



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN

THE CAPSULE

SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Warm Fall Greetings, NARBW Members!

It's that time of year again—my favorite season: Fall!

I always look forward to the crisp air, the changing leaves, and the cozy vibes. I'm sure many of you have experienced some wild weather this past summer, and now we get to enjoy the shift into something calmer and cooler. Let's take this season as an opportunity to reset, reflect, and reconnect—with each other and with our purpose.

The Chicago Chapter will host its Centennial Anniversary celebration on Saturday, November 1st. Founded on November 13, 1925, as the second NARBW chapter, this milestone event marks a hundred years of dedication and service — a truly historic occasion for our organization. I am honored to attend the celebration and will present a special gift to the chapter on behalf of all members. Let us come together to recognize their remarkable legacy and demonstrate our support for the Chicago Chapter as they commemorate this significant achievement.

The National Board convened for its Summer Board Meeting via Zoom on July 19th, where several important topics were discussed. A key focus of the meeting was the ongoing revision of the NARBW Purpose, as outlined in our (National Constitution and Bylaws. This initiative was originally introduced during our recent convention, at which time a link was shared with members to invite feedback and suggestions. To further gather input, a survey was distributed in July. This project is still in the early stages, and member contributions remain vital as we continue to refine and update our organization's purpose.

The Convention Handbook is currently undergoing revisions to ensure it reflects the latest information and guidance. We will provide additional details soon, and the updated handbook will be made available on our website for all members to access.

During our upcoming 2026 Roanoke Convention, members will have the opportunity to participate in elections for three key national officer positions: National President, National 1st Vice President, and National Treasurer. These elections are an important part of our organization's governance and provide members with a voice in selecting our leadership for the next term.

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The Roanoke Chapter is
hosting
**NARBW's 2026
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

May 1-2, 2026
Holiday Inn Tanglewood
Roanoke, VA

See page 18 for details.

(continued)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued)*

Eligibility Requirements

- National President and National 1st Vice President: Candidates must have previously served as a chapter president and completed at least one year of service on the national board.
- National Treasurer: Candidates are required to have been a chapter member for at least one year.
- The deadline for submitting nominations is Sunday, January 18, 2026. All nominations should be sent to Ida Carmouche, our National Nominations Chair. If you have any questions regarding the process, eligibility, or the positions themselves, please reach out to Ida or contact any current or former national board member for guidance. See Ida's letter on page 4 for more details on the nominations process

We held a Town Hall Meeting on August 2, 2025, where we encouraged our National Board officers to integrate their conference calls with town hall sessions throughout the year. Each officer will host additional meetings later in the year to keep members informed about important dates and updates. A Master Class Town Hall event will be hosted by the Emeritus Council and is scheduled for January 10th. Stay tuned for more details. Please be sure to check your email regularly for announcements and further details!

We regret to share that the Central Florida Chapter has made the difficult decision to dissolve. While we honor and respect their choice and the circumstances behind it, it's truly bittersweet to see the closing of a chapter that has made meaningful contributions to our sisterhood. Their legacy will remain a valued part of our history.

This moment invites reflection, but also action. If there's an opportunity to create something truly enticing—something that reignites interest and engagement among women across the U.S.—I believe we should pursue it wholeheartedly. Whether it's a fresh initiative, a new format for connection, or a revitalized message of what NARBW offers, let's explore ways to keep our chapters vibrant and our mission alive. I welcome your thoughts and ideas as we consider how best to move forward. Our Membership Chair will engage with chapters, gathering insights on how we might preserve the spirit of past chapters while developing initiatives that energize and sustain our organization moving forward.

On a lighter note, the Roanoke, Virginia Chapter is already in motion, preparing for our Annual Convention, scheduled for the first weekend of May 2026. Planning is well underway, and we're looking forward to seeing many of you there!

As we wrap up our final capsule of the year, I'd like to extend heartfelt wishes to each of you for a joyful, peaceful, and stress-free holiday season. May this time bring rest, renewal, and meaningful moments with loved ones. Happy Holidays to all!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Gomez

National President





National Association of Railway Business Women

RESUME OF THE WINTER BOARD MEETING

July 12, 2025

The Summer Board Meeting was held via Zoom on July 19, 2025, with 12 board members and the Emeritus council chair in attendance. The meeting began at 9:00am CT and ended at 4:55pm CT.

- **Plans of Work:** All board members presented their Plans of Work, which were reviewed and approved (as submitted or amended). Final Plans are due to the Secretary by July 25 and will be distributed to the National Board, Chapter Presidents, Emeritus Council, and Members-at-large by August 8.
- **Key Action Items from Plans of Work:** The Benevolent Fund will be reinstated in the President's Handbook. Chapter by-laws will be reviewed to clarify "active" member status. Florida's 10-year anniversary certificate will be mailed in July. Forms will be converted to Excel format. Minnesota nonprofit renewal will be filed by December 31. The convention charm will be submitted for approval. Board members will confirm they have current by-law books. A scholarship fundraising and application meeting will be scheduled.
- **Unfinished Business:** Board members will confirm letters of introduction and USB handoffs. Chairs will review their duties monthly. The Treasurer will explore alternative payment options and contact printers about the convention book. Past convention chairs will review the handbook. The Convention Chair will verify ribbon options for first-time attendees. The Emeritus Council will review the convention book for wording and punctuation.
- **New Business:** Shamonda Jones was named 2027 Convention Chair. Hotel scouting is underway. The Welfare Chair will distribute the NARBW Purpose Survey by July 30. Growth & Engagement Initiatives: The board discussed ways to increase member engagement. Members-at-large will be integrated into chapter and national activities. First Town Hall is scheduled for August 2, 2025. A Master Class with the Emeritus Council will be held on January 10, 2026. NARBW will celebrate Women's History Month. Conference calls will align with Town Hall meetings. Members are encouraged to sign up. The Zoom subscription will be maintained. The Welfare Chair will research electronic forms.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** The Winter Board Meeting will take place January 30–31, 2026, in Florida.

Rhonda Gomez
National President

Trischelle Baysden
National 2nd Vice President

NATIONAL BOARD CORNER

We Need You! Help Shape NARBW's Future! **2026 Nominations Now Open**

Hello my fellow NARBW members. We have had an awesome year with successful events, increased support and camaraderie in the chapters that have infused the organization with enthusiasm. NARBW needs members to step up to continue this success.

In case you are wondering how you can run for a national position, well I'm here to guide you. In addition, **I will host a Zoom call on Thursday, November 6, 2025**, at 6pm. CST to discuss nominations and the upcoming officer positions. Look out for an email with more details.

The following positions are up for election:

National President
National 1st Vice President
National Treasurer

Refer to our national National Constitution and Bylaws, page 10 Article 2, second paragraph, which states: "To be eligible for the office of president or 1st, 2nd or 3rd vice president, 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".

Together we can ensure our organization continually achieves its mission with longevity and resilience. Please consider what role you can assume in fulfilling our commitments and how you can continue to help NARBW grow. As your National Nominating Chairman, I am requesting the names of steadfast and enthusiastic candidates to run for office this next year.

With the convention being held earlier this year, nominations for these positions need to be submitted by **January 18, 2026**. You can access [the nominations form here](#) or go to narbw.org – Documents - Member Forms.

I am available to speak with you about the various positions up for election should you have questions. I will provide you with all the information needed to assist you in making a rewarding decision to run for a NARBW National office. My contact information is below.

I look forward to visiting with you soon.

Ida Carmouche
National Nominating Chairman
nominations@narbw.org
713-478-9167





Raising Joy
Double Good



**Support NARBW's
National Scholarship Program Fundraiser
"Popcorn With a Purpose"**



**Fundraiser: Dates & Time
Starts: Thu 12/4 @9am
Ends: Mon 12/8 @9am**

*Since 1978, NARBW scholarships have supported members and their families.
Thank you for your support!*

Ready to Get Started?

-  **Download the Double Good app**
-  **Create your account**
-  **Enter our Event Code: NMZQSQ**
-  **See our team name: NARBW Smarties**
-  **Start sharing your store on Dec. 4!**

**Top Selling
Chapter Prize** 

**Top Selling
Member Prizes** 

**Questions? Contact
Scholarship@narbw.org**

Join Our Team!
Be a part of
NARBW's National
Publications Committee!

*Do you like writing? Are you on Facebook or LinkedIn?
(We're especially looking for writers and LI users!)
Are you kinda techy? If you answered "YES," come join our
amazing team of Publications Committee volunteers.*

What You'll Do:

- Craft messages for our national LinkedIn and Facebook pages.
- Design and produce our quarterly Capsule newsletter.
- Update content on narbw.org
- Create eye-catching graphics using Canva.
- Gain experience updating NARBW's website.

The Perks:

- Capsule Creation: Learn or sharpen your skills in creating a newsletter
- Skill Development: Boost your writing, editing, and digital skills.
- Be a Flyer Queen: Learn how to create stand-out flyers with Canva
- Website Know-How: Gain experience updating NARBW's website
- Networking: Connect with NARBW members from different chapters.
- Portfolio Building: Add valuable experience to your resume and LinkedIn.
- Creative Outlet: Unleash your creativity with engaging content.
- Support NARBW: Play a key role in boosting NARBW's visibility and attracting new members.
- Leadership Opportunities: Grow professionally and step into future leadership roles

*Ready to join and make an impact?
We'd love to have you on board!
Contact Sharon Slaton, National Publications Chair
at publications@narbw.org.*

CHAPTER NEWS

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

🌸 Farewell to Our Central Florida Chapter 🌸

With heartfelt gratitude, we bid farewell to our Central Florida Chapter, which officially turned in its charter. Founded on July 10, 2015, the chapter has spent the past decade enriching our organization with compassion, creativity, and community spirit.

To all the Central Florida chapter members, and particularly the ladies who served as committee chairs and officers over the years, we thank you for your commitment, generosity, and sisterhood. Your legacy will continue to inspire us, and your contributions will always be part of NARBW's story. Your chapter may be closing, but your spirit carries on. Whether you continue with NARBW as members at large, join new chapters, or move on to other endeavors, the impact you've made will always be part of who we are.



Their final submission in this issue of the Capsule marks the close of a meaningful chapter—one filled with charitable outreach, joyful gatherings, and steadfast leadership. From bake sales and toy drives to holiday parties and community service, their impact has been felt far beyond Central Florida. Before we turn the page, let's pause to appreciate a few recent snapshots of the Central Florida Chapter in action. The very top photo shows the ladies celebrating their chapter's 10-year anniversary. Many wonderful memories were shared with a poster board and a PowerPoint display of chapter activities over the years.



Many wonderful memories were shared with a poster board and a PowerPoint display of chapter activities over the years.

The Central Florida Chapter has supported the Recovery house in Sanford Florida for many years. The photos shown highlight this initiative, where Melanie and Gail lend their time and talents as part of the chapter's Adopt-a-Room Project. Other photos show Gail and Melanie accepting a dedication plaque to be placed on the door of the newly renovated room, a lasting tribute to the Chapter's contributions, as well as the Center Director giving the ladies the plaque and flowers as a warm thank you to the Central Florida Chapter for their donations and support in helping men recover from addiction.



(continued)

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER (continued)

We've also included the photo directly below of chapter members Dalal and Amanda preparing items for the back-to-school back packs donated to the Food Pantry for homeless children in the community.



CHICAGO CHAPTER

Chicago Chapter Members Fight Hunger with Fight2Feed

This summer Chicago Chapter members rolled up their sleeves—twice—to support Fight2Feed Chicago, a grassroots organization dedicated to rescuing surplus food and transforming it into nourishing meals for communities in need.

Volunteers helped prepare both hot and cold meals using rescued ingredients from restaurants, chefs, and food distributors. Their efforts not only provided healthy dishes to those facing food insecurity but also helped reduce food waste and spread kindness throughout the city. On one occasion, additional helping hands from a local church joined the team, showing that when it comes to giving back, collaboration makes the impact even stronger.



Honoring 100 Years of Chicago's Union Station

Chapter President Jasmine Manley and National Publications Chair Sharon Slaton were proud to attend the Union Station Centennial Celebration, commemorating 100 years since the station's official dedication on July 23, 1925. The event highlighted the architectural and cultural significance of this historic landmark, which first opened its doors in the spring of that year. The celebration featured remarks from Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, Amtrak Executive Vice President Jennifer Mitchell. Attendees also enjoyed a visual journey through time with displays from the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, showcasing Union Station's rich history through stunning images from their extensive collection. Learn more at

CHICAGO CHAPTER (continued)

railphoto-art.org. And of course—what’s a celebration without cake? Cupcakes were served to the public.

Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month: Women Who Shape Our Organization



September was Hispanic Heritage Month, and NARBW Chicago is proud to highlight our National President Rhonda Gomez and celebrate and honor all Hispanic NARBW women for their accomplishments—both within the organization and throughout their professional journeys.

Chicago Chapter Scholarship Chair Yolanda Barbosa stated, “As a Latina woman, I’m happy to acknowledge these incredible women who give so much to NARBW and their communities.”

The photo shown from our recent convention shows just a few of the many inspiring Hispanic members who strengthen and shape NARBW nationwide.

NY&A Railway Hosts Youth Tour with NARBW Members & Big Brothers Big Sisters

New York & Atlantic Railway welcomed youth from Big Brothers Big Sisters for an exciting behind-the-scenes tour, led by NYA and Chicago Chapter members Amy Louk (top row left end) and Fatoumata (top row right end).

The event featured an engaging intro to the railroad industry, hands-on experiences, and inspiring stories from women in rail. It was a powerful day of mentorship, learning, and sparking future careers in transportation.



“We’re proud to inspire the next generation of rail leaders,”
—Amy Louk

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CHICAGO CHAPTER *(continued)*



NARBW Chicago Cheers the Sky to Victory!
The Chicago Chapter had an unforgettable outing at the Wintrust Arena as we rallied behind the Chicago Sky in their thrilling matchup against the Minnesota Lynx. In a high-energy game filled with fast breaks, sharp shooting, and relentless defense, the Sky soared to an impressive **87–81** victory! Despite facing the **#1 team in the Western Conference**, the Sky dominated from the tip-off, **leading in every quarter** and never letting up. The crowd was electric, and our chapter brought the energy to match! It was a joy to witness such a hard-fought win and to support our hometown heroes in person. Go Sky!

**Family & Friends Night with Chicago Fire
A Winning Experience!**

On September 27, 2025, NARBW Chicago Chapter members, along with their family and friends, gathered at Soldier Field for a lively evening with the Chicago Fire FC. The event coincided with Hispanic Heritage Night, adding vibrant energy and cultural celebration to the experience.

For many attendees, it was their first time at a professional soccer match, and while learning the rules of the game, they cheered the Chicago Fire to a 2-0 victory! Special shoutout to Laura and her family, who joined in the fun by tailgating with fellow fans before kickoff. It was a night filled with fun, fellowship, and fiery team spirit, a memorable outing for all!



HOUSTON CHAPTER

Houston Ladies Tour UP Dispatch Center & Welcome New Members

Our September meeting was held at the Union Pacific Southern Region Headquarters in Spring, TX. This was a unique event for the Houston ladies, many of them had worked in the building before the 2012 remodel.

During the meeting the ladies received a tour of the Spring Dispatching Center. There were many new and familiar faces. Chapter President Brenda Bob reconnected with Train Dispatcher Marcus Philipps whom she trained back in the 80's. Many memories were recalled by all.

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HOUSTON CHAPTER (continued)

Pictured are Bridget Hammons, Rosa Martinez, Brenda Bob, Carla Wallace, Zdena Sinkhorn, Peggy Cuellar, Ginger Stanbery, Debbye Converse, Christa Vogel, Deborah Regan, Brenda Groba and Jeri Rose.

In addition, Houston's newest members Zdena Sinkhorn and Christa Vogel were pinned at the meeting. Zdena is a Dispatch Center manager at BNSF and Christa is a Train Dispatcher with Union Pacific. Houston is very fortunate to have such great enthusiastic talent join the chapter.



Chapter Joins Hands with Big Brothers Big Sisters

In addition, our Welfare Chair, Rosa Martinez, has the chapter involved with supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters, an organization dedicated to helping children realize their potential and build their future. Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential

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JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER

Jacksonville Chapter Going Strong!

🌱 Listening, Leading, Giving, Growing 🌱

The Jacksonville Chapter continues to grow. We are currently at sixty-eight members. Thanks to everyone in NARBW and at CSX for supporting the United Way Year-Round School supply drive.

During this past quarter we also listened to our members more. We conducted an online survey and asked what they wanted, what was going well, what was not. Virginia Hoover provided us with the results she collected and we adjusted. This included primary expectations of being a NARBW member, ways to increase participation, and future topics. The board then created with a calendar to help meet these expectations.



Our donations this quarter supported the United Way Full Service Schools program ([Full Service Schools | Duval County Public Schools](#)). We dropped off supplies at Sandalwood, one of the eight Full-Service Schools in Duval County. Richalyn Williams who spearheaded the drive at West Jax will be dropping off those supplies.

Our chapter lost a beloved NARBW husband, Steve Estep, husband to Dixie Estep. Our chapter will miss him dearly. A devoted husband, father, grandparent, and friend, he leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and unwavering support for his friends and family.

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

Great Plains SPCA Animal Shelter Support

Our chapter members came together to collect towels, blankets, and various essential items for the Great Plains Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) dog center, showing heartfelt compassion for our furry friends in need. This thoughtful donation helps provide comfort and care to shelter animals while they await their forever homes. It's a small act with a big impact—and a wonderful example of our commitment to community service and animal welfare. Although the turnout was modest, the spirit of connection and curiosity was strong.



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KANSAS CITY CHAPTER (continued)

Back-to-School Drive

Nine large boxes of donations were given to KVC for foster kids for their back-to-school drive. Their thank you follows: *On behalf of KVC Kansas for foster kids, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions to our back-to-school drive. Your support has made a significant impact, ensuring that children and families in our care are equipped with the tools they need for a successful school year.*

We were able to distribute over 15 packed backpacks with supplies leftover to continue to provide throughout the school year. Over 160 children were able to shop for new outfits and shoes. Your kindness and commitment to our mission of strengthening families and enriching lives inspire us every day. Together, we are creating a brighter future for children and families in our community."



September Chapter Event: What began as a planned monthly outing for the Kansas City Chapter of the National Association of Railway Business Women turned into a small but meaningful adventure! On September 20, a few dedicated members gathered to explore Union Station, where they enjoyed the wonders of the planetarium and took in many of the historic and interactive sights the station has to offer.

Though the turnout was modest, the spirit of connection and curiosity was strong. The outing served as a reminder that even small groups can create big memories!



Food Pantry Drive:
Donations for food pantry items (pictured left) and money were collected for the Desoto Food Pantry to support students as the school year begins.

OMAHA CHAPTER



The Omaha chapter had our board meeting in August to plan for the year. For a fundraiser, our current plan is a garage sale in the spring. Pictured is the board meeting. From left front to back: Anne Menichetti, Kathy DuVall, Connie Prokupek, Janet Anderson, Kadie Leslie, and Julie Nelson.

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 eight to 10 nursing homes in the fall, every year. They have done this now for eight years. For Pass the Purse – We plan to do only 100 purses this year, 50 this fall and 50 in the spring. We are gathering items for the purses and will bring them to the September meeting. We decided to continue collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha, as it helps defray the cost of utilities for the chapter.

PHILADELPIA CHAPTER

Proud Mom Donna Welcomes Baby Gemma



We’re thrilled to share some joyful news from Donna Cain! In her own words: “After three years of waiting (and hoping), the best baby in the world was placed in my custody at just 12 days old, on November 27, 2024. After our finalization hearing, we officially became a family on July 8, 2025. It’s been surreal, amazing, and profound. Learning to think in ‘we’ instead of ‘me’ has been a welcome adjustment. ”From her adorable laugh, to her soulful gazes, to her quirky sneeze, Gemma captures my heart at every turn. Without a doubt, becoming the mother of Gemma Ellie Cain is my life’s greatest adventure and the most extraordinary blessing I’ve ever received.” (Pictured: Donna and Gemma on July 8, right after the hearing and Gemma at a little over 10 months old.)

PHILADELPIA CHAPTER *(Continued)*

Philly Chapter Plans for a Busy Year

It's hard to believe how quickly summer came and went! Here we are already at the start of fall, looking forward to the holidays and everything this new season brings. On August 16, we gathered for our summer board meeting at the Fainting Goat in Glenolden, PA. Over delicious breakfast and lunch dishes, we caught up on summer travels, activities, and yes—even a few health updates. Most of all, it was just great to enjoy each other's company. At the meeting, we approved the budget and reviewed our 2025–2026 Standing Rules. One big change was made: To stay active, members now need to attend at least four meetings a year instead of six.

Our September meeting took place on the 23rd via conference call, where we finalized our monthly meeting schedule and locations. We also reviewed upcoming activities and charitable commitments. Under Ways and Means, we have several fun and meaningful events planned: The Solly Farm Pie Sale will run from Oct. 1–30; and in November, we will assemble holiday bags for Meals on Wheels. Our Holiday Luncheon, Toy Drive, and Silent Auction is Dec. 6 and in February, we plan to hold an Easter Candy Sale and we will attend Casino Royale Night to benefit Peace Valley Holistic Center in April. Charitable work remains central to our mission. This year, we're continuing our support for the Salvation Army's Eliza Shirley House through our Mother's Day and Christmas toy drives; the Katherine Thornton Legacy Fund – Hospice Foundation, which provides compassionate end-of-life care and support; and Meals on Wheels.

Lastly, please keep some of our members and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate health challenges.

ROANOKE CHAPTER

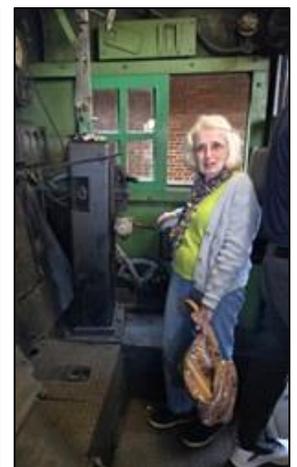
New Roanoke Chapter Member!

The board has officially accepted the application of our newest member, **Machelle Hughes**. Machelle brings a lot of energy & expertise to our chapter. She is currently working as a conductor with Norfolk Southern out of Roanoke. Welcome aboard!



Queen of Steam 611 Celebrated 75th Anniversary

Carol Meador and Carol Gentilini attended the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the 611, held at the Virginia Museum of Transportation in June. Fun was had by all, with food trucks, vendors, music and tours of the 611 herself along with the 1218 Steam Engine. We also visited the NS Corporate Communications booth and met Stacey Mansfield, Abbey Palmer, Senior Manager of Community Impact for NS and Zac McGinnis, who is the Steam Operations Manager for the Virginia Museum of Transportation.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Roxann Nunez (left) was promoted to Communications Coordinator Supervisor in July 2025. Roxann began her Metrolink career in 2012, and also serves as Treasurer for NARBW SoCal, where her leadership and heart continue to inspire. **Denise Herrera** (right) was promoted to Train Dispatcher in September 2025. She started as a contractor for Metrolink in 2006 and became a Communications Coordinator in 2013, earning respect for her calm presence and deep operational knowledge.



👏 *Congratulations to both of these incredible women!* 👏

👛 Back-to-School with Heart: Supporting Warriors for Children

The NARBW Southern California Chapter proudly partnered with *Warriors for Children* to support kids facing trauma as they head back to school. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, four children were fully outfitted with:

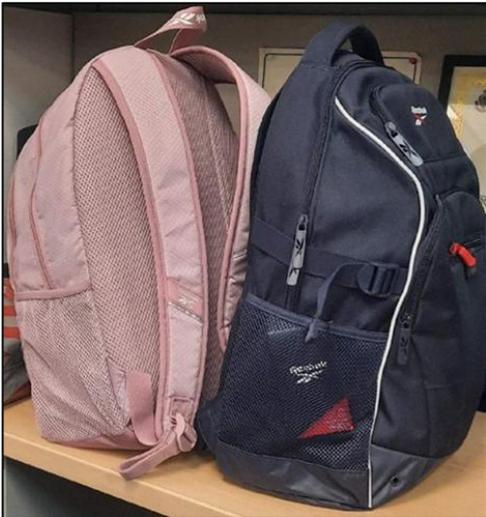
- New wardrobes
- Backpacks filled with supplies
- Water bottles, lunch pails, blankets, and toys

Each item was chosen with care to help these young warriors start the school year feeling confident, supported, and loved.

📁 In addition, our chapter donated over 100 school supply items—from notebooks and pencils to glue sticks and erasers—ensuring even more students have the tools they need to succeed. We’re so proud of our NARBW sisters for continuing to uplift our community and make a lasting



impact



Welcome to the World, Shiloh Nora Rose!

Congratulations to our radiant sister **LaTrice Smith** on the birth of her beautiful baby girl, Shiloh Nora Rose! We are overjoyed for you and your growing family. May Shiloh’s life be filled with laughter, love, and endless blessings.

♥ Walking with Purpose: Honoring Ilyssa at the American Heart Walk

On September 20, our chapter proudly joined the American Heart Walk in loving memory of our beloved sister, Ilyssa DeCasperis. With hearts full of purpose and unity, we raised nearly \$700 to support heart health awareness—a cause close to Ilyssa’s heart and legacy.



Her spirit continues to guide and inspire us, reminding us to walk boldly, love deeply, and support one another. Our walkers—Shamonda Jones, Sandra Martinez, and our ever-cheerful mascot Honey—represented our chapter with pride, compassion, and joy.

♥ Thank you to everyone who supported this meaningful journey. ♥

👑 A Royal Celebration: Gitzel’s Quinceañera

On September 27, our chapter gathered to celebrate a magical milestone—Gitzel’s quinceañera, daughter of our sister Ana Martinez. Gitzel looked every bit the princess, and the evening sparkled with joy, elegance, and unforgettable memories. A quinceañera marks a young woman’s transition from childhood to adulthood, rooted in Latin American tradition and rich with symbolism. It’s a celebration of family, faith, and community—honoring both heritage and hope for the future. From heartfelt moments to dazzling smiles, it was a night that reminded us of the beauty of tradition and the strength of sisterhood.



SPOTLIGHT ON NARBW CHINA EXHIBIT CAR

Special thanks to Jasmine Manley, Chicago Chapter, for submitting this remarkable piece of NARBW history.

A Legacy of Goodwill, History, and Hospitality

The story of the NARBW China Exhibit Car is a fascinating blend of ambition, philanthropy, and preservation—rooted in the mission of the National Association of Railway Business Women (NARBW) to foster cooperation and understanding within the railroad industry.

The Goodwill Train to China: A Vision of International Friendship

In the mid-20th century, the NARBW envisioned a bold initiative: a “Goodwill Train” that would travel across the United States, showcasing American culture and generosity, with the ultimate goal of sending the exhibit to China. Though the project was never fully realized—likely due to geopolitical shifts and logistical challenges—it remains a powerful example of the NARBW’s commitment to international goodwill and cultural exchange.

Key Aspects of the Goodwill Train Project:

- **The China Connection:** The exhibit was intended as a gesture of friendship toward the Chinese people.
- **The Exhibit Car:** It would have displayed American-made goods and cultural artifacts.
- **NARBW’s Role:** As a women-led organization, NARBW’s efforts reflected its broader mission of service, education, and unity.

Though the train never left U.S. soil, the idea lives on as a notable chapter in the history of railway diplomacy.

The China Exhibit Car: Preserving the Elegance of Rail Travel

In 2012, the Green Bay Chapter of NARBW brought a new vision to life with the Christopher Railroad China Exhibit at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This exhibit showcases a stunning collection of historic dining car China, donated by the chapter and curated to highlight the social and cultural history of American railroads. Named for collector William Christopher, the exhibit features elegant tableware once used in luxury dining cars. Its purpose is to educate visitors about the golden age of rail travel and the role of women in preserving its legacy. Founded in 1941, NARBW continues to support educational and historical initiatives across the country.

Visit the Exhibit in Duluth

A similar exhibit is now housed at the Lake Superior Railroad Museum in Duluth, Minnesota. This beautifully restored car features one of the largest displays of railroad dining China in the U.S., offering a nostalgic journey through the artistry and hospitality of train travel.

Explore Photos & Videos:

- [Passenger Cars at Lake Superior Railroad Museum](#)
- [China Car Video Tour on YouTube](#)
- [Museum Collection Overview](#)
- [High-Resolution Museum Photos](#)



 Learn More or Plan Your Visit

Scan the QR code below to explore the Lake Superior Railroad Museum.

(See exhibit photos on the following page.)

NARBW CHINA EXHIBIT CAR PHOTO COLLAGE



2026 CONVENTION NEWS

2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

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).

<p>Members:</p> <p>_____ \$315 (by March 18th) _____ \$340 (after March 18) _____ \$260 Host Chapter</p> <p>Chapter Presidents:</p> <p>_____ \$260 (by March 18th) _____ \$285 (after March 18)</p>	<p>Emeritus Council:</p> <p>_____ \$220</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px;">Emeritus Council pays Membership Luncheon, Fun Night & Banquet</p>	<p>Non-Members (Guest):</p> <p>Guest Name: _____ Convention Meals only (enter all that apply)</p> <p>_____ \$50 Presidents Brunch _____ \$80 Fun Night _____ \$50 Membership Luncheon _____ \$90 Reception and Banquet</p>
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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 Gentilini 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 Gentilini
 2640 Cedarhurst Ave., NW
 Roanoke, VA 24012
convention@narbw.org

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