next adventure or a new project. He enjoyed great meals with his family and friends, never met a stranger and always had a story to tell.

Throughout his life, Gerard was deeply involved in his community. He was active in many organizations including the Baton Rouge Jaycees, Baton Rouge Boat Club, Red Stick Kiwanis Club, Baton Rouge Furniture Dealers Association, Baton Rouge High School Alumni Association, St. James Masonic Lodge, Masonic Lodge of Nine Muses, the Acacia Shriners, Baton Rouge Navy Club-Ship 661, Manresa House of Retreats Group 34 for 54 years, American Legion Nicholson Post #38, Louisiana Wildfowl Carvers and Collectors Guild, LSU Baseball Coaches Committee, Tara Civic Association and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Gerard was the proud recipient of the 2019 Golden Deeds Award, and he was instrumental in bringing the “Lone Sailor” statue to downtown Baton Rouge. He has been nominated for the Hall of Fame for the LaMissTenn District of Kiwanis.

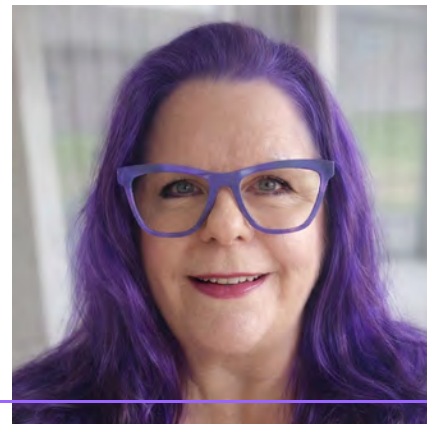


**RIP**

# What Makes Me Happy

By Barbara Breuer

What makes me happy is cruising and traveling to different countries. There's something I love about waking up in a new place, experiencing different cultures, and seeing how people live around the world. Whether it's exploring a city, enjoying local food, or just taking in the scenery, every trip brings something new and exciting. Traveling reminds me how big and beautiful the world is—and I never get tired of discovering it.



## What Makes Me Happy

By Mark Petersen

What makes me happy? The end of tax season!

After months of long hours, deadlines, and numbers, there's nothing better than finally closing that chapter and taking a breath. It's a time to recharge, catch up on life, and enjoy a little well-earned downtime. Simple things feel a lot sweeter when tax season is behind me—and that's something worth celebrating!

# Thought for the Day

*Membership isn't just about belonging to a group.*

*It's about showing up, even when it's inconvenient, uncomfortable, or unnoticed.*

*Real membership means real participation, not just presence. It's the willingness to contribute, support others, and stay committed, even when motivation fades.*

*The strength of any group isn't in its numbers, but in the consistency and honesty of its members. If you show up fully, even in small ways, you are already strengthening the whole.*



**MEET THE TRUSTEE CANDIDATES**  
THURSDAY, MAY 7 @ 8 PM ET

YVONNE BROWN-KLINGELHOEFER   GEORGE EVANS   TAKA OGATA   ERIC PAUL   LINDA RAMSAY

HOSTED BY  
PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
SUE PETRISIN

**MEET THE VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES**  
THURSDAY, MAY 21 @ 8 PM ET

MICHEL FONGUE   TRINIDAD P. TOTO GONZALES   MOHAN LAMSAL

REGISTER NOW  
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YKKSXR8S](https://tinyurl.com/ykksxr8s)

HOSTED BY  
PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
SUE PETRISIN

# MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 <i>KENTUCKY DERBY DAY</i>
3	4	5 <i>CINCO De MAYO</i>	6 <i>INTERNATIONAL PRAYER DAY</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>MOTHERS DAY</i>	11 <i>EOT BOD MEETING VIA ZOOM</i>	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 <i>VICTORIA DAY CANADA</i>	19	20	21 <i>EOT MEMBER MEETING VIA ZOOM</i>	22	23
24	25 <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Printyourcalendar



## Birthdays

<b>Ingrid</b>	<b>Goulbourne</b>
<b>Robert D.</b>	<b>Larsen</b>
<b>Fahim Ur</b>	<b>Rehman</b>
<b>James M.</b>	<b>Rochford</b>

## PET OF THE MONTH

### Meet Dodger

Say hello to John Chiesa's Yorkie, Dodger, our adorable (and fearless!) Pet of the Month. Dodger is a rescue with a heart as big as his personality. While his exact age is a bit of a mystery—somewhere between 8 and 15—one thing is certain: he's full of life and love.



Weighing in at just 5 pounds, Dodger is convinced he's at least 150! He especially loves the ladies—both canine and human—and isn't shy about showing it. Don't let his small size fool you, though. Dodger has no problem going after the big dogs... because in his mind, he *is* one.

Sweet, spirited, and full of charm, Dodger is proof that the best things really do come in small packages.

## 100 Books for Every New Club formed by EOT Members Here's How to Get Yours!



Did you know that Eye of the Tiger supports its members newly opened clubs in North America with **100 books** to help jumpstart their impact? These books are valued at approximately \$1,000, but thanks to the generosity of fellow member Doug Chadwick and the Kiwanis Literacy Club Foundation, they are available to us for just \$250.

To receive this incredible resource, there is a simple process to follow:

1. Submit a copy of the **New Club Information Sheet** that goes to Kiwanis International to Mark Petersen at [mdpetersen131@gmail.com](mailto:mdpetersen131@gmail.com)
2. The request is presented to the **Eye of the Tiger Board for approval**
3. Once approved, Mark will contact the **new club officers and coaches** to submit a formal request (Mark will supply the form)
4. After receiving the request, Mark forwards it to Doug Chadwick
5. Doug issues the invoice, Mark processes payment, and the **books are shipped directly to the new club**

This is a fantastic opportunity to equip new clubs with valuable resources right from the start.

**Thank you to the Kiwanis Literacy Club Foundation for its continued generosity and support in helping Kiwanis clubs grow and thrive!**



### *A Mother's Day Prayer*

*Dear Lord,*

*Please watch over  
and support all mothers  
on earth and in heaven . . .*

*and help them to know how much  
they are loved and appreciated  
on Mother's Day and every day.*

RightQuotes4all.com



# Member Profiles

“Håfa Adai” a warm greeting in Guam meaning “hello” or “have a happy day”—perfectly reflects the spirit of **Belle Garcia**, a dedicated leader and servant within the Kiwanis family.

Belle Garcia, a Director of the Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis Club, has been a proud Kiwanian since December 1990, marking more than 35 years of service. She made history as the first woman to serve as District Governor of the Philippine Luzon District and later served as ASPAC Chair in 2022–2023. Following her term, she continued her leadership as Chair of the ASPAC Growth Task Force, helping to expand Kiwanis across the region.



**Belle Garcia**

After retiring from a distinguished career with the U.S. Embassy as Visa Operations Director and serving as an adjunct faculty member for the State Department’s Foreign Service Institute, Belle relocated to Guam in 2019. Since then, she has been instrumental in growing Kiwanis in the area. Alongside fellow Kiwanian Michel Fongue, she helped establish the first Kiwanis club in Guam.

Today, Belle serves as Chair of Kiwanis Nation of Guam, which now includes multiple clubs and Service Leadership Programs, with even more growth on the horizon. Under her leadership, a fourth club is in development, and additional efforts are underway to engage business leaders in preparation for hosting the 2027 ASPAC Convention.

One of the most exciting recent developments is the signing of an agreement to establish a Kiwanis Children’s Center in Guam, a major step forward in serving the community’s youth. Belle has also played a key role in expanding Kiwanis Voices clubs across the ASPAC region, with several new clubs opening in multiple districts.

Belle Garcia’s leadership, vision, and commitment to service continue to make a lasting impact, strengthening Kiwanis and expanding its reach to serve children around the world.

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## Michel Fongue

Michel Fongue—also known to some as Miguel or Michael—brings nearly five decades of dedication, leadership, and global perspective to Kiwanis. He joined at just 26 years old in July 1978, becoming the youngest member of his home club, the Kiwanis Club of Nouméa in New Caledonia, part of the New Zealand–South Pacific District.



**Michel Fongue**

With roots spanning multiple cultures, including Chinese ancestry dating back to the 1800s in Tahiti, Michel grew up in a richly diverse environment that shaped his worldview and passion for connection. He earned a degree in computer engineering from the University of Nice in France and began his career with the New Caledonian government before spending 20 years with IBM, working between New Caledonia and Tahiti.

Following early retirement from IBM, Michel successfully led his family business and owned a retail store representing major global brands. He also served his community in public office as Deputy Mayor of Nouméa, recently completing his term. Today, fully retired, Michel continues to invest his time and energy into Kiwanis.

His Kiwanis journey is marked by historic leadership and service. Michel was one of the youngest club presidents and later became the youngest lieutenant governor and district governor in his region. He attended his first international convention in Washington, D.C., and proudly participated in the historic vote to welcome women into Kiwanis in 1987.

Michel has served in numerous international roles, including ASPAC Chair and Kiwanis Children’s Fund Trustee, and currently serves as ASPAC Secretary. His commitment to growth and expansion has led him to help open new clubs across the Pacific, including the first Kiwanis Club in Tahiti, an all-women’s club in New Caledonia, and more recently, clubs in Guam.

He is also currently a candidate for Kiwanis International Vice President, continuing his commitment to serve and lead at the highest level of the organization.

A true bridge-builder within the Kiwanis family, Michel embodies the spirit of global service, leadership, and connection. His lifelong commitment continues to inspire members around the world.



## Member Spotlight: Jim Rochford

This month's Member Spotlight recognizes an extraordinary Kiwanian and true leader, Jim Rochford.

Described by many as a mentor, advisor, and visionary, Jim is the founder of the Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis Club. His forward-thinking leadership made the club what it is today—without his vision, many of us would not be connected in this space.

Jim's impact on Kiwanis is nothing short of remarkable. A strong advocate for membership growth, he has helped build more than 1,000 clubs worldwide. During his term as Kiwanis International President, he opened more clubs than anyone else who has served in that role. He has also served as

District Membership Chair for Illinois-Eastern Iowa and as World Membership Chair for Immediate Past International President and Eye of the Tiger member Lee Kuan Yong.

Known for his laser focus and strategic mindset, Jim brings clarity and purpose to everything he does. As a mentor, he is respected for being a straight shooter—offering honest, thoughtful guidance while always preserving the dignity and integrity of those he leads. His ability to understand people and situations quickly is one of his greatest strengths, both in Kiwanis and in his professional life.

Jim Rochford's leadership, dedication, and commitment to growing Kiwanis continue to inspire members around the world.

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## Speaker of the Month **Jim Rochford -- Building the Future of Kiwanis**

At the April Eye of the Tiger eKiwanis meeting, guest speaker Jim Rochford delivered an inspiring and insightful presentation on the importance of membership growth and the critical role of opening new clubs in sustaining the future of Kiwanis.

Rochford began with a powerful reminder: the world is made up of those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened. He emphasized that Eye of the Tiger members are firmly in the first group—those who take action and drive meaningful impact.

Drawing from decades of experience, Rochford shared that his first club opening dates back to 1979 in a small town of just 3,000 people. That club is still thriving today, sponsoring Service Leadership Programs and continuing to serve its community. His message was clear: the belief that new clubs do not last or cannot succeed in smaller communities is simply not true.

Focusing on a recent multi-site club opening effort in California, Rochford highlighted the current “mega opening” model used by Kiwanis International. This approach brings together experienced leaders, local members, and emerging leaders to work collaboratively in launching multiple clubs at once. During this effort, four sites were developed, resulting in more than 50 new members and multiple successful club launches—with one additional club still progressing toward chartering.

One of the key takeaways from Rochford's presentation was that opening a club is only the beginning. The long-term success of a new club depends heavily on mentorship and support. He compared new clubs to raising a child—they require guidance, encouragement, and consistent support to grow and thrive. This is where club coaches play a vital role, helping new clubs navigate challenges and maintain momentum.

Rochford also emphasized the importance of mindset. Success in club building comes from persistence and commitment. Even when initial efforts fall short, teams that stay focused and continue working toward their goal will ultimately succeed.

Throughout his presentation, Rochford celebrated the collaborative spirit of Kiwanis. By working together, members can achieve far more than they could individually. He encouraged members to continue identifying and mentoring future leaders, expanding the network of those willing to step up and open new clubs.

With more than 100 new clubs already opened this Kiwanis year and strong momentum continuing, Rochford expressed optimism that this could be one of the most impactful years in the organization's history. His message was both a challenge and an invitation: to live up to the purpose of Eye of the Tiger by actively growing Kiwanis and strengthening communities around the world.