



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN

THE CAPSULE

MARCH 2026 ISSUE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Ladies!

As the news reminds us daily of challenges across the country — from airport delays to political gridlock — I'm struck by how often we're encouraged to dim our light. But NARBW women don't dim. We rise. We shine. We lead. And in moments when the world feels uncertain, we become the steady glow that guides others forward.

That's why this year's convention theme, "You Are a Shining Star," feels especially powerful. It's a reminder that no matter what's happening around us, our brilliance, our unity, and our purpose continue to light the way.

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 82nd National Convention! Get ready for three days where your light will be celebrated, reflected, and amplified. This convention will be filled with networking opportunities, warm hospitality, and truly great food — all wrapped in the glow of our disco-inspired theme. I hope you've found your costume and are ready to shine on the dance floor!

Chapter Presidents should have received the proposed General Budget for review and discussion, as well as candidate résumés for the three vacant positions: National President, 1st Vice President, and Treasurer. Our Nominating Chair, Ida Carmouche, has worked tirelessly to present a full slate of officers. Reviewing these materials with your chapter members ensures they arrive informed, confident, and ready to cast their votes with clarity.

So, polish those boots, fluff those bell bottoms, and get ready to sparkle. This will be a fun-filled, high-energy celebration of who we are — strong, brilliant, and unstoppable. We can't wait to see you shine in Roanoke!

Sincerely,

National President.

UPCOMING DATES

PRE-CONVENTION TOUR
April 30, 2026

**NARBW 2026
NATIONAL CONVENTION**
May 1-2, 2026
Holiday Inn Tanglewood
Roanoke, VA
See pages 15-16 for details.

CAPSULE DEADLINE
June 30, 2026

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2026 NATIONAL BOARD CORNER



National Association of Railway Business Women

RESUME OF WINTER BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 15, 2025

The Winter Board meeting was held on January 31, 2026, in person, at the El Caribe Resort & Conference Center – Daytona Beach Shores, FL.

Board Member Reports

- Board Members: Officers and chairmen reports were presented and key findings were outlined. Related forms pursuant to the upcoming convention, were reviewed and discussed. All board members were reminded to schedule and complete conference calls for their respective committees and local chairs if they had yet to hold their call.
- Treasurer's Reports: There were no questions on the report as presented to the National Board. At the time of the report one registration was received for the Roanoke convention. There were no issues to mention of the fall Audit.
- Finance Reports: The 2026-2027 Proposed Operating Budget was reviewed and shared in discussion with the National Board members. The National General Operating Budget for the 2026-2027 business year will be presented for approval at the 2026 NARBW convention in Roanoke, VA.
- National Convention Chairwoman Carol Gentilini presented an update on the 82nd NARBW Annual Convention being held May 1-2, 2026. The report detailed plans which included dates for the convention, the location of the convention which is the Roanoke Tanglewood Holiday Inn Hotel, and the theme of the convention, "You are a Shining Star." Monthly meetings with Roanoke Chapter members have taken place, and details of those meetings were shared with board members. The convention agenda was presented for review.

New Business:

Enhancing Communication & Growth: Discussion took place on the following topics:

- How to enhance communication, ways to grow the organization, & opportunities to explore to integrate members-at-large.
- A new monthly "Did You Know" message recorded by the president or other board members.
- Deadlines for events calendar items
- NARBW strategy on succession planning
- Requirements to serve on the board.
- Members-at-large eligibility to serve on the board.
- Donation a contribution levels/acknowledgements were provided by chapter donations and direct donations by members.
- The upcoming membership drives to take place:
 1. Atlanta in February 2026
 2. California in March 2026.

Unfinished Business

- The contract for the 2027 convention in Ontario, California, was signed by the National President. The Convention will take place at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Ontario on May 14-15, 2027.

Rhonda Gomez
National President

Trischelle Baysden
National 2nd Vice President

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

NARBW Meets the Atlanta Women in NS

On February 24, National President Rhonda Gomez, National Membership Chair Bridget Hammons, National Publications Chair Sharon Slaton, and Atlanta Chapter member Vanessa Estell visited Norfolk Southern Headquarters in Atlanta, GA in an effort to relaunch the Atlanta Chapter.

The team spent a full and impactful day introducing NARBW to the Women in Norfolk Southern (WINS), delivering two presentations, and meeting with employees at our membership table. The conversations were engaging, the questions thoughtful, and the enthusiasm from the WINS community was truly energizing. As a result of this visit, **23 women joined**, marking an exciting opportunity to grow the Atlanta Chapter, and strengthen our organization.



Celebrating SoCal's March Madness Success

We also want to give a huge shout out to our Southern California Chapter for their successful, innovative "March Madness Membership Drive" contest, which welcomed **10 new members!** Their creativity, ingenuity, and high-energy approach to designing a fun, competitive recruitment challenge truly paid off. They've set a fantastic example for all of us. Great job, SoCal team!



NARBW'S WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

NARBW celebrated Women's History Month in March with a social media campaign highlighting the achievements of women in rail—past and present. Using a series of Canva-designed posters (see images in the collage below), the campaign honored trailblazers from earlier generations as well as women shaping the industry today. The project helped spotlight the depth of women's contributions to rail while increasing awareness of NARBW's mission across our platforms.

Our Women's History Month campaign increased NARBW's visibility across our platforms. On LinkedIn, the posts generated more than 20,600 views and brought in approximately **80 new LinkedIn followers**. On Facebook, the campaign reached nearly 3,000 people and sparked 212 interactions, including 22 shares.

NARBW Celebrating Women's History Month

Beth Whited — The First Woman to Lead Union Pacific

Women's History Month gives us the opportunity to recognize leaders like Beth Whited, who made history as the first woman to serve as President of Union Pacific in the company's 160-year history.

From 2023 to 2025, she guided the railroad through a period of significant organizational focus, championing workforce development, sustainability, and cultural transformation.

Whited's presidency marked an important milestone for the rail industry, reflecting her long-standing commitment to strengthening people, performance, and the future of freight rail in the United States.

Honoring the Women Powering the Future of Rail

NARBW Celebrating Women's History Month

Stephanie Wiggins — A Trailblazer Advancing Passenger Rail

A trailblazer in modern transit, Stephanie Wiggins continues to break barriers across the passenger rail industry.

She became CEO of LA Metro in 2021 — the first woman and first African American woman to lead one of the nation's largest transit systems.

Before Metro, Wiggins served as CEO of Metrolink from 2019 to 2021, guiding the Southern California passenger rail network through major operational challenges while strengthening safety, equity, and regional mobility.

Across her career, she has championed inclusive, community-centered rail service, advancing initiatives that improve access, rider experience, and long-term mobility for millions who depend on passenger rail every day.

Honoring the Women Powering the Future of Rail

NARBW Celebrating Women's History Month

Leading a Class I Railroad

Kathryn (Katie) Farmer, President & CEO, BNSF Railway

Leadership stories highlighted during Women's History Month would be incomplete without Kathryn (Katie) Farmer.

In 2021, she rose to the historic role of President and CEO of BNSF Railway, making history as the first woman to lead a Class I railroad.

With more than three decades of experience at BNSF, she continues to guide the company with a focus on safety, innovation, and long-term infrastructure investment.

Her leadership stands as a milestone for women in transportation.

Honoring the Women Powering the Future of Rail

NARBW Presents

THE WOMEN WHO TRANSFORMED RAIL THROUGH INGENUITY

Mary Walton developed a pollution-reduction system that filtered smoke through water tanks to cut emissions. She also invented a sound-dampening method that reduced train noise in cities.

Catherine Gibbon created the Double Girder Lap Joint Track, reducing joints from twenty-eight to just four for easier rail construction.

Innovations That Shaped the Railway

Pioneering Women Revolutionizing Rail Travel

Engineering • Environmental Insight • Practical Design

Traillazing women who changed the rails and improved the world!

March was Women's History Month

NARBW Celebrated Women's Achievements in Rail Past and Present

NARBW Celebrating Women's History Month

THE LEGACY OF WOMEN WHO REFUSED TO STEP BACK

The stories we honor during Women's History Month remind us that progress in rail was never guaranteed.

Throughout history, women working in rail were often asked to step aside when men returned from war or when society attempted to limit their opportunities.

THEY DID NOT. THEY STAYED. THEY ADVANCED. THEY LED. THEY CHANGED THE INDUSTRY FROM WITHIN.

Their determination and resilience are the reason today's railroad women can pursue careers across the industry — **without limits.**

Their legacy continues to inspire the next generation of women who keep rail moving forward every day.

Honoring the Women Who Paved the Way in Rail

NARBW Presents

HONORING THE WOMEN WHO SHAPE RAIL TODAY

Celebrating Women's History Month

1800s Trailblazers

1900s Workers

2000s Leaders

Rail Thrives When Women Thrive.

From the PAST to the PRESENT to the FUTURE, Women are Driving Rail Forward.

Celebrate. Support. Lead Forward.

Remembering the Legacy of ELIZABETH COGLEY

First female telegraph operator at the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1856

Celebrating Women's History Month

NARBW Celebrating Women's History Month

The Skilled Women Who Keep Rail Running

Throughout Women's History Month, we celebrate the women whose technical skill and leadership keep our rails moving every day.

As early as the 1900s, women were adept working in rail as telegraphers, station agents, and ticket agents, ensuring complex operations and transporting critical passengers with precision.

Today, women continue to play essential roles across the rail industry as electricians, train dispatchers, locomotive engineers, crew members, operations field operations leaders, and safety and compliance professionals.

Their impact continues to grow. Since 2000, the number of women in rail management has increased by more than 80%, and the number of women in essential leadership roles has more than doubled.

These roles professionally help ensure the safe, efficient and consistent delivery of rail service.

Honoring the Women Powering the Rail Industry

Pioneers in Rail: Honoring the Women Who Were First

Sarah Clark Kiddier, who led the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad in California from 1901-1913, became the first female railroad president in the world.

Christine Aidsel, a fourth-generation railroader from El Paso, became the first woman engineer on a Class I railroad when she moved on with the Atchafalaya, Topinka & Santa Fe Railway in the 1970s.

In 1944, Arcelia Philippott became the first African American woman motorman with the Los Angeles Railway, a milestone made possible through the efforts of civil-rights and labor advocates.

CHAPTER NEWS

CHICAGO CHAPTER

★ ★ VISIT US AT NARBWCHICAGO.ORG ★ ★

SPOTLIGHT ON JENNY KANE: WOMAN OF INFLUENCE IN RAIL

Jenny Kane, Director of Contract Management & Special Projects at Metra, has been recognized as a Woman of Influence in Rail by Progressive Railroading for her impactful leadership and commitment to safety and operational excellence. Since joining Metra in 2020, Jenny has authored the agency’s System Safety Plan, led major special projects, and now oversees Metra’s rail contracts.



Known for her hands-on leadership style, she builds strong relationships across the organization and has driven transformative initiatives, including Metra’s takeover of commuter operations on three Union Pacific lines and rebuilding a high-performing contract management team.

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING & FOUNDER’S DAY CELEBRATION

The Chicago Chapter celebrated Founder’s Day during our February chapter meeting at Chicago Union Station’s historic Founder’s Room with a special luncheon and the ceremonial cutting of the top tier of our 100th Anniversary cake, honoring our rich legacy. We also proudly inducted three new members.

We also welcomed a guest speaker from Deborah’s Place, who shared insights about their impactful work with women experiencing homelessness and how we can support their efforts. Members brought generous donations of full-size toiletries for our “Show Love for Deborah’s Place” Founder’s Day toiletry drive. The meeting concluded with the election of new officers — a wonderful celebration of growth, connection, and continued success for our thriving chapter.

To conclude our month-long Founder’s Day activities, members toured Deborah’s place and dropped off a carload of donations.



★ Jasmine Manley: NARBW CHICAGO 2026 WOMAN OF THE YEAR ★

At our February meeting, we celebrated Jasmine Manley as our Chapter Woman of the Year (WOY). She was honored for her outstanding leadership, dedicated service, and unwavering commitment to uplifting others and advancing the mission of NARBW and the Chicago Chapter. Her passion, professionalism, and tireless efforts continue to inspire excellence and unity within the organization and beyond.

Our 2024 Woman of the Year, Michael Sherley, “passed the torch” by placing the WOY sash and crown on Jasmine, symbolizing the transition of leadership and the traditions of passing this honor forward. The gesture honored Michael’s year as WOY and celebrated Jasmine as she steps into this new role. Please join us in congratulating Jasmine on this well-deserved recognition.

- Continued -



WE'RE OPERATION LIFESAVER CERTIFIED

The Chicago Chapter is proud to share that our members have successfully completed their Operation Lifesaver training and are now certified authorized volunteers. Operation Lifesaver is a national nonprofit rail-safety education organization dedicated to preventing collisions, injuries, and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings through free public education and community outreach. We look forward to participating in future volunteer initiatives that help spread this life-saving message throughout our communities.

LRW—CSS Rail Operations Event

NARBW Chicago members along with Indy Circle City member Alexandra Woods attended a League of Railway Women (LRW) event hosted by Anacostia's Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad (CSS) in Michigan City, Indiana.

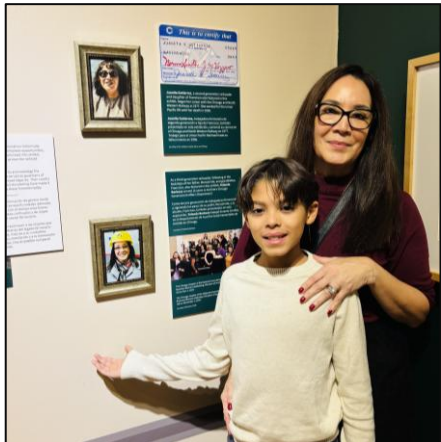
The program included a rail yard tour with a focus on the Montana railcar (pictured),



giving attendees a chance to walk the active tracks, visit the CSS shop, and learn how a short line railroad operates. The day also featured networking, a hosted lunch, and a presentation on CSS's history and business operations. Participation in this event reflects the Chicago Chapter's commitment to professional development, industry engagement, and building connections with other women in rail.

FROM AMTRAK TO METRA: YOLANDA'S CHANGING TRAINS PLUS — HER FAMILY IS FEATURED IN MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Please join us in congratulating Yolanda Barbosa, who has joined Metra Commuter Rail as an Administrative Assistant in the Transportation Department! Yolanda is grateful for the experiences that have led her to this new role and looks forward to contributing, learning, and continuing to grow within the organization. She is especially thrilled to be continuing her career in the railroad industry. We wish Yolanda much success as she begins this exciting new chapter.



Yolanda's transition to Metra is part of a much larger journey. Her family represents three generations of railroad service, a legacy that has shaped her path and continues to inspire her work today. That legacy is also being recognized publicly: her family's story is featured in Rieles y Raíces: Traqueros in Chicago and the Midwest at the National Museum of Mexican Art. Yolanda proudly continued this tradition with 15 years in the industry, carrying forward the heritage celebrated in the exhibition.

GO AMY! 2026 POWER WOMAN OF QUEENS!

Congratulations to Amy Louk of the New York & Atlantic Railway Company on being recognized as a 2026 Power Woman of Queens! Her leadership within the rail industry and her dedication to advancing women in transportation make this honor well-deserved. We celebrate her outstanding contributions and are proud to spotlight her remarkable achievement.



HOUSTON CHAPTER

A Busy Start to the New Year for Houston

Our January meeting was hosted by Theresa Harper at the Union Pacific Railroad Spring, Texas headquarters building. Delegates for convention were chosen, as well as our Houston Chapter WOY, Brenda Bob. We pinned our newest NARBW members, Kara Brown (CPKC Manager) and Connie Shannon (retired UPRR manager). January Business Meeting Pictured are Ginger Stanbery, Peggy Cuellar, Pamela Gleason, Pat Schaper, Connie Shannon, Ida Carmouche, Bridget Hammons, Debbye Converse, Deborah Regan, Kara Brown, Brenda Bob, Tamela Kubicek, Christa Vogel, Gail Stephens, Theresa Harper.



Houston Saddles Up for a Full and Festive March: In March members of the Houston Chapter met up at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for a fun day out with the NARBW. We ate, shopped, and took in all things cowgirl at this annual cultural event. Pictured are Bridget Hammons, Rosa Martinez, Tamela Kubicek, Ida Carmouche, Brenda Bob, and Theresa Harper. The March meeting Honored Women's History Month and we also celebrated **Houston's Woman of the Year, Brenda Bob.**



KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

★ KC CHAPTER GEARS UP FOR THE 82ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION ★

The Kansas City Chapter is officially convention-ready! Our members gathered over breakfast this week to review the Proposed Budget and prepare for the upcoming bylaws discussions that will take place at the 82nd Annual National Convention in Roanoke, VA. It was a morning filled with thoughtful conversation, shared insights, and plenty of enthusiasm for the work ahead. We are proud to have two dedicated KC representatives attend this year’s convention. Both are eager to contribute to the business sessions, connect with fellow members from across the country, and bring back valuable updates for our chapter.

Beyond the important business at hand, there’s a buzz of excitement about experiencing everything Roanoke has to offer — from its rich railroad history to the warm hospitality and fun planned by our host chapter. Along with the business of the convention, there’s plenty of excitement about exploring Roanoke — a city known for its railroad heritage, scenic beauty, and warm hospitality. We are eager to experience both the fun and the meaningful work that awaits. As we count down to convention week, the KC Chapter is ready to shine, participate, and represent with pride. Roanoke, here we come!

OMAHA CHAPTER

☀ SERVICE, SISTERHOOD, CELEBRATION, AND GROWTH IN THE OMAHA CHAPTER ☀

The Omaha chapter has had a busy winter. We try to do something each month for charity whether it’s a donation or an in-person event. We have recruited five new members since January: Laurie Williams, Tammy Teton, Elizabeth Zahner, Jenna Morgan, Lilah Novotny. Some are relatives and some work for a railroad. Tammy works for Union Pacific and Laurie is the HR Director at New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad, relocating to Omaha to work remotely. A big WELCOME to our new members.

Members continued their strong commitment to service this quarter. In February, three members served lunch at Open Door Mission; pictured are Kadie Leslie and Julie Nelsen, with Sarah Taylor also volunteering. In January, we donated period products to Access Period, whose mission is to provide immediate relief to those experiencing period product insecurity, while building systems and relationships that ensure all people have access to the products they need to fully participate in life. We also collected purses and supplies for Pass the Purse, which we’ll participate in this April.

In March, we supported **Partnership 4 Hope** with donations of shampoo, deodorant, and funds to purchase 26 additional items. Their monthly Resource Day serves young adults, ages 19–26, who have aged out of foster care and rely on these essential supplies.



We also celebrated our own members: **Anne Menichetti was selected as our Woman of the Year**—congratulations, Anne. Connie Prokupek retired from Union Pacific in March—warm congratulations to Connie as well. We submitted two applications for the 2026 National Scholarship, and five members will attend the National Convention in May. Finally, we continue to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha, helping offset their utility costs.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

PHILLY LADIES FLY HIGH FOR FOUNDER'S DAY

Philadelphia chapter was very busy this quarter. What better way to celebrate Founders Day than by sky flying? The Philadelphia Chapter celebrated Founder's Day by trying simulated skydiving at iFly. What a fantastic time and huge adrenaline rush! We wanted to do something out of our comfort zone to honor Hazel. We also presented a check for a full NARBW memorial scholarship in memory of our beloved deceased member, Kathy Bevilacqua, who passed away in late December after a prolonged illness. Kathy was our diamond, a shining light to all she met.



We also honored our chapter **Women of the Year, Rae Huebner**, with a delicious luncheon and lots of gifts. Lastly, we submitted our annual donations to convention, I Love NARBW, National's welfare projects, and various charities, which our members support.



ROANOKE CHAPTER



★ **Roanoke Chapter's 2026 Woman of the Year— Sylvia Long** ★

The Roanoke Chapter is pleased to share that Sylvia Long is being celebrated as the 2026 Chapter Woman of the Year for her many years of leadership, service, and dedication to NARBW. Sylvia has been a steady force at both the chapter and national levels, contributing her experience, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to the organization.

Welcome Jenny!

Roanoke Chapter installed their newest member, Jenny Rasoul, in February. Jenny is the niece of a

former railway employee, and longtime friend of current NARBW member, Sylvia Long. Jenny comes to us with prior leadership experience in women's groups, and a heart to serve those in need. She has a degree from Marymount University. Her current job includes teaching in Special Education classrooms.



Celebrating Founder's Day!

February was NARBW Founder's Day month and our Roanoke Chapter 19 celebrated with several activities that were a blessing to us and to our community. On February 5th, our members participated in a hands-on project for the annual LOA Soup for Seniors drive. At LOA's main collection site, the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, we collected food items as members and businesses of the community dropped them off. After items were dropped off, we inspected, sorted, and bagged the items in preparation for items to be distributed to the seniors in the Roanoke Valley. We also celebrated Founder's Day at our chapter meeting on February 7, 2026, at Montano's. We collected 230 food items and \$30 for the LOA Soup for Seniors Drive. We also donated 30 winter coats for the Turning Point Children at Salvation Army.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NARBW SoCal is excitedly preparing for the **2027 NARBW National Convention!** Behind the scenes, plans are already underway to create an unforgettable experience filled with inspiration, connection, and sisterhood. We look forward to welcoming members from across the nation and showcasing the very best of SoCal. Stay tuned, there's so much more to come! ✨

🏀 **March Madness Takes Over NARBW SoCal!** 🏀

This March, NARBW SoCal turned up the energy with a **March Madness Membership Drive**—and what a success it was! With excitement, friendly competition, and true sisterhood spirit, our chapter came together to grow and strengthen our incredible network of women in rail. By the final buzzer, we proudly welcomed **10 new members** into our NARBW SoCal family! 🎉 Each recruit represents not just growth in numbers, but an expansion of our mission, our voice, and our impact within the rail community. Leading the scoreboard in true MVP fashion was none other than Shamonda Jones, who recruited an impressive **seven new members**—WOW! 🙌 Her dedication, passion, and commitment to uplifting women in rail truly set the tone for this drive and inspired us all.

But this wasn't just about competition, it was about **connection, outreach, and empowerment**. Sisters across the chapter stepped up, spread the word, and showcased what makes NARBW SoCal so special: a community built on support, leadership, and opportunity. From sharing stories to inviting colleagues, friends, and family into our circle, this March Madness proved that when we come together, **we win—every time**. Here's to our newest members—welcome to the sisterhood! ❤️ And to everyone who participated, recruited, and cheered each other on... you made this drive unforgettable. **Game well played, SoCal!** 🏀 ✨

🏌️ **Hitting the Links** 🍷

NARBW SoCal is taking fundraising to the green! Join us on **October 24th** at the beautiful San Dimas Canyon Golf Course for our exciting **golf tournament fundraiser**. With a fun **Halloween theme**, this event promises a day of friendly competition, festive spirit, and sisterhood.

Whether you're golfing or just coming out to support, it's sure to be a great time! This tournament will help support our initiatives and our journey toward hosting the **2027 National Convention**. Grab your clubs, bring your Halloween spirit, and come hit the links with us! 🏌️ ✨ Scan the QR code or [click here to learn more and register](#).



Chapter Woman of the Year: Sallie Rodriguez 🌟

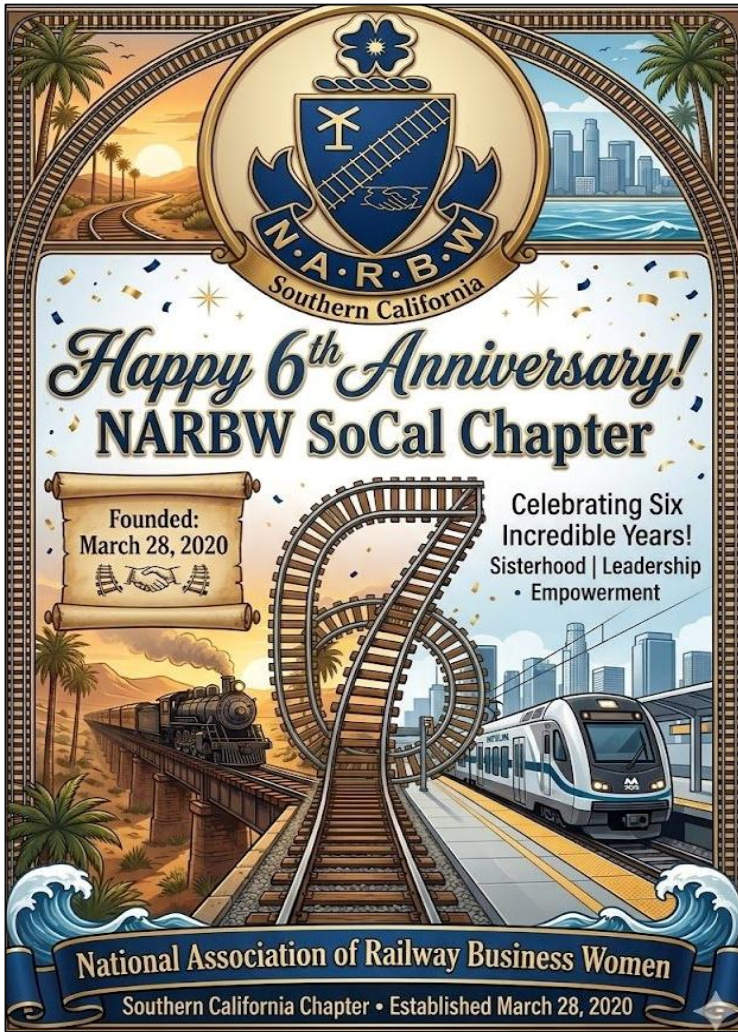
NARBW SoCal proudly celebrates Sallie Rodriguez as our Woman of the Year. With 14 years at Metrolink, Sallie is known for her excellence, innovation, and unwavering commitment to safety and teamwork. Within NARBW SoCal, she has enhanced member engagement through website redesign and has supported key initiatives including the Warrior for Children Toy Drive and community outreach efforts.

Sallie currently serves as Welfare Committee Chairperson and is on the National Publications Committee. Beyond the rail industry, Sallie is dedicated to youth and community service, volunteering in schools, coaching, and supporting local programs. A true example of leadership, heart, and service.

💜 Congratulations, Sallie!



- Continued -



JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER

Kicking Off the Year with Purpose and Creativity

Last quarter, the Jacksonville Chapter had several great speakers and events. In January, we talked about how to improve membership, scholarships, the upcoming convention, the Woman of the Year, and many other ideas to create better engagement and networking opportunities.

After we conducted our monthly business, several of the members put on their creative hats and worked on a craft as a social activity. The crafts turned out great!



- Continued -

Honoring Founder’s Day and Supporting Our Community

February was a busy month for the Jacksonville Chapter. We had two networking events that focused on addressing domestic violence. They provided very valuable information on how we can advocate for those in need. We also celebrated Founder’s Day, Took Nominations for Woman of the Year, and several ladies participated in the Hubbard House Walk.



CSX Insights & Woman of the Year Recognition

Christina Bottomley and Judy Covington-Poole inspired attendees at our March meeting with updates on business growth and tech innovation within CSX. From industrial development trends to advancements in co-location across our network, their insights were invaluable.

Lastly, in March we officially congratulated our Chapter Woman of the Year....Judy Covington Poole!! Judy exemplifies leadership through vision, service, mentorship, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting others. A role model for employees, students, peers, members, friends, and family, Judy leads to create meaningful, lasting impact. She has a distinguished record of professional excellence, community leadership, and selfless service.



2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION

82ND National Convention - May 1 & 2, 2026 - "You Are a Shining Star"
Pre-Convention Tour - April 30, 2026 - Holiday Inn Tanglewood, Roanoke, VA

Known as the "Star City of the South" because of the large, illuminated star overlooking the city, Roanoke, Virginia is a mountain town offering abundant outdoor activities, from hiking and mountain biking trails to paddling waterways and scenic drives. As the largest city along Virginia's Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail, Roanoke has become a haven for outdoor lovers looking for a place to rest, recharge, and adventures. You are a Shining Star, our 2026 convention theme, is a song by Earth, Wind, and Fire from the 70's, stepping back in time for remembering the Disco era with leisure suits, bell bottom jeans, shiny metallic outfits, white boots, and your best dance moves. Stay Connected - Join our [Roanoke Convention Facebook Group!](#)



Hotel: Nestled in the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, the newly renovated Holiday Inn–Tanglewood offers convenient access to the Blue Ridge Parkway (just 2 miles away) and is within walking distance of Tanglewood Mall with many restaurants and shops. The hotel features updated guest rooms with a mini-fridge, microwave, and free Wi-Fi, and guests can enjoy a cocktail or meal at the onsite lounge, Elephant Walk. Pets are allowed, though only service animals are permitted in the restaurants. A free shuttle is available upon arrival by calling 540-774-4400. Travelers can reach the hotel by plane (ROA), train, or automobile.

Room rate is \$109 per night (plus applicable taxes/fees). Book by Sunday, March 18, 2026, by calling 540-774-4400, referencing the NARBW convention; or use the convenient link to book your reservations. The rate is good from April 29 through May 3, 2026. Link: nationalassociationofrailwaybusinesswomen.com.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE (Registration form on back page)

Wednesday, April 29	Pre-Convention Board Meeting
Thursday, April 30	Registration, Pre-Convention Tour, Hospitality Night
Friday, May 1	Business Meeting, President's Brunch, Market Place, Business Meeting, Candidate's Reception, Fun Night
Saturday, May 2	Memorial, Business Meeting, Elections, Market Place, Membership Lunch, Business Meeting, Post-Convention Board Meeting, Group Photo, Reception, Banquet
Sunday, May 3	Check out and Good-Bye's

Our **Pre-Convention** tour on Thursday, April 30, will include a group photo at the Star on top of Mill Mountain, a visit to the D-Day Memorial, lunch at Liberty Station (renovated railroad passenger station) and a couple of surprises. For **Fun Night**, plan to go back in time! "You are a shining star, no matter who you are" is from the era of Disco with leisure suits, bell bottoms, and big hair, which will be such a fun time at our Fun Night. Or go back to what you dreamed you would be when you grew up. Music provided by "Hootie Mack"! **For our 2026 convention project**, we ask for donation of old eyeglasses which will be donated to the Lions Club. All types of glasses can be used, i.e., prescription, readers, sunglasses, etc.

For questions, contact National Convention Co-Chairs Carol Gentilini at 540-563-9259 or Sylvia Long at 540-521-1972.

NARBW Convention Registration Form

82nd Annual Convention in Roanoke, VA. May 1 - 2, 2026
 Holiday Inn, Tanglewood, 4468 Starkey Road
 Roanoke, VA 24018



All registrations must be postmarked by March 18. No refunds after April 1st
You must complete sections 1-3. **Keep a copy of this for your records.**

Use a separate form for each attendee. There are three sections to this form, please be sure to complete **ALL THREE**. This Registration Form may be photocopied or it can be printed from the NARBW website (www.narbw.org).

SECTION ONE: Personal Information

Please type or print clearly.

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Chapter: _____ Railroad Affiliation: _____
 Emergency Contact
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____

Please check one:

Delegate
 Alternate
 National Board
 Emeritus Council
 Member
 Guest
 Chapter President

SECTION TWO: Registration Fees and Meals - Covers Registration and 4 Convention Meals

Please enter the dollar amount(s).

Members:	Emeritus Council:	Non-Members (Guest):
_____ \$315 (by March 18th)	_____ \$220	Guest Name: _____
_____ \$340 (after March 18)		Convention Meals only (enter all that apply)
_____ \$260 <i>Host Chapter</i>		_____ \$50 Presidents Brunch
Chapter Presidents:	Emeritus Council pays Membership Luncheon, Fun Night & Banquet	_____ \$80 Fun Night
_____ \$260 (by March 18th)		_____ \$50 Membership Luncheon
_____ \$285 (after March 18)		_____ \$90 Reception and Banquet

Registration Total (check should be made payable to NARBW)

Your total payment amount should match the registration total in this section.

SECTION THREE: Survey

Please check all that apply to you.

_____ This is my first NARBW Convention.
 _____ I require vegetarian meals. _____ I require gluten-free meals
 _____ Request Marketplace Table for _____ Chapter.
 _____ Interested in a roommate.
 _____ Special Needs/Requests/Food allergies

If you have any questions, please call Carol Gentillini at 540-563-9259 or email convention@narbw.org

Mail your check and this completed form to:
 2026 NARBW Convention Registration
 Julie Nelson
 15467 Jaynes Circle
 Omaha, NE 68116

Mail or email copy of form to Convention Chairman:
 NARBW National Convention Chairman
 Carol Gentillini
 2640 Cedarhurst Ave., NW
 Roanoke, VA 24012
convention@narbw.org

Payments now accepted through Zelle by using email address: Treasurer@narbw.org