

# THE CAPSULE

June 2021

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## REMINDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL SUMMER BOARD MEETING  
JULY 24, 2021

PLANS OF WORK WILL BE MAILED  
MID-AUGUST

VISIT THE NARBW WEBSITE  
[WWW.NARBW.ORG](http://WWW.NARBW.ORG)

FIND NARBW CHAPTERS AND LIKE US  
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Dear NARBW Members:

The 77<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Jacksonville was another great convention for the books.

The convention officially began with the formal opening. We held our President's Brunch and recognized our past national presidents, current chapter presidents and our National Woman of the Year for 2021 as well as the Chapter Women of the Year from 2020. This year we had several guest speakers: we learned, we laughed and even cried. We Followed the River to Sun, Sand, and Sisters for Candidates Reception and Fun Night. The chapters displayed their Hawaiian attire and had fun playing several games. We have some highly creative and talented ladies. Saturday was our touching Memorial Service. Our Membership Luncheon focused on taking care of ourselves and we honored our first-time convention attendees. We concluded with a formal banquet that included the announcement of our scholarship winners. We had two winners with us at the banquet and it was a joy to hear them speak. For those that attended this convention, we know that

Dana Robles, her Convention Committee, and the Jacksonville chapter ladies did an outstanding job! Well done ladies!

My 'State of NARBW' addressed what a difficult year we had and where we are headed. We faced losses, life altering changes, loneliness, adjustments to our routines and we are now facing a new normal. For NARBW, the change was just as difficult: we installed our newest chapter by Zoom, we cancelled the 2020 convention (first time since WW2) and we recorded events (Woman of the Year, Memorial, Scholarship etc.) and posted them on social media. Many chapters have not met in person since the pandemic hit. However, it was a year for NARBW to look to our future and find ways to adapt and even grow. The Board kept in contact with our members via FB and held our board meetings via zoom (talk about long days). The National Board and many chapters held Zoom events. All of this was new to most of us. I must commend the Chicago and the Southern California chapters for the many events they held via Zoom and for inviting all our members. This is what NARBW is about: Sisterhood and learning to make it through difficult times together.

Now that our world is opening up and we are finding our new normal I know our membership will increase. Our membership has decreased the last few years, but I have faith in YOU and our chapters to start again by reaching out to co-workers and family members. This last year of isolation may mean someone needs NARBW and the friendship that can be made. Let us reach out to our sisters who are no longer members, let us step outside of comfort zones and extend a hand to fellow railroaders and obtain new members. I am challenging each chapter to increase their members by 10%. I am excited to see where we are a year from now.

Continued, next page

# President's message, continued

We ALL love this organization and our NARBW sisters. We do our part, some of us behind the scenes and some standing in the front, but we need everyone's help. Please consider reaching outside your comfort zones and work towards holding a position within your chapter. OR EVEN STEPPING UP to the National Board! It is not that bad, I promise you! Some chapters recycle their positions and keep chapter board positions the same for years. For those ladies I applaud you for keeping the love of NARBW strong!

One benefit of having membership drives, social events, and reaching out to new people is getting increased membership. Once you have a new member, you can mentor them right into your position. For some of you ladies, the National Board was never on your horizon, but WHY NOT? Family, Kids, Work, Church...all the above and more. As National Board members we have these same issues, but we know we must make it work to keep this organization going. I have genuinely enjoyed serving on the board in many different positions; it allowed me to become more confident, to learn about Networking and Teamwork, and to help others. By trying a new chair position or chapter board position, you can get these same benefits too. PLEASE Think about what you can offer, you know your strengths, and engage within your chapter and work towards the goal of being on the National Board. Each of us need to step forward with new philosophies and thoughts on how we can lift each other up and encourage one another. This year let us support our sisters, think about their new ideas, whether it is how we did in the past or not. We need to encourage our chapter's decisions, offer guidance without criticism, and embrace new ways of doing business. WE need to OWN NARBW, this is not just an organization, this is our way of life.

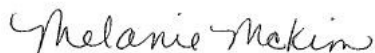
The National Board will be gathering for our Summer Board Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, to plan for and to review the goals and accomplishments of our association. Our Plans of Work will be sent to the Chapter Presidents mid-August so please keep a look out for them and make sure to review with your chapters. I encourage each of our chapters to plan for a great year ahead and be inspired to help others and join in friendships around the country. Let us revitalize our chapters by building on our strengths and reaching out to our railroad sisters. I am continuing my goal of increasing communication between the chapters and the national level, learning from each other and motivating members to go out and recruit new members.

Listed below are the 2021/2022 Board and Committee chairs.

Rhonda Gomez	Kansas City – 1 <sup>st</sup> VP
Rae Huebner	Philadelphia – 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Renee Noble	Philadelphia – 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP
Michele Williams	Chicago - Treasurer
Dana Robles	Jacksonville - Secretary
Yolanda Barbosa	Chicago – Convention
Cynthia Chandler	Omaha - Nominations
Nancy Von Dolteren	Jacksonville – Publications
Peggy Simon Cuellar	Houston - Scholarship
Chrystal Tonkin-Corum	Kansas City – Revisions/Jewelry
Vanessa Estell	Atlanta – Welfare
Cynthia Chandler	Omaha– Emeritus Council

I am truly honored and excited to serve you as your National President. Thank you for your support and I am eagerly looking forward to another successful term.

Sincerely,



Melanie McKim National President

# NATIONAL BOARD NEWS



## National Association of Railway Business Women

### Resume of the 2021 NARBW National Convention

Jacksonville, Florida

The 77<sup>th</sup> NARBW Convention formal opening was on Friday, May 21, 2021, at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel. National President Melanie McKim opened the meeting, followed by the invocation given by Jasmine Manley of the Chicago Chapter. We were honored to have Jacksonville Boy Scout Troop #106 Color Guard Present the Colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

During the first business meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> Credentials Chairman Lisa Stout, Indianapolis Circle City Chapter, announced the delegate quorum of forty-two members. On the second day of business the quorum was reported as forty-two members. Twelve out of sixteen chapters were represented at convention.

First Vice President Rhonda Gomez introduced the ten women nominated by their chapters for National Woman of the Year. At the Presidents' Brunch, Second Vice President Renee Noble introduced the Chapter Presidents and National Past Presidents. First Vice President Rhonda Gomez announced Chrystal Tonkin-Corum, Kansas City Chapter, as the 2021 Woman of the Year. Welfare Chairman Vanessa Estelle announced that nineteen women representing seven chapters had donated more than \$300 or 300 hours during the past year. Our total welfare contributions were \$55,782.50 and 4,868 hours.

Christina Stallings, CSX Senior Technical director and Kim Bowling, CSX Director Car Monitoring and Diagnostics were our speakers on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

On Saturday May 22nd Membership Chairman Chrystal Tonkin-Corum held a wonderful tribute to our deceased members at the Memorial Service.

We began our Saturday business meeting with Rory Diamond who spoke to us about K-9 for Warriors. Publication Chairman Nancy Von Dolteren gave a presentation about the NARBW website. Melanie McKim introduced 'From the Beginning', the 100 Year Anniversary publication and thanked the committee for compiling this historic summary of our wonderful organization.

The Membership Luncheon was hosted by Third Vice President Chrystal Tonkin-Corum. Our guest speaker was Emily Foltz-Holland, LMHC, CCTP, CPC, LPC, Pace Center for Girls. The afternoon Public Affairs Speaker was Clarence Gooden, retired CSX.

The installation of officers was conducted by Sandy Hall, Past National President and Emeritus Council Member:

Second Vice President	Rae Huebner, Philadelphia Chapter
Third Vice President	Renee Noble, Philadelphia Chapter
Secretary	Dana Robles, Jacksonville Chapter

The National Proposed Budget was reviewed and approved with no changes made.

Scholarship Chair Rae Huebner recognized eight scholarship winners at the formal banquet. Two recipients attended the banquet this year: Mary LaBelle, sponsored by her aunt Nancy Von Dolteren and Ashita Mummareddy sponsored by her mother Suneetha Mummareddy. Both sponsors were from the Jacksonville Chapter.

The 78<sup>th</sup> National Convention will be held in Chicago in May 2022. Southern California Chapter will host the 2023 Convention and Omaha Chapter will host the 2024 convention.

# Quarterly Event

September 11, 2021 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. This day is traditionally one to honor and remember the 2,977 lives lost on that terrible day (including 412 first responders).

In April of 2009, Congress requested the observance of September 11<sup>th</sup> as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. 9/11 Day has become our nation's largest annual day of service - people are asked to do good deeds that help others to honor the fallen.

For our next Quarterly event we ask our chapters to organize a local act of service.

People say you will always remember where you were on 9/11/2001 when the terrorist attacks occurred. Let us all pay tribute to the brave men, women and children who perished on that fateful day.

<https://americorps.gov/newsroom/events/911-day/911-day-resources>

- Collect school supplies and deliver them to a local school (make sure to discover what they need first. COVID may have changed what schools need.).
- Sign up to serve or deliver meals to those at risk of hunger.
- Work with a local food bank or pantry to collect or deliver donations.
- Sign up to be a mentor or tutor (This can be done virtually).
- Beautify a local park or community space – fall is a good time to plant trees and spring blooming bulbs.
- Arrange a virtual visit to a senior citizen center or send cards to residents/clients of a senior center.
- Check with your local fire station and see if you can organize a fall clean up or serve them a meal.
- Arrange a visit to a veterans' center. You can also check with the center to see if they need personal care items and launch a collection drive.
- Add a moment of silence to your project to honor 9/11 victims and their families.

Join your neighbors for a meeting to assess your community's disaster preparedness and take steps to support improvements. Find more information at [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

**You are the Help Until Help Arrives:** Life-threatening emergencies can happen fast, and emergency responders aren't always nearby. You may be able to save a life by taking simple actions. To learn more or organize a training for your community, check out these [FEMA resources](#).

**Ready for Winter:** You may have neighbors who could use assistance preparing their homes for the winter months. Or you may belong to an organization that knows of residents who could use some assistance getting ready for winter. Here are some tips from the [Department of Energy](#) on saving energy in the fall and winter, and [steps you can take](#) to make sure you and your neighbors are ready for colder weather.

**Fire Safety:** Home fires increase during the winter months. The [American Red Cross](#) has toolkits and safety tips to help prevent home fires. You might also partner with your local fire department to [install smoke alarms](#) in neighborhoods with the highest incidence of home fires.



# 2021 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Tristen Menichetti is a member of our Omaha Chapter.

This is Tristen's second NARBW scholarship award. As the highest scoring scholarship winner this year,

Tristen's award honors NARBW's 10<sup>th</sup> Past National President Bess Bowling, (1960-1962, Columbus). Tristen is in her first year at the University of Nebraska Omaha and is majoring in Journalism and Media Communications with a minor in English. While she originally entered college with an Education major in mind, a few friends already involved in the program inspired her to use her writing skills to make a positive change in the sensationalized world of media. It was a journey to find her major, but despite this, she kept up on her grades as an honors student and ended up on the Dean's list for her efforts. Along with academics, Tristen also loves to be creative with sewing and painting in her free time. Tristen was thrilled to receive this scholarship after being a proud NARBW member since her sophomore year of high school and looks forward to the future of her chapter in the coming years.



Jenna Coolbaugh is sponsored by her cousin, Kathy DuVall, of the Omaha Chapter. Jenna was born in the heart of the Canadian Rockies in the small town of Cranbrook, British Columbia. She grew up enjoying many outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, hiking, and skiing, as well as many team sports such as volleyball and softball.

Jenna always excelled in school, graduating from high school as an honor roll student and accepted into the prestigious and competitive University of Victoria Cranbrook campus Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Jenna has completed her first year near the top of her class and is eager to practice her newfound nursing skills as a care aide in a long-term care facility over the summer.

Jenna looks forward to graduating and following in the footsteps of her grandmother in a fulfilling career in nursing including a mission in Africa and nursing in remote northern communities.

This is Jenna's first NARBW Scholarship award.

# 2021 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Riley Donahoe is a member of the Omaha chapter. She is in her second year at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she is majoring in kinesiology with a focus on pre-physical therapy. At the end of her junior year, she will begin to apply to multiple physical therapy programs. She currently works at Go Physical Therapy as a physical therapy technician where she is getting amazing insight and exposure to her future career. Riley also works at LifeTime Fitness and at Papillion Landing. With this experience at fitness facilities, she is dedicated to living a healthy lifestyle and would like to help others with their health goals. Her dream career is being a physical therapist on a sports medicine team at a children's hospital. In her spare time, Riley is a volunteer for the American Red Cross and enjoys baking, reading, and hiking.

This is Riley's first NARBW National Scholarship.

Gabrielle Dunn is from Newnan, Ga and is sponsored by her grandmother, Vanessa Estell, of the Atlanta chapter. Gabrielle is a second year Junior Psychology major, English Minor at Howard University. She is extremely passionate about advocating for the importance of mental health.

During her freshman year, she joined an arts-based research group where she studies art therapy and protective arts. Gabrielle aspires to walk a path in which she can maximize her abilities and strengths to help others. She intends to open her own mental health clinic offering multiple forms of therapy, such as art therapy and music therapy, to provide a dynamic safe place for individuals to find healing and peace. In her free time, she enjoys writing poetry, reading, and watching documentaries.

Gabrielle is elated to have received this scholarship and grateful for the generosity and support of the NARBW.

This is Gabrielle's first NARBW scholarship award.





# 2021 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Mary LaBelle is from St. Louis, MO and is sponsored by her Aunt, Nancy Von Dolteren, of the Jacksonville Chapter. Mary is currently a junior majoring in Accounting and Finance at Kansas State University.

Mary is delighted to receive one of the National Association of Railway Business Women's 2021 Scholarships! While at Kansas State, Mary has been a part of the Student Accounting Society and Powercat Financial. She serves as the Marketing Chair for Powercat Financial and has enjoyed spreading financial literacy across campus. Mary says it's a joy to help other students find the services to ease their financial stress. In Mary's free time, she enjoys playing basketball, tennis, and golf, riding her bike throughout town, and swing dancing. Lastly, being the youngest of four, Mary has worked extra hard to allow her parents and herself financial relief after they have sacrificed so much for her. Mary is thankful for this honor and the chance to further her education and make her family proud.

This is Mary's second NARBW scholarship award – a great achievement.



Ashita Mummareddy is sponsored by her mother, Suneetha, a member of the Jacksonville Chapter. Ashita is from Jacksonville, Florida and will be in her third year at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall as a Dean's Scholar in the College of Sciences. She is majoring in Chemistry and minoring in Biology as well as Health and Medical Sciences. Ashita is currently doing research as a part of the La Pierre Group at Georgia Tech where she works on the electronic properties of f-block elements. She will be a research intern at the Mayo Clinic this summer working on breast cancer research. Her love for chemistry was brought forth by her chemistry teachers in high school who never failed to entertain her curiosities about the subject. After college, Ashita plans on going to medical school to pursue a career in health care, specifically anesthesiology. Apart from academics, Ashita also loves to read and discover new music, and she loves staying active with volleyball and basketball.

This is Ashita's first NARBW Scholarship award.

# 2021 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mackenzie Patrick is from San Antonio, Texas and is a first-year recipient of the NARBW National Scholarship award.

Mackenzie is sponsored by her aunt, Cookie Grant, of the Houston Chapter. With the support of the NARBW, she will begin pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis on pre-med at Grand Canyon University.

Throughout high school, Mackenzie has been involved in many activities such as student government, theater, 4-H, and honor societies, all while serving her community through her local church, working as a team leader at Chick-fil-A and maintaining a high GPA.

She loves country music, dancing, hiking, swimming, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

She dreams of one day working as a pediatrician or obstetrician and is beyond blessed to be chosen as the recipient for the 2021 NARBW National Scholarship.



Emma Sulpizio is sponsored by her grandmother, Kathy Bevilacqua, of the Philadelphia Chapter.

Emma is a freshman Nursing student at Widener University in Chester, PA. During her first year at Widener, she made the Nursing Dean's list and joined the Widener University Student Nurses' Association.

Emma's interest in Nursing was sparked in high school during the Honors Medical Careers program that she participated in at Taylor Hospital.

During her four years of high school, Emma was a captain of the track team and played field hockey. Emma was also a committee member of the Dance Marathon that raises money for pediatric cancer, and the Cougar Ambassadors Club that promotes positivity and inclusion for all students.

Emma enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and she enjoys working out.

Emma is very grateful for the NARBW scholarship that will help her fund her education and fulfil her dream of becoming a Registered Nurse.

This is Emma's first NARBW Scholarship.



# CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR



## **Central Florida Chapter – Ramona Sanmoogan**

Upon joining, Ramona met some of the remarkable women of the group. She learned about their cause, and the heart filled activities they did for the community and knew instantly that she wanted to be a part of a group that gives back in a meaningful way, while having fun with a bunch of great people!

Ramona joined in June of 2016 and has held the Social chair position since 2018. She has been an active member and has had the privilege to help plan and organize the activities they have done as a group such as Painting with a Twist, Group Movie night, 5K Fundraiser walks for the homeless, Alzheimer's foundation walk, Breast Cancer Awareness walk, feeding the homeless at the shelters, Mother's day totes filled with essentials for the women at the shelter, Christmas gift shopping for the children at the

orphanage, Easter fundraiser, Bake/soup sales, Founders Day Project celebrations, as well as the "I Love NARBW" fundraiser and the Princess House expos and demonstrations all to help her NARBW sisters earn money. Oh, let's not forget the "Cheer" basket to raffle off during the holidays! She has had the pleasure of scoping out restaurants, making reservations and going the extra mile to arrive early to decorate the entire room before the ladies and their families arrive for the Christmas Party. She is truly blessed to be a part of a wonderful group of amazing women.

Ramona is honored to be chosen as NARBW Woman of the Year for the Central Florida Chapter group!



## **Chicago Chapter – Sharon Slaton**

Sharon Slaton, 2021 Chicago chapter Woman of the Year, exemplifies NARBW values - in her community, during her 26-year Amtrak career and in the Chicago chapter. She has been Chapter President since 2018 and has served as Vice President and Publications and Scholarship chair. She also worked closely with the Membership chair and committee to host the first-ever NARBW virtual membership drive in November 2020 that introduced prospective members to the chapter, NARBW history, the National President and board members. She also started a chapter group on the communication app "GroupMe," to reach members who are not often connected to email. Sharon has participated in NARBW welfare projects including Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk and Winter Wear for School Kids in addition to organizing the chapter's annual meal activity at the Ronald McDonald House. In 2019, Sharon worked in Puerto Rico for a year to support FEMA work in response to the destruction born of Hurricane Maria. During this time Sharon held a seven-week

fundraiser and food and toiletry drive for the homeless in San Juan on behalf of NARBW Chicago. She is now studying to become a registered parliamentarian. A retiree from Amtrak, Sharon's 26-year career was not limited to her communications role. She was an Operation Lifesaver presenter for over 15 years. Toward the end of her railroad career, Sharon was the recipient of two President's Service and Safety Awards - Sustained Excellence and Living Our Values. Not only is Sharon Chicago chapter President, she is their friend, mentor, leader and truly one-of-a-kind. Sharon is mom to Spencer, 28, who after graduating college, has a successful career in consulting, is an art blogger, entrepreneur and homeowner.

The Chicago chapter offers their wholehearted support to the nomination of Sharon Slaton for NARBW Woman of the Year.



# CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR



## **Houston Chapter – Bridget Hammons**

Bridget comes from a family of railroaders and says, “working for the railroad has been rewarding in so many ways!” Being an active member of the Houston Chapter of NARBW has provided opportunity for Bridget to give back. With the challenges of COVID, Bridget helped the club raise over \$1500 for the general fund with her “outside the box” thinking. The next chapter of for Bridget will be serving on the Board as President for the Houston Chapter.

Her degree is in Human Services. Her aspirations were to be a Marriage and Family Counselor until her brother, a UP Train Dispatcher, had told her about an opportunity at Union Pacific for position as a Train Dispatcher. Bridget dispatched trains for 5 years and not only been a dispatcher, but was a Manager of Manpower Planning and a Rules Manager in the Spring Dispatching Center. She has participated as a member of LEAD (the woman initiative organization at Union Pacific) and her innovative thinking caught the attention of the leadership at UP where she lead a

UPWAY continuous improvement project which changed the way Union Pacific managed training for all Train Dispatchers. Bridget has spoken as guest speaker representing the Dispatch Center at UP’s Engineering Conferences. She is also a member of Altrusa International of Montgomery County where she has volunteered at the Montgomery County Library and Willis Nursing home as well as the Montgomery County Battered Women’s Shelter. She served as a member of the Family Ministries Committee at her church, volunteered as a guest speaker at the annual PINK Defying Gravity young women’s conference. She has spent many hours collecting and delivering items for Star of Hope mission in Houston. Bridget is married and has two boys,

Ben -13 and Daniel 11. When not at work or volunteering, much of Bridget’s time is spent at the baseball field supporting her boys.

The Houston Chapter is truly blessed to have such a talented young woman to carry on NARBW’s legacy.



## **Indianapolis Charter Chapter – Margaret Anne Elston**

Margaret Anne Elston has served as Ways and Means Chairman, Corresponding Secretary, Vice President and was Chapter President in 1981, 1982, 2015 – 2017. She was also the first Chapter Scholarship Chairman and initiated the Scholarship gift basket fundraiser held each December. Margaret has also volunteered for Operation Lifesaver in the elementary schools. She has assisted a committee at Centenary Christian Church with a group called “A Woman’s Hands” which honored the many women of leadership in the church. She volunteers with Indy Lost Pets and has assisted with the return of several “lost babies” to their owners. This past year she has been limited in her volunteer activities but continues to support “Heaven after Hell” pet rescue and her local Humane Society through donations and fund raising. Margaret has also been able to help serve a monthly meal to a group of pastors who meet to promote community services and activities through their individual churches.

The Indy Charter Chapter is so fortunate that Margaret settled back in the Indianapolis area after several moves with the railroad. Her knowledge of NARBW Indianapolis Charter Chapter history is invaluable. Margaret is kind and generous and always goes the extra mile to make sure everything is done right. She is currently serving the chapter as a Ways and Means Chairman.

# CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR



## **Jacksonville Chapter — Mary Elizabeth Warner**

Mary joined the Jacksonville Chapter in 1990 and has served as Sunshine Chair, Scholarship Chair, Vice President and Chapter President for two years and was on the convention team for the 2007 Jekyll Island convention. She is currently Jacksonville's Welfare Chair. She also attends Meet and Greet events and has recruited many new members. She participates in the chapter's social events, donates to fundraising events, and volunteers with her NARBW sisters. She has attended many conventions with her favorite being Minneapolis. She has become the ultimate ambassador for Pace Center for Girls of Jacksonville – an alternative school for at risk girls aged 12 – 17. Eventually her Clothes Closet assignment grew into an event named after her (Ms. Mary's Boutique) and eventually the buildout of a permanent in-school boutique which now serves as a model for boutiques in the other PACE locations. In addition, she was a volunteer grief counselor at her church for 18 years, has volunteered at Trinity Rescue Mission, 3 Grains of Rice Missions, St. Michael's Soldiers, and many other local charities.

She has been recognized in the Jacksonville community as the recipient of two prestigious awards: Times-Union EVE Awards and First Coast News '12 Who Care' finalist. Beyond the local level, Mary was honored to be awarded the Daily Point of Light in November 2016.

In 1965, she started work at the B&O Railroad and became the manager of her Accounting group. During the B&O – C&O merger, Mary worked in Public Relations and in Customer Accounting. She retired from CSX in 1998, however, after a very brief retirement, she was asked back by CSX to consult in the Audit Department. She worked from 2000 until 2014 and then retired again.



## **Omaha Chapter — Marge Carson**

Marge joined NARBW in 1977-1980 and again in 1986 to the present date for a total of 35 years. She has served as President in the 1980's, Vice President from the year 2000-2008, you can say she is a Board Member Forever!

She is currently retired from the UP Railroad in Omaha, NE where she worked for 41 years.

Her favorite NARBW activity or memory was creating Braille drawings for a student from his textbooks so he could study with other students, working at the booth at the Iowa State Fair, The annual Railroad Safety Poster Contest, Annual scholarship submissions, the Candy & nut sales to raise money for the scholarship program and other charitable contributions. She also helped to make sure that volunteers were scheduled to work the Company Store as well as having

all 3 of her daughters join NARBW at different times of their lives.

Marge's hobbies include her Family, NARBW, Church, Camping and Boating with friends. Her husband, Jerry, is so grateful on behalf of Marge to be able to have the title of Omaha's Woman of the Year!

# CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR



## **Philadelphia Chapter – Helena Funk**

Helena is the epitome of what you would want as an NARBW sister. From the first meeting that Helena attended in 2018, she jumped in with both feet. The chapter was completely immersed in plans for hosting the 2019 convention.

Helena immediately asked to join the Decorations committee, and by the end of that meeting she had volunteered to design and create their chapter's beautiful submission to the "Show Us Your Shoes" contest. Helena completely embraced the philanthropy and sisterhood of Philadelphia's chapter and the entire organization. Helena never hesitates to volunteer her time and her creative talents to help with any fundraising effort and is a strong supporter of NARBW and the Philadelphia Chapter. Her charming personality, creativity, generosity, and positivity makes her a joy to be around. We are a stronger, kinder and better chapter with Helena in it.

Helena serves as a Volunteer/Teacher at the Tyler Park Center for the Arts and is a resident artist/potter. Helena was hired by Amtrak in 1976 and retired in 2018, a career that spanned 42 years. She graduated in 2003 from Cabrini College with a

bachelor's degree in business communications, while married with two daughters! Helena was the lead in sales revenue for the NEC group for many years. She has strong Business software experience, interpersonal business communication skills, and presentation skills and is an experienced Business Travel expert.

Helena also served as a workplace mentor for the Sales & Marketing/Corporate Sales group in Amtrak's Northeast Corridor.

The Philadelphia Chapter is proud to honor Helena Funk as their 2021 Woman of The Year!



## **Roanoke Chapter — Doris Underwood**

We hope every chapter has a Doris Underwood on their roster. Doris is that member (since May, 2000) that supports the chapter 110%. Doris has chaired or been an active member on almost every committee of Chapter 19. She is currently Chair of the Sunshine and Telephone Committees. Doris started work at Norfolk & Western Railroad in August 1965 in the Casualty Claim Department. Fourteen years later she became secretary to 5 supervisors in the Merchandise Traffic. In 1981 she worked in Labor Relations after which she worked in Personnel and then Benefits (Pension) Department. In March 1995 she went to the Railway Police Department where she retired as a Dispatcher in the Police Department January 1, 2001.

In addition to her NARBW activities, she is the Church Secretary at her Church and member of Roanoke Congregational Holiness Church, where she is also Secretary/Treasurer of the Woman's Ministries Group and is a 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School teacher. She also volunteers at Mrs. Dorsey's Community Clothes Closet in Salem, VA. Doris married in August 1968 and was married 51 years until her husband's unexpected passing in May 2020. Her son Jason has two children who make their grandmother proud. Granddaughter Taylor and grandson Jonathan have accompanied their grandmother to various NARBW events and it is evident they think their grandmother is pretty cool!

# CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR

## **Southern California Chapter — Shamonda Jones**

Shamonda Jones celebrated her 23 years of railroading on May 28, 2020, in which she began working for Norfolk Southern, then she went to employment with Metra and then onto work for Metrolink. A manager at NS encouraged her to become a Tower Operator, and Shamonda fell in love with the work. She worked at Metra with the hopes of becoming a Train Dispatcher. During the 16 yrs. at Metra, she worked as a Crew Caller, Chief Mechanical Clerk, Train Dispatcher, Assistant Chief Dispatcher, Chief Dispatcher, and Sr. Manager Train Operations. While as Assistant Chief Dispatcher, she served as General Chairwoman of the ATDA. During Shamonda's first year as Sr. Manager of Train Operations, she became the recipient of the 2016 Dr. Gary Burke Safety Award for revising a 17 yr. old Dispatcher's Manual and included a Power Desk section. She was honorably presented the award at the US Capitol.

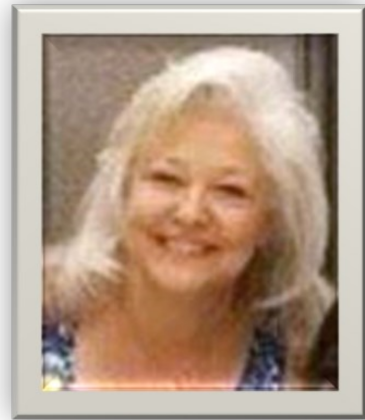
Shamonda also interviewed in a video for the National Railroad Hall of Fame regarding the struggles of women in the railroad. Shamonda truly enjoys the Operations side of Railroading. After a Palm Springs vacation, she immediately fell in love with Southern California so she applied and was hired by Metrolink.





# 2021 NATIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Chrystal Tonkin Corum has been employed at BNSF for the last 24 years. In her service to NARBW, she has held offices such as KC Chapter President, Secretary and Treasurer, National Convention Chairman in 2018, and is the Charter member of the newest Kansas City Chapter. She currently serves as National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President / Membership Chairman.



Chrystal's involvement in chapter events includes attending monthly meetings as well as planning and executing membership drives for the Kansas City Chapter. With the chapter, she has helped to foster charitable events such as adopting a family for Christmas, volunteering at local food pantries which include sorting and distributing food, providing supplies for Kansas City Greater SPCA shelters, gathering toiletries for local women's organizations, and writing holiday cards for soldiers hosted abroad. Under Chrystal's leadership, the KC chapter gathered duffel bags and filled them with necessities for distribution to foster adolescents and children. She has been instrumental in planning and holding fundraising raffles, and helped organize chapter events such as nut sales, geranium, and candy sales to raise money for the chapter. Chrystal also proudly led the organization at the 2018 NARBW National Convention hosted by Kansas City. Chrystal partakes in fun activities with her NARBW sisters such as visits to local wineries, group painting and wine events, maker's craft events, and helped to plan Chapter delegates' attendance at the NARBW National Convention. As National Membership Chairman, her job is to interact with members-at-large through email and conference calls as well as planned meet and greets for new members in Memphis, New Orleans and Los Angeles. Chrystal assisted with the formation of the newest NARBW chapter in Southern California.

Chrystal has accomplished service to the Community with events as sponsoring a clothing drive to help the Clay County Clothes Closet and collected clothing for families during the pandemic. Her family donated funds for local law enforcement to purchase four wheelers to patrol wooded areas in her community as well as funds to purchases and place wreaths on military members' gravesites. She holds neighborhood gatherings to facilitate the inclusion of new neighbors in the adjacent subdivisions surrounding her families' home. She was a lane performer at the local Renaissance Festival to promote tourism for her community for one season and worked behind the scenes with costuming for two additional years. She also planned events such as auctions and organized dinners for the private schools that her children attended through college to raise funds for tuition assistance and building maintenance. Chrystal participated in the local March of Dimes Christmas Tree auction to raise money for Sudden Infant Death syndrome and supported the local symphony by designing a room in their annual show house to raise funds for education in the arts.

Chrystal serves the railroad industry by holding annual picnics for KC railroad supervisors. She was involved in monthly testing teams to encourage cross-organizational interaction to increase traffic flow and knowledge of operating rules throughout different carriers in Kansas City. Chrystal was involved on the BNSF Diversity Council for five years, serving as co-chair for one year, where she helped to organize chili feeds for KC employees, along with school supply drives for furloughed employees' children. She served as a member of the Leadership Advisory Team at BNSF to assist with implementing changes to the leadership culture of the community. Chrystal trained fellow employees to perform her duties at BNSF; six of whom eventually were promoted to the position in which she trained them. Chrystal attended the meetings leading up to reorganizing a NARBW chapter in Kansas City and became a Charter member. She has been a NARBW member for 11 consecutive years and attended six conventions. Chrystal speaks to new employees about becoming members of her KC chapter and boasts of the benefits of joining NARBW. She also mentors new employees, both male and female, in operations testing and organizational expectations. There is nothing Chrystal is unable to accomplish and the Kansas City Chapter is proud to have her as an active member. We believe she will one day consider running for the National President!



# CHAPTER NEWS

## ALBANY CHAPTER



Pictured at left standing is Jan Darling, former Treasurer, and newly appointed President of the Albany Chapter. Joan Mauro, (seated), is the outgoing President who was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the Albany Chapter for her long standing commitment to the Chapter and keeping it together!



The Albany Chapter had their Installation of Officers banquet at Wolferts Roost Country Club in Albany on June 8th. Sixteen ladies were in attendance.

From left to right, former President Joan Mauro is passing the gavel to newly installed President Jan Darling, along with Vice President Penny Jones, Treasurer Betty Jean Kaufmann and Secretary Pat Marra. Joining Albany Chapter's installation was former member Ellie Scanlon, who is now a member of the Central Florida Chapter.

Congratulations Ladies, we are looking forward to an upcoming safe and prosperous year!

## ATLANTA CHAPTER

Nothing to report

## CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER



Pictured on the left:

Left to right: Ramona Samoogan, Madonna Neal, Melanie McKim, Ellie Scanlon, Nancy Booz-Allen and Gail Hendrix our 77<sup>th</sup> National Convention attendees.

Pictured at right

Nancy Booz-Allen and Ramona Sanmoogan won awards for their creative costumes at Fun Night during the convention.



We elected Chapter officers for the next 2 years at our June meeting.

President: Gail Hendrix. Vice-President: Ramona Sanmoogan, Secretary: Nancy Booz-Allen and Treasurer: Madonna Neal. Installation of officers will take place at our July Meeting.

Central Florida Chapter 83 purchased and delivered gift items for the Veteran's at the Emory L. Bennett VA Nursing Home in Daytona Beach FL.

The items had to be left outside as they are still on strict lock down orders because of COVID.

We hope the Vet's will enjoy these items at their Bingo games, one of the few activities they have been allowed to do during this past year and a half!



# CHAPTER NEWS

## CHICAGO CHAPTER

### ANNOUNCING THE 2021-2022 NARBW CHICAGO BOARD



#### NARBW Chicago is Proud to Introduce its 2021/2022 Board Members:

L-R: President Jasmine Manley; Vice President Cleatha Shaw; Secretary and Scholarship Chair Yolanda Barbosa; Treasurer and Publications Chair Sharon Slaton; Membership Chair Jacqueline Watkins and Welfare Chair Paula Taylor

*Congratulations Ladies!*

### CHICAGO CHAPTER ON THE MOVE

In April, NARBW Chicago partnered with the **Blackhawk Railway Historical Society** for a special presentation of "The History of Rail in Chicago." Dave Daruska, Vice President and Program Director of the Blackhawk Railway Historical Society discussed the influence of rail on Chicago's industry and highlighted the important contributions of women railroaders from its earliest days.

NARBW Chicago celebrated African American culture as a sponsor of Homewood Flossmoor and commemorated the end of slavery for Black Americans on June 18, 1865 as a proud sponsor of Homewood Flossmoor High School's Juneteenth Festival.

During the June chapter meeting, NARBW's Chicago's own Paula Taylor gave a moving, insightful presentation where she share her journey from being a corporate banker to a locomotive engineer.

Also in June, we hosted a virtual membership drive. A special thank you to our Membership Chair extraordinaire Jackie Watkins, Vice President Cle Shaw and everyone who contributed to the success of this event.

### CONGRATULATIONS NARBW CHICAGO FAMILY GRADUATES

Petina Hamilton's son **Krystian** (top left) is a 2021 graduate of Horizon Science Academy. He will be attending Stephen Tyng Mather High School in the fall.

Sonia Rodriguez' son **Nicholas "Rudy" Sorabi** (top right) graduated from John Hancock College Prep and will attend Harold Washington - Chicago City College in the fall where he will be taking core classes and working toward a degree in Computer Science.

Jasmine Manley's daughter **Anaiah** (bottom) is a 2021 graduate of Homewood Flossmoor High School and will be attending Alabama State University majoring in Education.



### CHICAGO LADIES HAD A BLAST AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION



### NARBW CHICAGO CAREER CORNER

#### Reaching Higher

Our NARBW sisters are succeeding and achieving!

Shout out to Tracy Robinson on her promotion to Talent Strategist Manager in Accenture's Human Resources department!

Congratulations to Yolanda Barbosa on her promotion to Business Services Specialist in Amtrak's Government Affairs National State and Local Legislative Relations department!

Well done ladies!



### GEAR UP FOR 2022 NARBW NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Chicago Chapter is honored to host the 78th National Convention.

We hope you will be able to join us May 13-14, 2022. We are planning to have great speakers at the business meetings, a Riverboat Architectural tour of the Windy City and more.

The Fun Night theme is "Broadway in Chicago". Come dressed as your favorite musical or theatre character.

The convention committee is working very hard in planning a memorable convention for all our NARBW Sisters!

### BROADWAY IN CHICAGO

National Association of Railway Business Women

78th ANNUAL CONVENTION

CROWNE PLAZA  
CHICAGO WEST LOOP

Friday & Saturday  
May 13 & 14, 2022



PRE-CONVENTION TOUR  
Thursday, May 12, 2022

Yolanda Barbosa, National Convention Chair  
773-441-9258/convention@narbwo.org



# CHAPTER NEWS

## HOUSTON CHAPTER



Our ladies enjoyed our trip to Jacksonville for the 77th National Convention. Here we are ready for the Amelia River Cruise.

## INDIANAPOLIS CIRCLE CITY CHAPTER

Lisa Stout represented our chapter at convention in Jacksonville. She served as Credentials Chair.

## INDIANAPOLIS CHARTER CHAPTER

We're glad that the Jacksonville Chapter was able to host a successful 2021 National Convention. Doris Stemmer was the only one able to represent our chapter and we truly appreciate that. We were all there in spirit, though!

Our members met in Beech Grove in June at the Rustic Root Tea Room. It was a social event and was a great opportunity to finally get together and catch up on things now that Covid concerns have been reduced. We plan on getting back on schedule in August and resuming a regular meeting schedule. We hope everyone has a great summer!

## JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER

Jacksonville ladies were busy preparing for Convention. We had fun helping the Convention Committee (Dana Robles, Angela Estes, Laura Gutteridge Años, Lori Ledoux and Nancy Von Dolteren) make crafts and decorations, stuff welcome bags and plan for Fun Night. We enjoyed seeing our NARBW sisters from across the country and with 22 first-time attendees we met many new friends. We are looking forward to a great Convention in Chicago in May 2022.

Our planning for the new year began in earnest after convention. We look forward to another great year with in-person meetings starting in September and a new speaker series featuring railroad topics.

We kicked off our welfare projects by collecting school supplies for the local 'Stuff the Bus' Campaign. This is part of our 'Mind / Soul / Heart / Body' quarterly focus plan for the year.

We are planning social events: a Great Gatsby Train ride in St. Mary's Georgia, another Marketplace fundraiser in the fall (stay tuned, everyone is invited to participate), and a return to our holiday lunch in December. We hope to have a joint event with the Central Florida Chapter.



# CHAPTER NEWS

## KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

Since the convention, we have not been able to get together for our monthly meeting as we will be planning on honoring our National WOY winner, Chrystal Corum. At that time, we plan on installing our new officers which consists of two members who are assuming two roles each since our group has dwindled down due to personal circumstances.

Congratulations to Megan Cibulski, President/Treasurer and Sarah Wilbur, VP/Secretary.

A few of us attended a Wood Sign class June 19th. We each made different items and had a great time! .



## PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Betty Halligan reports that the Pittsburgh met in person for their June meeting. They were so glad they were able to see each other again after such a long wait.

## SAINT LOUIS CHAPTER

Nothing to report

## TOPEKA CHAPTER

Nothing to report



# CHAPTER NEWS

## OMAHA CHAPTER

Omaha was pleased to have 3 members attend the National Convention in Jacksonville. It was wonderful to have 3 of our members / scholarship candidates win National Scholarships. Congratulations to Jenna Coolbaugh, Riley Donohoe and Tristen Menichetti. Omaha thanks Jacksonville for hosting and we look forward to 2024 when we will invite all NARBies to Omaha! Planning will begin soon!

Diane Ballinger will be retiring on July 9. She is looking forward to time to enjoy herself and her family. Ruth Zahner recently had a knee replaced and is actively involved in physical therapy to get her back on her feet. Jay Nelsen was awarded the Durham Museum Volunteer of the Year award for her service at the museum in 2020.

We held installation for our new officers at the June meeting in the home of new president Kathy Duvall. She was installed along with Diane Ballinger as Vice-President; Julie Nelson as Treasurer and Anne Menichetti as Secretary.

During the meeting we stuffed 100 purses for our semi-annual Pass the Purse donation to the Catholic Charities Domestic Abuse Shelter. New welfare chairman, Kadie Leslie delivered them. We had an interesting discussion about welfare in the Covid recovery period. We have donated 599,000 pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House and continuing to collect. We are planning our garage sale fundraiser for late September and hoping for a great profit.

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER



Ladies who lunch! From left to right around the table: Ellyn, Rae, Marianne, Maryann, Dawn, Ellie, Kay, Monica, Renee.

The women of Philadelphia held their April meeting at the home of Treasurer Kay Bolich. Kay's lovely landscaping and outdoor deck provided a safe and beautiful meeting location. The meeting was attended by 11 members both in person and via conference call. After conducting chapter business, we assembled 40 Mother's Day gift bags of donated toiletries and personal clothing items for the Eliza Shirley emergency shelter in downtown Philadelphia. We had such an abundance of gifts that we were able to also give two extra bags of items to the shelter. We also donated 30-\$10 gift cards to a local convenience store and another to a nearby McDonalds!

The chapter chose items to sell at convention including beautiful ceramic candle lights evoking the flames of NARBW's 2021 motto "2021 - A YEAR TO IGNITE A NEW ERA!" created by chapter member and our 2021 Woman of the Year, Helena Funk. Helena also brought ten dozen homemade pierogies to sell as a fundraiser. They sold out in about 2 minutes! In May 3 members traveled to and thoroughly enjoyed the convention in Jacksonville! Congratulations to Philadelphia Chapter Members Rae Huebner, elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Renee Noble, elected 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.

In June we held our meeting at Otto's Brauhaus in Horsham, PA. We enjoyed a wonderful brunch (fresh fruit crepes anyone?). Our newest member, Ellyn Kravette, was warmly welcomed and drove over an hour to attend! The Philadelphia Chapter wishes everyone a wonderful summer season!



# CHAPTER NEWS

## ROANOKE CHAPTER



My oldest grandson, Blake French, the son of Jeffrey and Kimberly French, is a high school senior and an honor student at Liberty High School, Bedford, VA. Blake will be graduating from Liberty High on May 29, 2021, 5<sup>th</sup> in his class, with a 4.3+ GPA. Blake took classes through Central Virginia Community College his junior and senior years and will also be an Early College graduate with an associate degree in General Studies from CVCC on May 13, 2021.

At Liberty High School Blake was inducted into the National Honor Society on October 29, 2019, and has been a member of several community service groups, Inspire (Athletics), YOVASO (Youth of Virginia Speaks Out), and KEY Club.

Blake has always been very active in sports. During high school Blake played JV and Varsity basketball and JV and Varsity baseball for the Liberty Minutemen. He was named captain of his Liberty High School basketball team for 2020/2021. The team practiced every day but due to Covid the Bedford County School board did not allow the Bedford County High schools to participate in winter sports, therefore, he was unable to play basketball his final year. The baseball team has just begun their baseball season. Blake pitches and plays shortstop. He spends many hours on athletics and conditioning year around. Blake is very driven and has worked tirelessly throughout his school years in both the classroom as well as in sports.

Blake's hobbies outside of school are go kart racing, fishing, hunting, travel baseball and swimming. He has raced go karts since he was eight years old with many wins over the years.

Blake plans to attend Mary Baldwin University in Staunton, VA, pursuing a degree in engineering. He has committed to play baseball at Mary Baldwin for the 2021/2022 school year.

Blake has just received a letter where he has been selected to receive the Run for the Wall Educational Grant for the 2021/2022 academic year as a tribute to his outstanding accomplishments.

His grandfather and I are very proud of him and for all that he has accomplished and wish him the best in the future.

Linda French



Congratulations to three time Scholarship winner, Hannah Steelman, from Chester, VA. She was sponsored by her great-aunt, Virginia Austin, Roanoke-Chapter 19, and is one of our success stories. This well-deserved young lady, graduated from Christopher Newport University this year. Hanna was a Deans List student and also a member of Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work.

She plans to work in the field of Social Services. Way to go, Hannah!

# CHAPTER NEWS

## ROANOKE CHAPTER, CONTINUED



Graduation season is upon us and this year Harold and I have double graduates!

Our Granddaughter, Olivia Mills, will graduate, with honors, from Culpeper High School, in Culpeper, VA on May 29<sup>th</sup> and our Grandson, Noah Mills, graduated from University of Virginia with an Engineering Degree. Their proud parents are Jeremy Mills, NS Track Supervisor-Culpeper, and Cheri Mills, an educator at Culpeper High School. Congratulations, Olivia and Noah! Proud Granny Girl: Joyce Mills

Noah Mills graduated on May 21, 2021 from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering. Noah enjoyed his time at UVA and was a proud member of the Cavalier Marching Band. He also worked as both a teaching assistant and a research assistant while in school. He and his wife, Ginny, will be moving to Springfield, Virginia, where he will be working to develop integrated computer systems which will be used by various government contractors and engineering companies.

Olivia Mills will be graduating on May 29, 2021 from Culpeper County High School. During the last 4 years, she has been an active member of the women's a cappella choir and was selected for all-district, all-state, and the state senior honor choirs. She has a passion for community service and donated over 400 hours of her time to the local hospital, a congressional campaign, the rescue squad, and started a very successful peer tutoring program that serves both middle and high school students. Olivia will be heading to Washington, DC in the fall to study Public Health at American University. Her goal is to provide services and education to underserved communities in the US and around the world.



# CHAPTER NEWS

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

We don't let the grass grow under our feet. It is now June/July and our chapter has been busy like a swarm of bees. We continue to hold our meetings virtually as it seems the best way to gather the most participants. We will be venturing out to hold in person socials and I can hardly wait.

In March/April we had our second membership drive and welcomed 15 new sisters to the SoCal chapter. Here are just a few of the fun things the SoCal Chapter has planned over the next coming months.

**Father's Day Raffle:** We had a great raffle of a beautiful print from one of our colleagues who just happens to be a great painter. If you are a "foamer" or just want a nice piece of railroad art for your wall, visit his Facebook storefront: Eric Smith Railroad Art.

**Project Boon & Back Packs** - Our sisters are currently collecting school supplies to donate to Project Boon. Project Boon teams up with us and others to gather school supplies and food to distribute to low-income families with children who cannot afford enough school supplies.

**NARBW Merchandise:** If anyone is interested in a nice gift for that special friend or yourself as you head back to the work office, we have plenty of merchandise for sale. Merchandise will soon be available to order off our website ([www.socalnarbw.org](http://www.socalnarbw.org)).

**Fall Virtual Fundraiser:** This fundraiser and details will get underway in September. Yummy is all I can say.

**Holiday Raffle** to kick off on Black Friday: Information will be forthcoming via Flyer; you ladies will love it. The prize is under wraps (no pun Intended) until the flyer goes out.

Our Committees are working diligently on their yearly work plans and tasks.

**Ways and Means Committee:** This committee is chaired by Jonni Williams and has a standing monthly meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month at 9 am. During the June meeting, the ladies created a proposed Fundraiser/Campaign planning calendar for upcoming campaigns. They keep us in abundance to the full of great ideas for fundraising and charitable events.

**Promotions committee** - This committee which is chaired by Stephanie Jablonski holds their meeting once a month on Friday. At the last meeting which took place on June 25<sup>th</sup>, the ladies were working feverishly to put the final touches on our 2<sup>nd</sup> SoCal Newsletter. Look for it in the first part of July 2021.

**Scholarship Committee:** This committee which is chaired by Tracy Berge has a standing monthly meeting on the first Monday of the month at 10 am. During the June meeting the committee was able to speak with the former National Scholarship chair, Rae Huebner. She gave us great suggestions on applications and criteria to use. She gave us some other contacts from NARBW sisters that would provide information and answer any questions the committee may have.

**Sunshine Committee:** This committee which is chaired by Marty Jimenez has a standing committee meeting which is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month. These ladies are always busy. As a matter of fact, they just gave a wonderful virtual baby shower on May 15<sup>th</sup>. During that party there were games played and cants of Baby Shark Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo. It was a great party and we now have a future NARBW member baby just born in June. Hoorah.

**Publications Committee:** This is a small committee but a powerful one. This committee concentrates on Personal and professional development via seminars, books, webinars, and free events for all our sisters who are interested. We also bring our sisters news of events that deal with current affairs in the transportation field such as Zero emissions, battery locomotives, Proposed Infrastructure bill, etc. We provide something special for our members at every chapter meeting.

**2022 Golf Committee** - We meet as needed as we plan for our SoCal Golf Tournament in 2022. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup> when we will be ironing out some of the details for the tournament. This is a great event for all levels of golfers.

**2023 Convention Committee** - Our committee has started planning for the 2023 Convention. We have our Committee formed and we have ladies interviewing and researching many of our great cities for the best location to showcase California. We want to make sure we find something fun and entertaining for everyone who plans to join us in sunny Southern California for the **2023 NARBW Convention**. Stay tuned for details.

This is what SoCal NARBW has been up to. Be happy and stay blessed.



# Moments and Memories



Barbara Miller (Jacksonville Chapter) has relocated to Bradenton Florida to be closer to her sister Paula. Barbara has been in Jacksonville for 31 years, has been a member of our chapter since 2000, and has been our treasurer since 2009. She promises to stay part of our chapter. She will be missed by her many friends and her NARBW sisters.

See you in Chicago Barbara !

Laura Halweg was a member of the Twin Cities chapter who passed away in October of 2019. She was born in 1926 in Muscatine Iowa. Laura worked at Burlington Northern Railway where she met her husband Harold. Laura was active in many clubs including NARBW and was an avid traveler who even went to Argentina and Brazil in her 90's. Laura is described as 'a kind spirit with an incredible zest for life' who will truly be missed.



Patricia Szalapski of the Twin Cities chapter passed away February 13, 2021 at the age of 90.

Patricia was an active member of the Church of St. Casimir, the Altar and Rosary Society, and longtime funeral lunch coordinator.

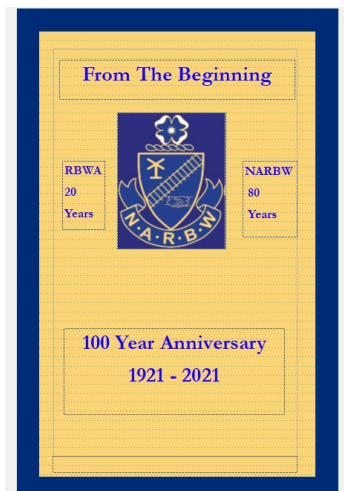


Roanoke Chapter had this sweet note in the June Thoroughbred Express about the memorial service at convention in Jacksonville: "Included in this memorial was our beloved Jessie Swiercinski. Many of our members had the opportunity to come forward and speak of their beloved members who are no longer with us in person, but will always be with us in spirit. I had the opportunity to speak about our Jessie and was allowed to talk about the time she got stuck in the bathroom on one of her flights. If you want to know more about this story, ask Kathy Barbour! She was there! It was a great story to tell at this memorial. Way to go, Jessie! We miss you every day!"

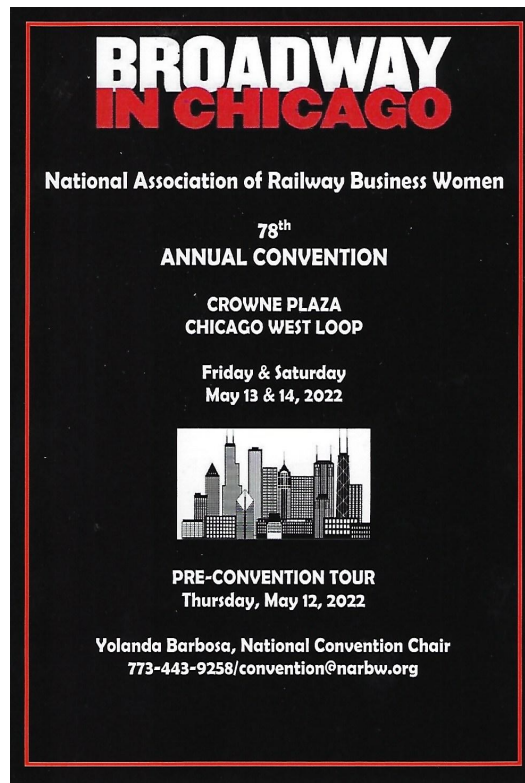
A copy of our NARBW history was mailed to all members in June.

If you did not receive your copy, please send an email with your name and current mailing address to

[Publication@NARBW.org](mailto:Publication@NARBW.org)



HOPE TO SEE YOU IN CHICAGO  
MAY 13 - 14, 2022



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN

Please email Chapter Newsletter or Info to:

[Publication@NARBW.org](mailto:Publication@NARBW.org) or mail to:

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National Publications Chairman

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