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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN

THE CAPSULE

FALL 2026 ISSUE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Summer Board Meeting	2
Join the National Board	3
Chapter News	4
2027 Convention Highlights	12
Convention Welfare Project	13
Convention Registration Forms	14

Important Dates & Deadlines

Per Capita Report	12/10
Jewelry Orders	01/01
Bylaws Revisions	12/15
Capsule Submissions	12/31
Nominations Zoom Call	01/05
Natl. Nominations Deadline	02/01
Natl. 1st VP Call	02/02
Natl. Winter Board Meeting	02/06
Scholarship App Deadline	03/01
Per Capita Report	03/10
Chapter President's Report	03/12
WOY Submissions	03/12
Welfare Report	03/31
Good Samaritan Reports	03/31
National Donations	03/31

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to my NARBW Sisters,

I hope you and your families are doing well. Summer seems to have flown by, and fall is already here! I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends and made some wonderful summer memories. The National Board met via ZOOM on July 25th for our Summer Board Meeting. We shared moments that keeps us together and knowing we continue to strive working as a team with each of our board members.

Did You Know? Videos – Initiated by our Immediate Past National President, Rhonda Gomez, this monthly video series highlights the roles and responsibilities of our National Board members. From July through April, get to know the leaders who serve NARBW and learn more about their contributions to our organization. Be sure to watch for these informative videos and get to know the members who serve our organization.

The 2027 Convention will be held May 14–15 in Ontario, CA., Fun Night's theme is "Dress as Your Favorite Disney Movie Character," and the Pre-Convention Tour will visit March Field Air Museum. Registration and tour forms are available on our website under Events and on the 2027 NARBW Convention Facebook group. National Convention Chair Shamonda Jones and her team are busy preparing for this exciting event. I look forward to seeing you there! Three national officers will be elected at the convention: 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, and Secretary. Nominations are due to National Nominating Chair Rhonda Gomez before February 1. Vice President candidates must have served as Chapter President and at least one year on the National Board. Secretary candidates must have at least one year of membership. Please consider running!

The Chicago Chapter will host the 2028 Convention following the Board's acceptance of its bid. I look forward to their plans and thank the chapter for stepping up!
We held a Town Hall Meeting on September 13th. The meeting provided our members an opportunity to meet the National Board and discuss upcoming events.

I enjoy viewing all our chapters updates in the newsletter and seeing how we all continue to make impact in our community. As we prepare for the fall season let's stay safe and enjoy family time together. This will be the last Capsule before the holidays, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe holiday season. May we continue to reflect on our blessings and look forward to another prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Dana Robles

National President

2026 NATIONAL BOARD CORNER

RESUME OF THE SUMMER BOARD MEETING
July 25, 2026
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Meeting Administration
National President Dana Robles called the meeting to order. The safety briefing, invocation, welcome, and roll call were completed, establishing a quorum. Post-Convention and Post-Board minutes were approved. National officers and committee chairs representing Finance, Membership, Convention, Nominating, Publications, Revisions/Jewelry, Scholarship, Welfare, and Emeritus Council participated.

Plans of Work & Key Actions
Board Plans of Work and related forms were approved with amendments. Updated plans were due August 14, 2026, to the National Board, Chapter Presidents, Emeritus Council, and Members-at-Large, with copies to the National Secretary and Publications Chair. The National 50/50 raffle will benefit scholarships; the form will be revised and promotional ideas developed. Membership updates included processing chapter transfers correctly, correcting Southern California dues from $60 to $50, and Albany Chapter's charter return was effective June 30, 2026. Additional actions included clarifying candidate reception expectations and Cincinnati/St. Louis jewelry quantities, and revising scholarship donation language to distinguish individual and chapter contributions.

Strategic & Organizational Business
For the 2027 Southern California Convention, actions include adding the tour-form deadline, addressing the National President's hotel rate, coordinating the calendar, and posting forms online. Chicago will host the 2028 Convention; venue review is underway, with a Convention Chair to be named. The Board will continue using a Past National President as Parliamentary Advisor, with Melanie McKim requested for 2027. A bylaw amendment replacing Chairman/Chairmen/Chairmanship with Chair is due December 2026 for Convention Body consideration. Priorities include membership and chapter growth, board mentoring, conference follow-up, support for at-risk chapters, Member-at-Large engagement, and exploring career, rail-industry, and railroad-retirement webinars. Gail Hendrix will lead Member-at-Large outreach. Savings from virtual Summer/Winter Board Meetings will help support future national fundraising efforts.

Technology, Communications & Events
Publications will update the annual calendar and ghost email addresses, add approved Plans of Work to the new NARBW website, and move forward with an Adobe Stock subscription at an annual cost of $380, covered by the Publications budget. Training will be available for updating the new website. Board records will move from thumb drives to the NARBW Box Drive for security. Treasurer Laura Gutteridge Años will provide instructions, followed by a process-review call. NARBW will host a membership table at the Women in Rail Conference, October 6–7, 2026. The NARBW Town Hall was scheduled for September 13, 2026, at 5 p.m. ET.

Upcoming Meetings & Deadlines
The Chair-title bylaw amendment is scheduled for completion in December 2026, followed by the Minnesota nonprofit renewal deadline on December 31. The Winter Board Meeting will be held via Zoom on February 6, 2027, and the Summer Board Meeting will take place in Jacksonville, FL, in summer 2027.

National President
Dana Robles

National Second Vice President
Trischelle Baysden

Opportunity Awaits — Take the Next Step!
NARBW Members: Our Future Needs Your Leadership

As we prepare for the election of national officers at the 2027 National Convention, I'm asking each NARBW member to help us identify the next leaders of our organization. NARBW succeeds because women step forward—and now it's time to find those who will continue that tradition.



Nominate a qualified member who has demonstrated the dedication and commitment to lead. If you are interested in serving in a national leadership role, take the next step and nominate yourself!

National Offices Open for Nomination:

- **Second Vice President**
- **Third Vice President**
- **Secretary**

These positions are essential to sustaining our momentum, strengthening chapter connections, and ensuring NARBW continues to grow.

As stated in our National Constitution and Bylaws, Page 10, Article IV, Section 2. second paragraph:

"To be eligible for the office of 2VP and 3VP, a candidate shall have served as a Chapter President; and shall have been on the National Board for at least one year. All national officers and standing committee chairmen shall have been members of a chapter at least one (1) year. Only active members of the chapter shall be eligible for nomination."

Candidates for the Secretary position must be active chapter members for at least one (1) year prior to assuming the role. This requirement is intended to ensure that chapter leaders have demonstrated engagement, experience, and dedication to serving effectively.

Your Role in NARBW's Success
I ask each member to consider how you can help fulfill our commitments and strengthen our future. Leadership comes in many forms—stepping into a role yourself or encouraging someone you know who has the passion and qualifications to serve.
Think about who in your chapter has shown dedication, enthusiasm, and readiness to help NARBW grow. I am requesting names of enthusiastic candidates for these offices.

Nomination forms are due **February 1, 2027,** and are available at **narbw.org → Documents → Member Forms**. I will share the duties of each office and am available to discuss the positions or the nomination process. A Zoom call on January 5, 2027, will provide additional details. Thank you for helping us strengthen NARBW's future.

Respectfully,

Rhonda Gomez
National Nominating Chairman
nominations@narbw.org

CHAPTER NEWS

CHICAGO CHAPTER





Behind the Scenes at CN! Chapter members joined the League of Railway Women on a tour of Canadian National (CN) training facilities including a firsthand look at where conductors, locomotive engineers, and signal maintainers receive instruction. They also toured the derailment training center, where firefighters and other emergency responders are trained to respond to derailments and related emergencies. (photo above)



All Aboard for Pullman Railroad Days!
The Chicago Chapter participated in Pullman Railroad Days, July 25–26, at Pullman National Historical Park, celebrating Chicago's rich railroad history. Chapter volunteers staffed a NARBW table, shared information about the organization, and provided activities for children. (photo above)



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Chicago 2028: Let the Planning Begin! We are hard at work preparing to host the 2028 National Convention! Members have been busy researching and visiting potential venues as plans begin to take shape. After a productive day of venue scouting, we wrapped up the day with a special celebration of Jasmine Manley's birthday! (top left)

On Track for Safety! Chicago Chapter Operation Lifesaver volunteers helped promote rail safety during Illinois Rail Safety Week, September 21–27. Sharon Slaton participated in the Illinois Tollway Safety Blitz on September 23, sharing safety information with motorists and visitors. On September 27, Sharon and Emilie Becq-Giraudon volunteered at the Fox River Trolley Museum, where families enjoyed free trolley rides and learned important rail safety tips. Both events helped raise awareness about staying safe around railroad tracks and crossings. (top right)



Network with Purpose

During our July chapter meeting at Metra Commuter Rail's Consolidated Control Facility, Denise Whitten gave a presentation on how building genuine professional relationships can open doors to career opportunities, mentorship, collaboration, and personal growth. She shared practical networking strategies and encouraged members to network with purpose and authenticity rather than simply collecting contacts. The meeting concluded with a behind-the-scenes tour of Metra's Dispatching Facility, led by chapter member CleLeatha Shaw of Metra. (right)





JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER



Poetry with a Purpose!
Steffani Fletcher, CEO & Founder of Hope at Hand, gave us a meaningful presentation at our August meeting. The presentation covered Hope at Hand's mission, poetry therapy, service populations, and community impact. Our members received instructions, just like the participants at Hope at Hand, for the hands-on poetry and volunteer activity, with stations and project choices available. (photo left)



Cheering on the Jacksonville Waves!
Several of our Jacksonville ladies got together August 25th and attended the Jacksonville Waves Women's Basketball Game. The Jacksonville Waves walked away with a huge victory against the Greensboro Groove. We had a great time cheering them on with a guest appearance from Millie. (Photo: right)

Snack Bags, Big Impact! Last quarter, for our community engagement, we created snack bags that we donated to United Way of Northeast Florida. These bags are for students who experience food insecurity. Thank you to our generous members who were able to put together and decorate 33 snack bags for these deserving students. (Photos: right)







Emoji Fun for Rail Safety! The Jacksonville Chapter ladies had a little fun as our Operation Lifesaver Volunteer, Richalyn Williams, sent out a text to the members on July 17th for "World Emoji Day"! We were able to share this text with our family members and friends as a reminder to be safe near railroad tracks. And those NARBW Sisters that responded to "See 🏞️". And they responded "Think 🚂", they received a gift at our August Meeting!
#SeeTracksThinkTrain #RailSafetyEducation

(continued on next page)

See Tracks? Think Train!
Richalyn Williams, a PSCC team member and longtime authorized volunteer with Operation Lifesaver, Inc., introduced guest speaker Ernestine Wilson, PSCC Specialist, for an informative presentation on railroad and public safety.

Ernestine shared insights from her career and offered members a behind-the-scenes look at what happens when someone calls the Emergency Notification System (ENS) number posted at a railroad crossing. Members learned how the PSCC helps coordinate responses to a variety of safety concerns, including emergencies, trespassing, blocked crossings, and vehicles on the tracks. A heartfelt thank-you to Ernestine and Richalyn for sharing their knowledge and reinforcing the importance of rail-safety awareness in the communities we serve.



❤️ Members also wore red in support of "See Tracks? Think Train" Week and #RedOutForRailSafety, showing our continued dedication to keeping our communities safe.



All Aboard for Rail Safety! Our community engagement continued with our NARBW ladies participating at the Operation Lifesaver Riding the Rails Pablo Beach Train Day at Beaches Museum on September 12. (Photo: above)

Walking for Heart Health! Lastly, we proudly recognize two NARBW members, Richalyn Williams and Virginia Hoover, for their dedication to the American Heart Association. (Photo: right)



HOUSTON CHAPTER



Planning and Fellowship: The Houston Chapter recently held a planning meeting at Union Pacific's Spring Dispatch Center, bringing members together to discuss chapter activities, share ideas, and plan for the months ahead. The meeting also featured the chapter's first Brown Bag Luncheon, with members bringing their own lunches and enjoying an opportunity to connect and socialize. The gathering combined productive planning with fellowship and camaraderie. The Houston Chapter extends its appreciation to the Spring Dispatch Center for providing a welcoming space for members to meet and collaborate.



Meet Houston's Publications Chair: Temicka Collett

The Houston Chapter is pleased to introduce **Temicka Collett**, who is serving as the chapter's Publications Chair. A native of La Marque, Texas, just south of Houston, Temicka earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Regis University in Colorado. She currently works for Union Pacific Railroad as a Corridor Manager in the Southern Region.

Family is especially important to Temicka. She and her husband of 14 years are proud parents of five children, ranging in age from 6 to 28, and recently welcomed their first grandchild in March 2026.Outside of work, Temicka enjoys sports, fashion, hairstyling, traveling, live music, and spending time with family and friends. She is also passionate about advocating for underserved and underprivileged communities. Temicka looks forward to contributing her talents and experience to NARBW and supporting the organization's mission through her role as Publications Chair.

OMAHA CHAPTER

Omaha Chapter: Planning, Giving & Community Service: The Omaha Chapter is gearing up for another year of fellowship, fundraising, and community service! Members of the chapter's board met in August to discuss plans and activities for the coming year. Attendees included Anne Menichetti, Kathy DuVall, Connie Propeck, Janet Anderson, Kadie Leslie, and Julie Nelson. Among the activities discussed was a potential garage sale fundraiser in the spring.

Supporting Gwen's Gift: Our chapter community involvement for September will be Gwen's Gift. We donate items for "shopping" in nursing homes/memory care units. Items needed – Socks, toys, word game books, puzzle books. A shopper can select items for themselves, and any relatives they want to give gifts to. They also are wrapped/placed in a gift bag, ready for gift giving. There is no cost at all to the residents and all items are donated by the community. They go to 8 to 10 nursing homes in the fall, every year. They have done this for 8 years this will be the 9th year. Last year 3 members attended a nursing home to help with the event.

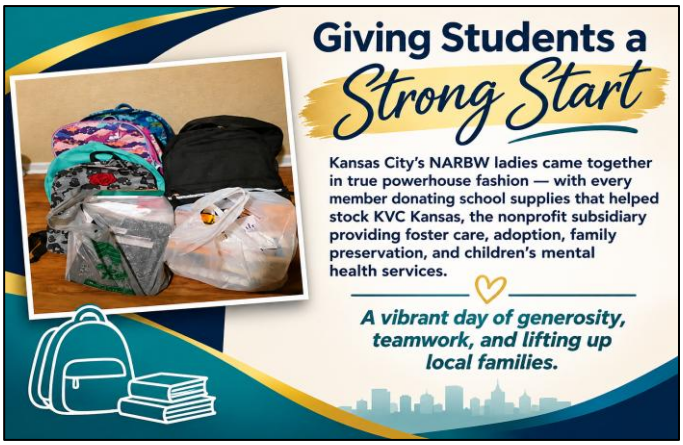
Continuing Our Commitment to Community Service: The Omaha Chapter will continue its **Pass the Purse** initiative, with plans to prepare 100 purses—50 in the fall and 50 in the spring. Members are collecting items to fill the purses and will bring their contributions to the September meeting. The chapter will also continue collecting aluminum pop tabs to benefit the **Ronald McDonald House** in Omaha, helping offset utility expenses. Both initiatives reflect the chapter's ongoing commitment to giving back and making a positive difference in the community.

ROANOKE CHAPTER



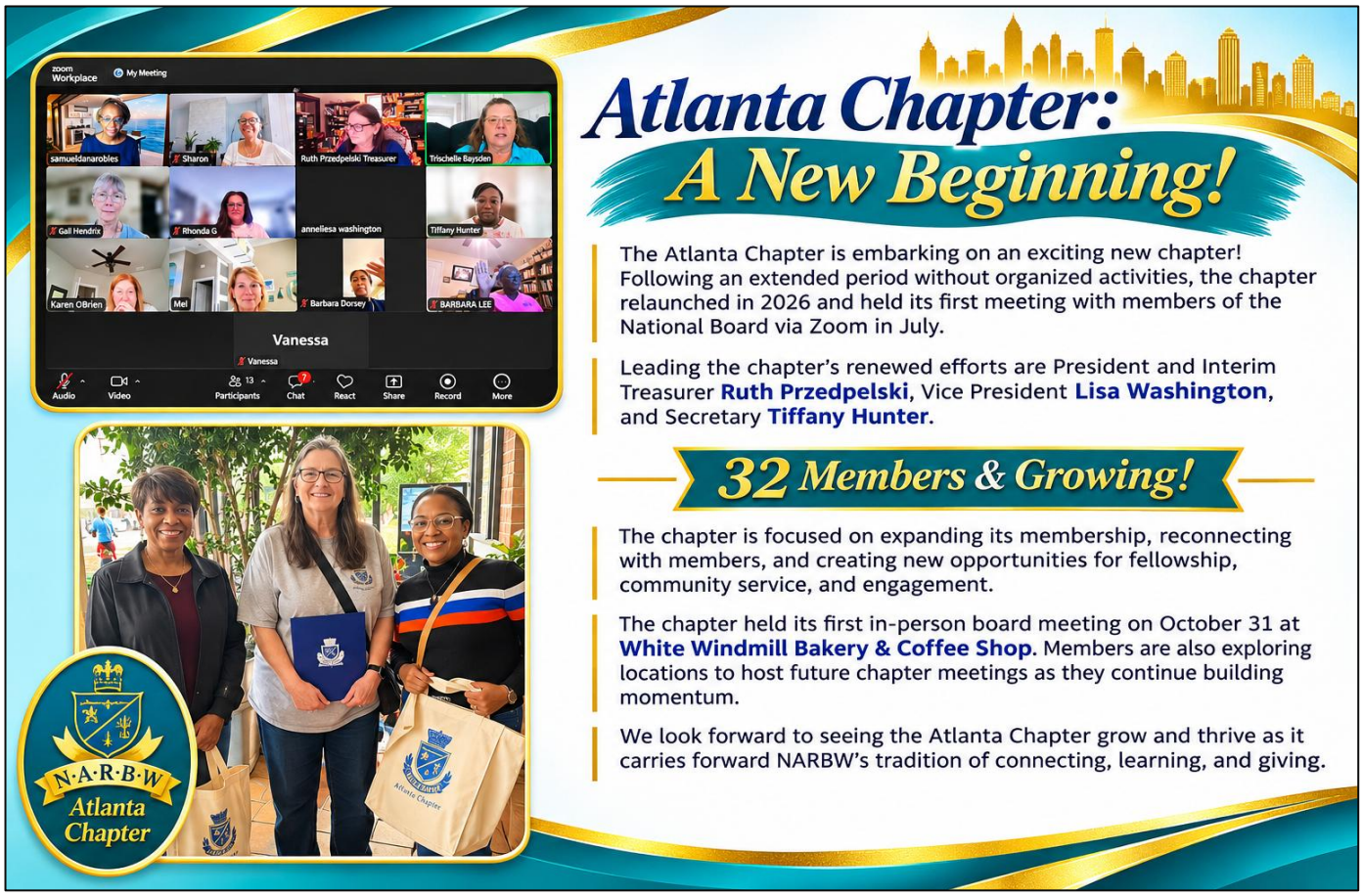
KANSAS CITY CHAPTER







ATLANTA CHAPTER



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



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SoCal Chapter Remembering 9/11 25th Anniversary:

In honor of 9/11, NARBW spent some time showing appreciation to our local Fire and Police Departments by dropping off some sweet treats! We wanted to take a moment to recognize and thank the brave men and women who serve and protect our communities every day.

A big THANK YOU to all our first responders for your courage, dedication, and commitment. Your service and sacrifice never go unnoticed. We are grateful for everything you do to keep our communities safe. NARBW remembers, honors, and thanks our first responders.



SAVE THE DATE – 2027 CONVENTION – ONTARIO, CA



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN
Southern California

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

GIVING CHILDREN HOPE

Warrior For Children
Psalms 127:3 ®

NARBWland 2027 Featured Charity: *Warrior for Children*

MISSION

Warrior for Children is a nonprofit organization supporting children navigating trauma through tangible resources, trauma-informed education, and supportive relational experiences.

Every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.

DONATE TODAY

Please bring **NEW** toys or gift cards from Walmart, Target, or Amazon to NARBWland.

Prefer not to travel with toys? Ship donations directly to:

Sandy Martinez
8026 Malven Avenue
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Shamonda Jones
5733 Daybreak Dr., Apt. G
Eastvale, CA 91752

WISHLIST



- Action Figures
- Cars
- Barbies
- Baby Dolls
- Basketball
- Football
- Soccer Ball
- Volleyball
- Bluetooth Headphones
- Earbuds
- Speakers
- LEGOs
- Building Blocks
- Magna-Tiles
- Push Bikes
- Tricycles
- Bicycles
- Baby Toys (Under 3)
- Board Games (All Ages)
- Water Bottles
- Kinetic Sand
- Play-Doh
- Slime
- Art Kits
- Craft Kits
- Sketch Kits
- Little People Toys
- LeapFrog Toys

HIGH-DEMAND ITEMS:

- Hello Kitty Toys
- Spider-Man Toys
- Pokémon Toys
- Art Kits

Learn more: warriorforchildren.org

83rd NARBW National Convention | May 14–15, 2027 | Ontario, California

NARBW Convention Registration

83rd Annual Convention | Ontario, CA | May 14-15, 2027

Marriott Delta Ontario Airport | 2200 East Holt Blvd.
Ontario, CA 91761 | 909-975-5000

Postmark deadline: April 2, 2027. No refunds after April 30, 2027.

Use a separate form for each attendee. Complete all three sections and keep a copy.

1 PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name

Mailing address

City State ZIP

Phone

Email

Chapter

Railroad affiliation

Attendee role (select one)

- ○ Delegate
- ○ Alternate
- ○ National Board
- ○ Emeritus Council
- ○ Member
- ○ Guest
- ○ Chapter President

Emergency contact

Name Phone

2 REGISTRATION FEES AND MEALS

Enter the applicable dollar amounts. Payment must match the registration total.

Members

_____ $360 by April 2

_____ $385 after April 2

Includes registration and four meals.

Chapter Presidents

_____ $295 by April 2

_____ $330 after April 2

Emeritus Council

_____ $245

Includes Membership Luncheon, Fun Night and Banquet.

Non-members / guests

Guest name

_____ $65 President's Brunch

_____ $90 Fun Night

_____ $65 Membership Luncheon

_____ $90 Reception and Banquet

Registration total: $ _____ Enter the sum of the applicable amounts above.

3 SURVEY

- ☐ This is my first NARBW Convention.
- ☐ Interested in a roommate.
- ☐ I require vegetarian meals.
- ☐ I require gluten-free meals.
- ☐ Request Marketplace Table for chapter: _____
- ☐ US Veteran (optional; veterans will receive a token of appreciation).

Special needs / requests

Payment and submission instructions on page 2.

Payment & Submission

2027 NARBW Convention Registration

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ Zelle to Treasurer@narbw.org

☐ Check payable to NARBW

Mail checks to:

2027 NARBW Convention Registration
Laura Gutteridge Años
6956 Roundleaf Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32258-5505

SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM

Email completed forms to treasurer@narbw.org.

If paying by check, include a copy of your completed form with your payment.

Complete Sections 1-3 and keep a copy for your records.

Your payment amount should match the registration total in Section 2.

QUESTIONS

Shamonda Jones | National Convention Chairman

951-934-8610 | convention@narbw.org

www.narbw.org

NARBW Pre-Convention Tour

Thursday, May 13, 2027 | Ontario, CA

83rd Annual Convention | Where Your Story Begins

Use a separate form for each attendee. Select one tour package below.

1 TOUR ITINERARY & LUNCH

Transportation provided

Bus pickup at Delta Hotels by Marriott Ontario Airport.

March Field Air Museum Enjoy a 2.5-hour museum visit, then reboard the bus.

Wilson Creek Winery

Pasta & Pinot lunch, followed by a winery tour with wine tasting for attendees selecting the $150 package.

LUNCH MENU

Italian Salad | Grilled Chicken Puttanesca | Meatballs Marinara
Pappardelle Alfredo | Sauteed Zucchini | Desserts: Tiramisu & Cannoli

2 PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name

Mailing address

City State ZIP

Phone

Email

Chapter

Emergency contact

Name Phone

3 TOUR PACKAGE (SELECT ONE)

- ○ $150 per person - Transportation, museum, lunch, winery tour & wine tasting
- ○ $125 per person - Transportation, museum & lunch; no winery tour or tasting

4 SPECIAL NEEDS / REQUESTS

Please include dietary needs, accessibility needs, or other requests.

Email your completed form to BOTH:

narbw2027convention@gmail.com and shamonda27@gmail.com

Keep a copy of your completed form for your records.

1 of 1