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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN

THE CAPSULE

SUMMER 2026 ISSUE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am very proud and honored to serve as your 43rd National President. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for our organization. With your support, the National Board and I will endeavor to seek innovative solutions to strengthen our membership and work within our industry to elevate the role of NARBW members.

Our 82nd National NARBW Convention was a wonderful and memorable event, and I extend my sincere thanks to Gwen Kropff, Roanoke Chapter President; Carol Gentilini and Sylvia Long Roanoke Chapter Convention Co-Chairs; and all the ladies of the Roanoke Chapter for serving as our hosts. Their teamwork, dedication, and hard work contributed greatly to the success of the convention.

One of the highlights of the convention was the announcement of Jasmine Manley as our National Woman of the Year. We congratulate Jasmine on this well-deserved honor. Her dedication, leadership, and commitment to NARBW exemplify the spirit of our organization.

As we look ahead, we are excited that the Southern California Chapter will host our 83rd National NARBW Convention in Ontario, California, on May 14–15, 2027. Convention Chairman Shamonda Jones and her committee are already hard at work planning what promises to be another memorable convention.

During the 2027 convention, we will elect three national officers—Second Vice President, Third Vice President, and Secretary. If you are a current member and eligible to run for one of these national offices, please let Rhonda Gomez, Nominating Chairman, know as soon as possible.

As we begin the 2026–2027 year, I am grateful to the members of our National Board who have accepted the responsibility of serving NARBW. I am excited to work alongside each of them as we build on our organization's strong foundation and continue moving NARBW forward. The Board came together for our Summer Board Meeting, which was held via Zoom on July 25, 2026. I am pleased to present our 2026–2027 National Board:

- Yolanda Barbosa, First Vice President/Public Affairs
- Trischelle Baysden, Second Vice President/Finance
- Bridget Hammons, Third Vice President/Membership
- Laura Gutteridge Años, Treasurer
- Sandra Martinez, Secretary
- Shamonda Jones, Convention Chair

- Rhonda Gomez, Nominations Chair
- Sharon Slaton, Publications Chair
- Gail Hendrix, Scholarship Chair
- CleLetha Shaw, Jewelry and Revisions Chair
- Nancy Von Dolteren, Welfare Chair
- Melanie McKim, Emeritus Council

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August Dates

2nd VP & 3rd VP/Mem Chair Call 8/31

September Dates

Chapter Dues Deadline	9/10
Per Capita Report Deadline	9/10
NARBW Town Hall Call	9/13
1st VP & Pub. Chair Call	9/22
Capsule Deadline	9/30

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We regret to share that the Philadelphia Chapter has made the difficult decision to dissolve after more than 75 years. The chapter was chartered on June 25, 1949. In addition, the Albany Chapter, chartered on March 5, 1955, has turned in its charter after more than 70 years. We are saddened to see both chapters close and to lose the wealth of knowledge and history they brought to our organization. We hope their members will consider joining another chapter or becoming Members-at-Large so they can remain connected to NARBW and the friendships they have made over the years.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your president, and I am excited to see what positive changes and membership growth this year will bring. Let's see where this journey takes us as we continue working together for the good of our organization.

Sincerely,

Dana Robles
National President



2026 – 2027 NARBW National Board

Shown left to right: Gail Hendrix (Scholarship Chair), Sharon Slaton (Publications Chair), Shamonda Jones (Convention Chair), Laura Gutteridge Años (Treasurer), CleLeatha Shaw (Jewelry/Revisions Chair), Dana Robles (President), Rhonda Gomez (Nominations Chair), Nancy Von Dolteren (Welfare Chair), Trischelle Baysden (Second Vice President), Sandra Martinez (Secretary), Bridget Hammons (Third Vice President/Membership Chair), Yolanda Barbosa (First Vice President/ Public Affairs Chair) and Melanie McKim (Emeritus Council)

2026 NATIONAL BOARD CORNER

RESUME OF THE 82ND NATIONAL CONVENTION ROANOKE, VIRGINIA MAY 1-2, 2026

The 82nd National Convention officially opened on Friday, May 1, 2026, at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood in Roanoke, Virginia. National President Rhonda Gomez welcomed members to the "Star City of the South." Following the invocation, the Presentation of Colors by the Western Virginia Regional Jail Honor Guard and the Pledge of Allegiance, greetings were extended by Anthony Warren, Director of Sales for the Holiday Inn Tanglewood, Valmarie H. Turner, Roanoke City Manager, Roanoke Chapter President Gwen Kropff, and Past National President Melanie McKim on behalf of the Jacksonville Chapter. President Gomez introduced the National Board, Emeritus Council members, and the Chapter Women of the Year.

The President's Brunch was hosted by National Second Vice President Trischelle Baysden. Chapter Presidents presented highlights of their year's activities, followed by reports from National Welfare Chair Nancy Von Dolteren and National Scholarship Chair Gail Hendrix. The Scholarship Chair announced that four \$2,000 scholarships would be awarded during the Saturday evening banquet. National First Vice President Dana Robles announced Jasmine Manley of the Chicago Chapter as the 2026 National Woman of the Year.

The Friday business session began with the Credentials Report establishing a quorum. National President Rhonda Gomez delivered her State of NARBW address, and nine first-time convention attendees were recognized. Reports were presented by National Secretary Sandra Martinez, National Treasurer Julie Nelson, National Nominating Chair Ida Carmouche, National Finance Chair Trischelle Baysden, National Jewelry/Revisions Chair CleLeatha Shaw, and National Publications Chair Sharon Slaton. The proposed 2026–2027 National General Operating Budget was adopted, as amended. CleLeatha Shaw also presented a proposed bylaw revision regarding appointments to National Board and chapter leadership positions, which did not pass.

Convention attendees heard an informative presentation by a DEA Diversion Investigator on the growing opioid addiction crisis. Friday evening concluded with the Candidates Reception and a 1970s-themed Fun Night featuring music, dancing, and fellowship.

Saturday's activities began with a Memorial Service conducted by National Third Vice President Bridget Hammons honoring members lost during the past year. President Gomez announced that the 2027 National Convention will be hosted by the Southern California Chapter in Ontario, California, with a Disney-themed convention.

During the Membership Luncheon, National Third Vice President Bridget Hammons presented her membership report and encouraged chapters to participate in the September 2026 Virtual Membership Drive. Members also enjoyed remarks from guest speaker Andre Perry of the Roanoke Valley Breakfast Lions Club.

During the afternoon business session, members elected Dana Robles of the Jacksonville Chapter as National President, Yolanda Barbosa of the Chicago Chapter as National First Vice President, and Laura Gutteridge Años of the Jacksonville Chapter as National Treasurer. Under new business, members discussed chapter responsibility for certain fees previously paid by the National organization. The Chicago Chapter was confirmed as host of the 2028 National Convention, and the Jacksonville Chapter volunteered to host the 2029 convention. Courtesy Resolutions were presented and adopted before the convention adjourned.

During the Saturday evening banquet, National Scholarship Chair Gail Hendrix announced the four recipients of the 2025–2026 National Scholarships.

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Four \$2,000 scholarships were awarded to Francis Gerick and Elena Gerick, whose applications were submitted by the Chicago Chapter; Anya Reddy, submitted by the Jacksonville Chapter; and Catherine Kildea, submitted by the Philadelphia Chapter. One scholarship honored 14th Past National President Catherine Frimm of the Baltimore Chapter, and another was presented in memory of Kathy Bevilacqua of the Philadelphia Chapter.

Emeritus Council member Sandy Hall installed the newly elected officers: National President Dana Robles, National First Vice President Yolanda Barbosa, and National Treasurer Laura Gutteridge Años.

The convention concluded with recognition of outgoing National President Rhonda Gomez for her dedicated leadership and service. Members departed Roanoke inspired by two days of fellowship, business, leadership, and celebration of the accomplishments of NARBW.

National President
Dana Robles

National Second Vice President
Trischelle Baysden



NARBW members at the 2026 National Convention in Roanoke, Va.



September is Membership Month!

September is the perfect time to focus on growing and strengthening NARBW! National Membership Chair Bridget Hammons is encouraging every member to participate in our September Membership Initiative. Members and chapters can get involved by inviting someone new to join NARBW, reconnecting with members who have not renewed, or hosting a Meet and Greet—in person or virtually—to introduce prospective members to our organization.

National Membership Chair Bridget Hammons will share strategies for promoting NARBW and attracting new members during the August 31 Town Hall. NARBW-branded materials and brochures are also available to support chapter Meet and Greets and other recruitment activities. Contact Third Vice President/Membership Chair Bridget Hammons at 281-914-2903 for materials.

We also have a NARBW Membership Drive PowerPoint template available for chapters to use. Each chapter can customize the presentation with its own chapter information and photos to help introduce prospective members to NARBW. [[Download the Membership Drive PowerPoint Template](#)]

NARBW NEWS UPDATES

NARBW Members Save \$95 on the Women in Rail Conference! 🚂



RAILWAY AGE / R.T.S.

WOMEN IN RAIL

Connect. Inspire. Innovate.
Oct. 6 & 7, 2026 | Schaumburg, IL

**NARBW members
save \$95**
with discount code
NARBW26
register early for discount rates.

Early Bird Rates End 8/28 | Low Rates End 9/18

www.railwayage.com/womeninrail

Join your NARBW sisters who will be attending Railway Age's 2026 Women in Rail Conference, returning to Schaumburg, Illinois, October 6–7. The conference brings together women and leaders from across the rail industry for two days of meaningful conversations, professional development, and networking.

This is a great opportunity to hear from industry leaders, gain insights into issues and trends shaping rail, exchange ideas, and build valuable connections with professionals from across the industry. NARBW will also have a membership table at the conference, providing an opportunity to increase awareness of our organization and connect with women interested in learning more about NARBW. NARBW members receive an exclusive \$95 discount on individual registration when using NARBW Member Discount Code: NARBW26.

Early bird rates are available through August 28. Learn more and register at: www.railwayage.com/womeninrail26/.

Nominate a NARBW Member: Railway Age 2026 Women in Rail Awards

Do you know a trailblazing woman in rail? [Nominate a colleague \(or yourself\)](#) who is paving the way for others to make a career in the industry, and join *Railway Age* in our 10th anniversary year celebrating Women in Rail!

Women are significantly influencing today's rail industry. *Railway Age's* 2026 Women in Rail Awards will honor 25 trailblazers for their achievements in our November issue. Nominees may come from any area of the railroad industry—freight/passenger, engineer/builder/supplier, as well as government/regulatory agencies, recognizing the importance of our regulators, industry associations, etc.



These outstanding railroaders will be selected based on their leadership, vision, innovation and accomplishments. Now in its tenth year, our awards program celebrates women leaders in rail and women trailblazers with a track record of breaking down barriers and helping to create industry opportunities for women. Entries will be judged by Barbara Wilson, CEO of Eagle Railcar Services, and Catherine Rinaldi, Executive Vice President of Gateway Development Commission, with input from the *Railway Age* staff. [Nominate now »](#). **Deadline:** October 1, 2026

“Did You Know?” Video Series

NARBW's new Did You Know video series gives members an opportunity to learn more about the National Board and the roles they play in supporting the organization. Videos are emailed directly to members each month. National President Dana Robles introduced the series in [her video in July](#), sharing her goals and vision for NARBW. [National First Vice President Yolanda Barbosa's video](#) was featured in August, highlighting her role and responsibilities. Look for additional videos featuring National Board members throughout the year.

NARBW Members Share, Connect and Learn at LRW Symposium

In June, the League of Railway Women (LRW) Symposium in Atlanta brought together women from across the rail industry for education, networking, professional development, and behind-the-scenes tours.

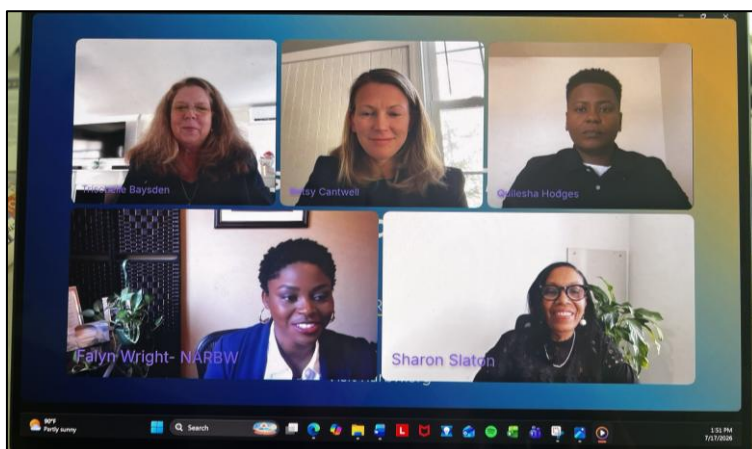
NARBW members were among those participating, with several taking on featured roles throughout the event. The symposium featured discussions on the future of rail, including panels on artificial intelligence and evolving workforce trends.

Jacksonville Chapter member **Judy Covington-Poole**, CSX Technical Director, shared her expertise during the AI panel, offering insight into how technology is transforming the rail industry. Chicago Chapter member **Jasmine Manley** had the honor of introducing keynote speaker Dianne Barnett, LRW's 2025 Woman of the Year and Norfolk Southern Railway's Assistant Vice President of Mechanical. Her inspiring message on leadership, purpose, and building the future through today's work resonated with attendees.

NARBW members also took advantage of exclusive industry tours. Jasmine Manley and Member-at-Large **ReTonya Warwick** visited the CSX REDI Center, where they learned about its state-of-the-art training programs. Chicago Chapter member **Michele Williams** toured Norfolk Southern's headquarters and gained insight into the company's commitment to employee support and work-life balance.

Careers Are Built Through Conversations and Community

In May, NARBW hosted the live webinar "Careers Are Built Through Conversations and Community," bringing together women in the rail industry for a conversation focused on connection, visibility, and career growth.



The webinar was moderated by NARBW Member-at-Large Falyn Coleman-Wright and featured NARBW Second Vice President/Finance Chair Trischelle Baysden, along with industry guests Quilesha Hodges, BNSF Terminal Operations Manager and GoRail President Betsy Cantwell.

Coordinated by Falyn Coleman-Wright and National Publications Chair Sharon Slaton, the program offered perspectives from across the rail industry and highlighted the role of connection and community in career growth. Members who missed the webinar — or

would like to watch it again — can [view the webinar recording here](#):

2026 NATIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Presenting Our 2026 National Woman of the Year



JASMINE MANLEY, CHICAGO CHAPTER

Celebrating Excellence in Leadership and Service

Jasmine Manley exemplifies the leadership, service, and vision that define the National Association of Railway Business Women. As Chicago Chapter president, she strengthened chapter operations, expanded NARBW's visibility across the rail industry, and built sustainable programs that will benefit members for years to come.

Her NARBW service involves several chapter and national board leadership roles, along with community service with organizations including the Chicago Food Depository, Cradles to Crayons, Fight-2-Food, Deborah's Place, Feed My Starving Children, and the American Cancer Society. Jasmine also established a chapter partnership with Illinois Operation Lifesaver, resulting in several members completing training to become authorized Operation Lifesaver volunteers.



Under Jasmine's presidency, the chapter launched a scholarship program and hosted several professional development events with topics that included financial literacy, Toastmasters, active listening, and artificial intelligence. In addition, she implemented a membership-management platform to more efficiently track memberships. She strengthened NARBW's membership outreach with Metra, Canadian National, and Amsted Rail, creating a sustainable framework for signing up group memberships. During Jasmine's presidency, chapter membership reached 65 members.

Jasmine also led the planning and execution of the chapter's 100th anniversary celebration, which drew approximately 75 guests. For the milestone event, she created a tiered sponsorship program with railroad-themed giving levels ranging up to \$5,000. The inventive approach honored the rail industry, captured the imagination of donors, and helped raise \$5,000 for the chapter's scholarship program. She also incorporated a membership component into the top sponsorship tier, which included eight memberships and a reserved table at the celebration. Jasmine designed the Centennial Celebration program booklet as well—an artistic and historical keepsake that now serves as a lasting piece of Chicago Chapter history.

Thanks to Jasmine's networking skills, NARBW had a strong presence at the 2025 Railway Age / RT&S Women in Rail Conference — including a membership table, discounted registration for members, and a special registration discount she secured for NARBW members. Separately, Jasmine helped secure a feature article in Railway Age promoting the chapter's 100th anniversary, highlighting its history, mission, and legacy. She also led the six-month development of the chapter's website, narbwichicago.org. Together, these efforts significantly increased NARBW's visibility across the rail industry.

Jasmine's influence extends across the rail industry and the broader professional community. With 11 years at Anacostia Rail Holdings, she is known for her integrity, mentorship, and leadership in accounting and operations. Her involvement in the League of Railway Women, the National Black MBA Association, the National Association of Black Accountants, and the Institute of Management Accountants reflects her dedication to mentoring future leaders and to the rail industry.

2026 CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR

JUDY COVINGTON-POOLE - JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER



★ Achievement, Leadership and Impact ★

Judy Covington-Poole embodies leadership, service, mentorship, and a commitment to uplifting others. Her selection as Jacksonville's 2026 Woman of the Year reflects her professional excellence and dedication to NARBW and her community. From 2023 to 2025, Judy served as President of NARBW Jacksonville, where her people-centered leadership delivered historic results. Membership grew from 45 to 73—the largest increase in recent chapter history. She revitalized programming, creating dynamic and inclusive opportunities for members to learn, connect, and thrive. Judy also mentored the incoming president and became Chapter Secretary (2025–2027), continuing her commitment to the chapter.

A respected leader at CSX, Judy has built a 15-year career marked by growth and impact. Joining in 2011 as a Business Consultant supporting the Mechanical division, she advanced through consulting and senior management roles to become Technical Director in the Service Operations/Reliability team. In 2024, she completed the Information Technology Senior Management Forum Executive Training Program. Judy also champions inclusion and development through several CSX initiatives and contributes to the rail industry through AREMA.

Her leadership extends into the Jacksonville community. A graduate of the National African American Women's Leadership Institute and Blueprint for Leadership Jacksonville, she is currently part of the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2026 and serves on the board of Hope at Hand. Judy also supports numerous organizations and causes, including Microsoft TEALS, William Raines High School, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Susan G. Komen, the Heart Walk, Hubbard House Walk, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Guardian Catholic School, and the Wounded Warrior Project. In recognition of her service, she was selected to participate in the 2025 CSX Santa Train. Judy and her husband, Merle Poole, recently celebrated 30 years of marriage and are proud parents of three adult children, Cortney, Ceryle, and Chandler, and grandparents to JaChelle and John Jr. Judy embodies the qualities of Woman of the Year, leading with purpose and lifting others as she creates lasting impact.

RAE HUEBNER – PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER



☀ A Trailblazer in Rail with a Charitable Heart ☀

Rae began her 40-plus-year Amtrak career in 1974 as one of the railroad's first reservation agents. After holding several positions, she found her niche in the Mechanical Department, where her knowledge and passion for the railroad continued to grow. Recognizing that a college degree would help open doors to management opportunities in the male-dominated field, Rae returned to school while working full-time and earned her bachelor's degree in business.

In 1999, Rae helped roll out Amtrak's Computerized Work Management System (WMS) at mechanical facilities nationwide. She spent months in Beech Grove, Indiana, training more than 400 mechanical employees before traveling throughout the country to continue the implementation. As a woman training a predominantly male workforce—many with little or no computer experience—she encountered resistance but remained determined to ensure the program's success. Her resourcefulness was tested when employees protesting the new system damaged keyboards used for training. Rather than allow the disruption to stop the program, Rae purchased replacement rubber keyboards at her own expense and kept the training moving.

(Continued on next page)

She eventually became Manager of Amtrak's national WMS program and received an Amtrak President's Service and Safety Award for her outstanding work and the program's successful national implementation. Her achievements also helped open doors for other women in the Mechanical Department, and she became a mentor to many before retiring after more than 40 years of service.

Rae's commitment to NARBW has been equally impressive. She has served the Philadelphia Chapter as President, Vice President, Secretary, Public Affairs Chair, Welfare Chair, Scholarship Chair, and Treasurer. She also served as District 1 Secretary/Treasurer and three terms as Scholarship Chair. She has also been honored multiple times with the NARBW Good Samaritan Award for her charitable service.

Her community involvement includes volunteering with the Philadelphia Zoo and Meals on Wheels, where she initiated an annual holiday gift program benefiting approximately 125 recipients. She also established a partnership with Whole Foods to provide hygiene and cosmetic items for the chapter's annual Mother's Day Drive benefiting a local women's shelter.

Rae's decades of leadership, service, and dedication have strengthened NARBW and inspired generations of women in rail. The Philadelphia Chapter is proud to honor her as its 2026 Chapter Woman of the Year.

★ BRENDA BOB – HOUSTON CHAPTER ★



A Legacy of Leadership and Service

Brenda Bob grew up in a family of educators but was the only one to pursue a railroad career. After working as a first-grade teacher, she joined Southern Pacific Railroad in 1979 as an extra-board yard office clerk and later became a Telegrapher and Tower Operator, developing a deep respect for railroad safety. Following the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific merger, Brenda advanced from Train Dispatcher to several management roles, including Corridor Manager and Manager of Terminal Operations. Named Manager of the Year by her peers, she retired in 2015 after a rewarding 36-year railroad career.

Brenda joined the NARBW Houston Chapter in 2020 and has served as Ways and Means Chair, Vice President, and is now in serving her third year as Houston Chapter President.

Brenda has attended several National Conventions, representing her chapter as a convention delegate. An active supporter of NARBW's charitable and welfare initiatives, Brenda participates in a wide range of Houston Chapter service activities. She has supported raffles, Houston Astros fundraisers, Wreaths Across America, families in need, Easter basket donations for girls in an orphanage, the Houston Food Bank, military care packages, the Veterans Card Project, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She also strongly supports NARBW's national breast cancer and Alzheimer's welfare projects, causes that are especially meaningful to her.

Brenda's commitment to service extends throughout her community. She volunteers extensively with the Southeast Texas Food Bank, where she helped establish a senior food box pickup program and recently secured a sizeable donation from a local Beaumont-area distributor. She also supports her church's youth program and choir, finding particular fulfillment in helping ensure seniors in her community are cared for. Operation Lifesaver, Rail Safety Education has always been a part of Brenda's world, and she continues to help raise awareness by promoting Safety Near Trains in her many conversations.

Brenda's selection as the Houston Chapter's 2026 Woman of the Year is a fitting recognition of her leadership, service, and dedication to others.

★ ANNE MENICHETTI – OMAHA CHAPTER ★



From Career Achievement to Community Impact

It is with great pride that we recognize Anne Menichetti as this year's Omaha Woman of the Year. Since joining the Omaha Chapter of NARBW in 2013, Anne has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service. Anne currently serves as the Chapter's President and previously held roles as Finance Chair and Chapter Secretary. She has also contributed to the Bylaws and Financial Audit Committees, consistently supporting the chapter's success. Anne is passionate about the future of NARBW, recruiting her granddaughters and inspiring her daughter Tristen, a two-time NARBW National Scholarship recipient.

Anne's professional career at Union Pacific reflects the same dedication. Since beginning her railroad career in 2004 as a customer service representative, she has advanced through roles in Timekeeping and Finance and now serves as a Manager II in Engineering's NonOps Bulletin and Assignment group. She leads a team responsible for processing more than 21,000 job bulletins and 18,000 trouble tickets annually, while also overseeing payroll timekeeping. Her commitment to service extends deeply into the community. Anne actively supports organizations such as the Little Giants Foundation, United Way, Children of the Night, Susan G. Komen, and the American Heart Association. She also contributes to Ronald McDonald House through pop tab collections and participates in chapter welfare projects whenever possible. Anne's leadership, generosity, and heart truly embody this honor. Please join us in celebrating her well-deserved recognition.

Outside of work and NARBW, Anne treasures time with her husband, Joe, and their close-knit family. They have four daughters, Ashlee, Brittany, Chelsea and Tristen; a son, Ryan; and nine grandchildren—all living within 30 minutes. Anne especially enjoys hosting family and friends at their river cabin, reading, and learning new crafts, including counted cross-stitch and knitting. Their family is rounded out by Noodle the cat and Bear the Chihuahua.

★ SYLVIA LONG – ROANOKE CHAPTER ★



A Journey of Achievement and Service

Sylvia's distinguished 39-year railroad career began in 1975 with Southern Railway in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Following the merger of Southern Railway and Norfolk and Western Railway to form Norfolk Southern, she transferred to Roanoke, Virginia. Over the course of her career, Sylvia advanced through numerous positions before retiring in 2014 as Manager of Service Contracts. Along the way, she earned the Certified Purchasing Manager designation, a bachelor's degree, and an MBA, reflecting her commitment to professional growth and excellence. Since joining NARBW in 2008, Sylvia has been a dedicated and influential leader. She has served as Chapter President and Secretary and on the National Board as National Secretary, Second Vice President, and First Vice President. Currently serving as Chapter Secretary and Transportation

Museum Chair, she has also contributed to numerous committees and served as an officer or delegate at nearly every National Convention she has attended.

Sylvia has also made a lasting impact through mentorship and preserving NARBW's history. As Chapter President, she established the "Mentor a Narbie" program to welcome and connect new members—a model later adopted by another chapter. She has personally recruited eight members and continues to guide newer members and officers. Sylvia also helped research historic documents for NARBW's 100 Year Commemorative Book and served as Co-Chair of the 82nd National Convention. Her service extends well beyond NARBW. Sylvia has held leadership roles with several community organizations and has served as Secretary/Treasurer of her local National Association of Retired and Veteran Railroad Employees unit since 2015, where she writes the newsletter and supports legislative awareness efforts. She is also active in her church and has supported numerous charitable organizations, including the Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, Rescue Mission, Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army, and Veterans Administration Hospital. A mentor, accomplished railroad professional, and dedicated volunteer, Sylvia exemplifies the commitment and impact celebrated by the Woman of the Year award.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ANYA REDDY

Kathy Bevilacqua Scholarship Recipient Award awarded by the Philadelphia Chapter



A Future Dedicated to Healing

****2026 NARBW Scholarship Winner****

The National Association of Railway Business Women is proud to announce Anya Reddy as the recipient of one of our four 2026 NARBW Scholarship Awards!

Anya is currently pursuing a Doctor of Medicine degree at the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. Inspired by personal experiences as a patient from a young age, she developed a strong passion for medicine and a commitment to making healthcare more approachable and understandable for others.

Through her academic journey, including studies in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Florida, and hands-on experience as an EMT and rural medical assistant, she has demonstrated a deep dedication to patient care and education. Her goal is to empower patients by helping them better understand their health and actively participate in their care.

Following medical school, she plans to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology, where she hopes to build meaningful, long-term relationships with patients and provide compassionate, patient-centered care. A previous recipient of the 2025 NARBW Scholarship, she has already benefited from the program in supporting her transition to medical school. This continued recognition reflects her outstanding commitment, perseverance, and alignment with the mission of NARBW.

Please join us in congratulating Anya Reddy on this well-deserved achievement! 🎉



ELENA GERICK

Recognizing Excellence!

It is with great joy and pride that we celebrate Elena Gerick as one of this year's NARBW scholarship recipients.

Elena is a driven, energetic, and well-rounded student whose positivity and determination truly stand out. She balances two jobs while attending college, including serving as an office assistant in the Dean of Students' office, demonstrating a strong work ethic and commitment to her education. Despite her demanding schedule, she serves as secretary of the kayak club—an experience that led to her summer role as a kayaking tour guide—and participates on an intramural water polo team. Her dedication to her studies and future goals is clear. Elena plans to continue her education by earning a master's degree in psychology and ultimately a PsyD in Clinical Psychology, with the goal of working with children and adolescents experiencing trauma and anxiety. She also served as a Residence Hall Liaison, collaborating with peers to improve the student living experience.

Elena is equally committed to giving back. As a member of the women's Philoptochos Society, a national Greek Orthodox philanthropic organization, she supports charitable efforts and participates in a meaningful family tradition of delivering meals to homebound individuals on Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

Through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication, Elena represents the spirit of this scholarship. Congratulations on this well-deserved achievement.



CATHERINE KILDEA

A Future Transportation Leader ★

We are thrilled to celebrate Catherine Kildea as one of the exceptional recipients of the 2026 NARBW Scholarship Awards!

Catherine is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration at George Mason University, focusing on government contracting. Her passion for transportation and infrastructure is rooted in her experiences as a frequent rail traveler, where she developed a deep appreciation for the coordination, teamwork, and dedication required to keep the nation's rail systems running safely and efficiently.

Her academic studies have strengthened her expertise in policy analysis and research, equipping her with the skills to support and advance public-private partnerships in transportation. Catherine has also gained experience through her work with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, where she has contributed to projects involving transportation infrastructure. In her current role supporting the United States Patent and Trademark Office, she manages projects, improves reporting processes, and collaborates across teams. Balancing full-time work, multiple responsibilities, and graduate studies, Catherine demonstrates resilience, determination, and commitment to her goals.

Her dedication reflects the mission and values of NARBW and highlights her bright future as a leader in transportation and infrastructure. 🙌 Please join us in congratulating Catherine Kildea on this incredible and well-deserved achievement!



FRANCIS GERICK

Recipient of the Catherine Krimm Award (Past National President 1968-1970)

Leader, Scholar, Future Engineer

Meet Francis Gerick — a highly motivated student preparing to pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering at the University of Illinois. With a strong academic record and a clear passion for materials science, he has shown exceptional potential and a deep commitment to advancing research and development. Francis embodies the values of NARBW through his leadership, perseverance, and dedication to serving his community.

He will complete his associate degree in engineering at Wilbur Wright College this year with a 3.84 GPA before beginning full-time coursework at the University of Illinois in the fall. Inspired by the future applications of optics and quantum materials, Francis chose to focus his studies on materials science — an area that will give him the opportunity to put his problem-solving and collaboration skills to use through interdisciplinary research and innovation.

Francis' leadership is evident across campus. He served as a Senator in student government, launched a healthy snack program on campus, founded and led an award-winning Chess Club, and served as Activities Director for the American Chemical Society Chicago Chapter. His work as a STEM tutor and Junior Research Assistant for the National Science Foundation brings his academic interests and community service full circle.

A professor who taught Francis in three engineering courses shared, "He is one of the most diligent, capable, and principled students I have encountered."

NARBW is proud to support Francis as he works toward his degree and celebrates his continued success.

CHAPTER NEWS

CHICAGO CHAPTER



NARBW Chicago Gets the Blues

From June 4 - 7, Chicago Chapter members supported the Blues Heaven Foundation, founded by the legendary blues musician Willie Dixon to preserve and promote the heritage of American blues music. On the first day, we volunteered at historic Chess Records, the foundation's headquarters, helping pack merchandise for their Chicago Blues Fest booth, and we also enjoyed the foundation's Record Row blues concert in the garden. Over the next three days, we volunteered at the Blues Heaven booth at the Chicago Blues Fest in Millenium Park. We helped staff the booth and sell merchandise. We were honored to meet Willie Dixon's daughter Jackie, who runs the foundation, and her son Taylor. This was a fun event where we enjoyed fantastic music while helping a great organization.



Chicago Chapter Kicks off the New Fiscal Year

In June, Chicago Chapter members gathered in the historic Founder's Room at Chicago Union Station to celebrate the start of the new fiscal year and install the 2026–2027 chapter officers. Michele Williams was installed as Chapter President, Jasmine Manley as Vice President, and Mishael Sherley as Treasurer.



We also recognized board members CleLeatha Shaw serving as Secretary and Welfare Chair, Assistant Treasurer Emilie Becq-Giraudon, Scholarship Chair Yolanda Barbosa, and Publications Chair Sharon Slaton. During the meeting we proudly inducted three new members from Metra: Courtney Aubrecht, Deidre Martin and Laurel Thigpen. Members reflected on the Chapter's accomplishments over the past year and also brainstormed on ways to carry on our Chapter's rich legacy. The meeting concluded with a light luncheon and eagerness to start the new year.

NARBW Chicago Helps Prom Girls Rock!

In April, Chicago Chapter members spent the day volunteering with Prom Girls Rock, an amazing organization that helps high school students get ready for prom by providing free dresses, shoes, accessories, and lots of encouragement to help them feel confident on their special day. Our members stayed busy staffing the check-in tables, helping young ladies find the dress that made them smile, sorting beautiful donated gowns, and pitching in wherever an extra set of hands was needed. Thanks to the incredible efforts of all the volunteers, 116 girls were served, 159 dresses were given away, and five college trunks were awarded to help students as they prepare for their next chapter.



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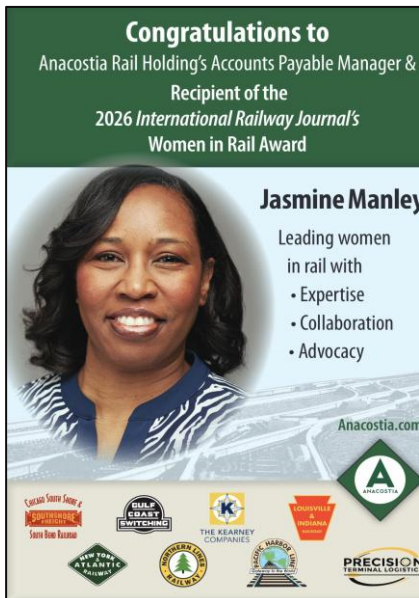
Giving Kids a Great Start

NARBW Chicago helping to end clothing insecurity at Cradles to Crayons! We had a good time while supporting a GREAT cause!



Representing Metra with Pride

NARBW members from Metra proudly supported the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge in Chicago by staffing an event table and welcoming participants. The annual event brings together thousands of employees from organizations across the region, promoting teamwork, wellness, and community engagement.



International Recognition for Jasmine

Congratulations to Jasmine Manley on receiving the 2026 International Railway Journal Women in Rail Award. This prestigious honor recognizes women who have made significant contributions to the rail industry through leadership, innovation, and service. We are incredibly proud of Jasmine and her well-deserved recognition!



Congratulations to Blair Theuerkauf on her new role as Continuing Legal Education Officer on the Women's Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI) Board of Directors for the 2026–2027 bar year. We are proud of Blair's accomplishment and wish her continued success in this leadership position. Congratulations Blaire! Leading Beyond the Rails.

Chicago Chapter Represented on NARBW National Board

Congratulations to our Chicago Chapter members serving on the NARBW National Board! At the 2026 National Convention, Yolanda Barbosa was inducted as First Vice President and Public Affairs Chair. Reappointed to the National Board were CleLeatha Shaw as Revisions Chair/Jewelry Chair, and Sharon Slaton as Publications Chair.

JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER



Celebrating our National President and Woman of the Year

Congratulations to our very own Dana Robles, who has been installed as our 43rd National President for the 2026–2028 term. Dana brings more than 26 years of experience with CSX, where she built a distinguished career in Information Technology. She began in System Management, overseeing computer systems and supporting the technology call center.

She later advanced into key technology leadership roles, including Technology System Administrator, where she managed Change Management processes and ensured organizational compliance, and as

an Engineering Administrator, continuing her work supporting critical engineering technology functions. Dana retired from CSX in 2023. A dedicated member of NARBW since joining the Jacksonville Chapter in 2011, Dana has held numerous leadership roles, including Chapter President. On the National Board, she has served for six years in positions such as National Convention Chair, National Secretary, Jewelry/Revisions Chair, and First Vice President/Public Affairs Chair. Her longstanding commitment to NARBW and its mission has prepared her to lead the organization into its next chapter.

We were able to celebrate Dana and our Woman of the Year, Judy Covington-Poole, during our June meeting, which was a lot of fun.



Giving Back to the Community ★

On Saturday, May 9, 2026, a group of NARBW ladies and their guests worked at 3 Grains of Rice Mission. The team was given a tour of the facility and then went to work.

They assembled personal care packages for men and women, measured dog and cat food into smaller packages, and prepped 270 bags of groceries for the next food distribution. Founder and retired CSX-er Ed Perez was very grateful for the support our team provided.

Exploring Jacksonville's Railroad History

Fourteen of our NARBW Jacksonville members and relatives met at Beaches Museum for a really interesting tour of all the different buildings and a wonderful history lesson about the early railroads.

Many thanks to our guide Bob Burch who was a wealth of knowledge.



(Continued on next page)

Remembering our NARBW Sisters

We also want to acknowledge two of our NARBW Sisters that we have lost this past quarter. Geri Wynn (*left*) and Mary Warner (*right*).

We paid tribute to them at our June meeting, and they will be remembered fondly for their years with NARBW.



Jacksonville Chapter Convention fun!

Several of our Jacksonville Members had a great time at the Roanoke Convention. Some of the highlights included the Presidents' Brunch, Membership Luncheon, Candidates' Reception, Banquet, and Marketplace.

Fun Night's theme was "You Are a Shining Star" and our members showed up in disco fun to enjoy great music and friendship.

Lastly, those who went on the pre-convention tour (shown left) were able to see the sites, including the iconic Roanoke Star. See the convention photo gallery starting on page 21.

★ Growing Membership and Giving Back in Roanoke ★

The Roanoke Chapter recently inducted two new members! Clara Taylor (sponsored by Linda Taylor) is connected to the railroad through her husband. Clara has been involved in her community through Blue Ridge Association for Sickle Cell Anemia, Pigg River Community Center events in Franklin County, and more.

Antinette "Chinene" Beane (sponsored by Kathleen Claytor) is connected to the railroad through her late husband (and brother of Kathleen), Arthur Beane. Chinene is a member of Bethel AME Church in Cave Spring. She has joyfully served in our Roanoke public libraries for nearly 20 years. The "pinning ceremony" for Chinene is currently planned to be at our September 2026 meeting, allowing her sponsor (Kathleen Claytor) to be in attendance for this beautiful tradition.

Chapter 19 Roanoke would like to thank our sister NARBW chapters (including our chapter) for their overwhelming response to our Welfare Convention Project; Lion's Club Eyeglass Recycling Center. The eyeglasses collected were delivered to the center and Kay Patrick, operational manager was ecstatic. She said that we collected 1000 pairs of eyeglasses. This is phenomenal and absolutely "spec-tacular". Again, we thank you NARBW for your generosity and support for those in need. These glasses will make it possible for folks around the world to see what they've been missing.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Bruno the Brave

Our NARBW SoCal sister, Priscilla Quiñones, is the proud mother of Natalia (6) and Bruno (4). Two years ago, Priscilla and her husband's world changed forever when Bruno was diagnosed with leukemia. Since that day, Bruno has faced countless hospital visits, treatments, procedures, and challenges with a courage far beyond his years. Throughout his journey, Priscilla, a Deputy Sheriff, took a leave of absence from work so she could be by her son's side every step of the way. Together, their family has demonstrated extraordinary strength, resilience, and faith during one of life's most difficult battles.

On June 18, 2026, Bruno reached a milestone worth celebrating—he rang the bell, signifying the completion of his leukemia treatment. It was a joyful and emotional moment for a family that has endured so much, and a testament to the incredible care provided by the dedicated team at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). While Bruno's journey has inspired us all, many children and families continue to face similar battles. To help support CHOC and the lifesaving programs and services they provide,

NARBW SoCal proudly participated in the CHOC Walk in the Park at Disneyland Resort on August 2, 2026.

As we prepare to host our Disney-themed 2027 National Convention, it seems especially fitting that we can come together in a place where hope, courage, and a little bit of magic help make dreams come true.

We invite our NARBW sisters across the country to join us in supporting this important cause. Donations can be made through any member of our CHOC Walk team or directly to Bruno's family through their designated fundraising links below. Together, we can help bring hope, healing, and brighter tomorrows to children and families facing their own courageous journeys.



NARBWland 2027

One of the highlights of the convention was the Southern California Chapter's presentation unveiling plans for the highly anticipated 2027 NARBW National Convention, **NARBWland – Where Your Journey Begins**, to be held in Ontario, California.

The room was filled with excitement as attendees got a glimpse of the Disney-inspired theme, creative activities, and special events planned for 2027. Members from chapters across the country enthusiastically shared their plans to attend and were already discussing Disney-inspired attire, princess colors, and the magical experiences awaiting them in Southern California. The presentation generated tremendous enthusiasm and anticipation, setting the stage for what promises to be a memorable 83rd National Convention. See 2027 Convention highlights on page 24.



(Continued on next page)

Passing the Gavel

NARBW SoCal celebrated a memorable leadership transition at its June meeting as outgoing President Shamonda Jones officially passed the gavel to incoming President Sallie Rodriguez. During her presidency, Shamonda helped lead the chapter through continued growth, impactful community service projects, successful fundraising efforts, and preparations for NARBW's 83rd National Convention, which will be hosted by NARBW SoCal in 2027.

The celebration continued as Sallie was presented with the 2026 NARBW SoCal Woman of the Year Award, recognizing her dedication, leadership, and commitment to the mission of NARBW. Receiving this honor on the same day she assumed the role of Chapter President made the occasion especially meaningful. NARBW SoCal looks forward to an exciting year ahead under Sallie's leadership and congratulates her on this well-deserved recognition.



50/50 Raffle Success

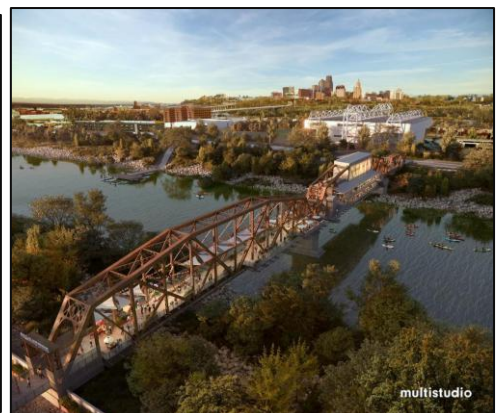
NARBW SoCal's Metrolink DOC Family showed incredible enthusiasm and generosity during their 50/50 raffle! In just two short weeks, they sold \$1,550 in tickets, and the lucky winner Jose Rodriguez took home \$775. Everyone was so excited about the 50/50, NARBW SoCal was asked to do it again, so another raffle will be held during the Holidays.

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

While the KC ladies had been hard at work prepping for the Roanoke convention in May, we *did* manage to sneak away for a little adventure. We took a trip out to the Rock Island Bridge — yes, the one hanging a casual 60 feet over the Kansas River like it's no big deal. The view of KC is fantastic, and the bridge itself is basically a playground for grown-ups: a restaurant, walking paths, activities, and enough photo-ops to keep us entertained.

Our members have been very busy — some out living their best lives at FIFA World Cup games in

KC, and our President, Megan Cibulski, has been juggling a home move like the champion she is. (Honestly, she deserves a trophy just for surviving the packing tape.) We're gearing up for an exciting year ahead and already cooking up plenty of activities, so buckle up — it's going to be a fun ride.



HOUSTON CHAPTER

Houston Chapter Celebrates Scholarship, Service and a New Year

The Houston Chapter proudly congratulates Tressa Jackson, recipient of the 2026 Grace Nowlin Memorial Scholarship. Tressa, daughter of Houston Chapter member Temicka Collett, attends Louisiana State University, where she is majoring in accounting. Grateful and honored to receive the scholarship, Tressa is passionate about her education and focused on building a successful future while continuing to grow and take advantage of new opportunities.



The chapter continued its commitment to the community with a \$500 donation to the Houston Food Bank, helping provide food and support to families in need. Houston was also well represented at the 2026 NARBW National Convention in Roanoke, Virginia. Members Brenda Bob, Kara Brown, Ida Carmouche, Debbye Converse, Pamela Gleason, Bridget Hammons, Theresa Harper, Tamela Kubicek, Peggy Simon-Cuellar, Cynthia

Chandler and Rachael Zeiler attended. Shopping and 50/50 activities at the Convention Marketplace resulted in \$370 being added to the Houston Chapter Scholarship Fund.

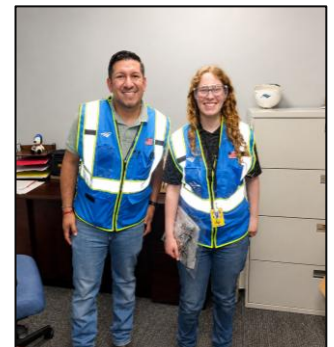


Members also enjoyed plenty of fellowship throughout the spring. The April meeting was held at LaViva Mexican Restaurant and hosted by Deborah Regan and Michele Mullican. Carla Wallace hosted the May meeting, where everyone attending received a bottle of homemade peach brandy crafted from a secret recipe by Carla and her husband, Bobby Wallace. Although a quorum was not reached for the June meeting, members still enjoyed a luncheon planned by Ginger Stanbery and Peggy Cuellar at Smart Pipe Technologies. The chapter is beginning the 2026–2027 NARBW year on a positive note, welcoming its first new member, Maria E. Montalvo, Director of Dispatching in the Transportation Department at CPKC's Spring, Texas Dispatch Center. Houston's membership renewal campaign is also off to a successful start, with 50 percent of members already renewed. As the Houston Chapter prepares for its 74th year, members look forward to another successful year of fellowship, service, scholarship and support of NARBW's mission.

INDY CIRCLE CITY CHAPTER

Alexandra Woods Selected for Amtrak Internship

Congratulations to Indy Circle City Member Alexandra Woods on being selected for a three-month engineering internship with Amtrak's Capital Delivery Department in New York City. Before heading off to her internship, Alexandra toured Amtrak's Beech Grove Shops with Cesar Zuniga, a Rolling Stock Engineer at Amtrak, gaining valuable insight into Amtrak's operations and the opportunity to learn from an experienced railroad professional. Alexandra previously worked for the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) before returning to Purdue University to pursue her master's degree.



Remembering Our NARBW Sister Phyllis Ann Harrison

The Circle City Chapter mourns the passing of Phyllis Ann Harrison, a devoted NARBW member for 46 years, who passed away peacefully on May 25, 2026, at age 92. A retired registered nurse at Amtrak's Beech Grove Shops, Phyllis will be remembered for her compassion, friendship, and dedicated service to others.

OMAHA CHAPTER

Making a Difference in Omaha ★

The Omaha chapter always stays busy. We try to do something each month for charity whether it's a donation or an in-person event. April was especially busy. In April we had a **fund raiser garage sale** at Kathy DuVall's house. Members brought priced items, we sorted them on a Friday and had the sale on Saturday.

It was a good success despite the weather being overcast. We made over \$900 and cleaned out our houses!

A local thrift store came and picked up the items left over, so Kathy got her garage back. We also continue our efforts to collect pop tabs for the **Ronald McDonald House** in Omaha, as it helps defray the cost of utilities for them.



Pass the Purse: In April we stuffed 50 purses at Julie Nelsen's house, and she delivered them to a local domestic abuse shelter. Pictured from left to right: Julie Nelsen, Anne Menichetti, Connie Prokupek, Kathy DuVall, Colleen Brabec, Kadie Leslie.

ROANOKE CHAPTER

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See highlights from the convention on the following pages.

PRE-CONVENTION TOUR - ROANOKE, VA



CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS - ROANOAKE, VA



CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS - ROANOAKE, VA





Where your story begins

2027 NARBW NATIONAL CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE NARBW SoCal CHAPTER

MAY 13-15, 2027

— ONTARIO DELTA HOTEL —



THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2027

Meet & Greet Day!

You don't have to attend all 3 days!
Join us for a fun-filled day
of discovery and connection!

 **March Field Air Museum Tour**
Take flight into history!



 **Lunch**

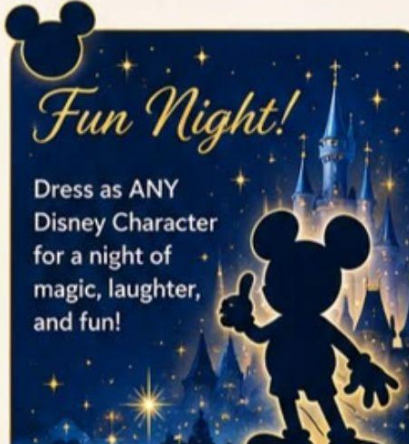
 **Wilson Creek Winery
Tour & Tasting**
Sip, savor, and enjoy!



FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2027

Convention Day 1

Educational Sessions, Workshops,
Networking, Exhibitors & More!



Fun Night!

Dress as ANY
Disney Character
for a night of
magic, laughter,
and fun!

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2027

Convention Day 2

More Empowerment,
More Connections,
More Inspiration!



NARBW Ball

Dress as a
PRINCESS
(or wear princess colors)
and let's make it a
royal celebration!



ONTARIO DELTA HOTEL

222 N. Vineyard Ave.
Ontario, CA 91764

- ✓ Convenient Location
- ✓ Great Amenities
- ✓ Special Convention Rates
- ✓ More Information Coming Soon!



THREE AMAZING DAYS – ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!

-  **THURSDAY ONLY (MAY 13)**
Tours, Lunch & Wine Tasting
-  **FRIDAY ONLY (MAY 14)**
Convention Day 1 + Fun Night
-  **SATURDAY ONLY (MAY 15)**
Convention Day 2 + NARBW Ball
-  **ALL 3 DAYS**
The Full Experience!

CHOOSE
WHAT WORKS
BEST FOR
YOU!

FOLLOW US!

 NARBW SoCal Chapter

Stay connected for updates,
news, and all things convention!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[https://narbw2027convention.zohobackstage.com/
NARBW2027Convention#/](https://narbw2027convention.zohobackstage.com/NARBW2027Convention#/)



ONE CHAPTER. ONE MISSION. STRONGER TOGETHER.

