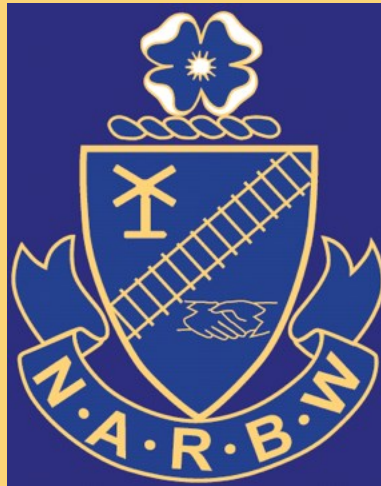


From The Beginning

RBWA
20
Years



NARBW
80
Years

100 Year Anniversary
1921 - 2021

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Welcome

In 1921 the brave women who started this association probably never thought that 100 years later that women working in their beloved industry would be meeting under the name of NARBW. This truly is a celebration beyond most of our imaginations. The national board thought this event worthy enough to gather thoughts, memories, and celebratory events that have happened along the way.

While we are unable to speak with those original forward thinking women, born before their time, we have a history and legacy left for us by them. It is our responsibility to the future members that we record and share information gathered before those memories are lost.

I joined NARBW in 2002 as a young woman in a male-dominated industry. I attended my first national convention in 2004 and thought what an amazing experience it was to bond with so many railroad women from different walks of life, different careers, different life experiences but all with the tie of being railroad sisters. I have spent 14+ years on the National Board and have learned so much from the women who have gone on before me, gained innovative ideas from newer members, and formed friendships that will endure a lifetime.

The following represents many hours by many members and their efforts will provide the next generation with the valuable dialogue of our history.

We have included perspectives from some of our Emeritus Council Past Presidents.

Please join me as we walk down memory lane.

Melanie McKim, President

National Association of Railway Business Women

It all started with a sign

A woman named Hazel Cornell from the Twin Cities worked for the great Northern Railway and in 1920 spent Christmas holidays with friends in Chicago. When returning to the Twin Cities she found herself in the Union Depot crowded with holiday travelers. Hazel finally found a seat away from the main concourse and while seated there she noticed a door across the walkway that said "FOR RAILROAD MEN ONLY".

Naturally that peaked her curiosity, and she watched as one man after another came and went through that door. She heard the sound of voices and laughing and greeting each other and she longed to knock on the door to join in the fun.

All the way back to St. Paul the sight of that doorway, "FOR RAILROAD MEN ONLY", burned in her mind. As the wheels clicked along the tracks she kept thinking, I'm a Railroad Woman-I'm a Railroad Woman-I'm a Railroad Woman, until the thought was so etched into her Irish heart that she knew she had to do something about it.

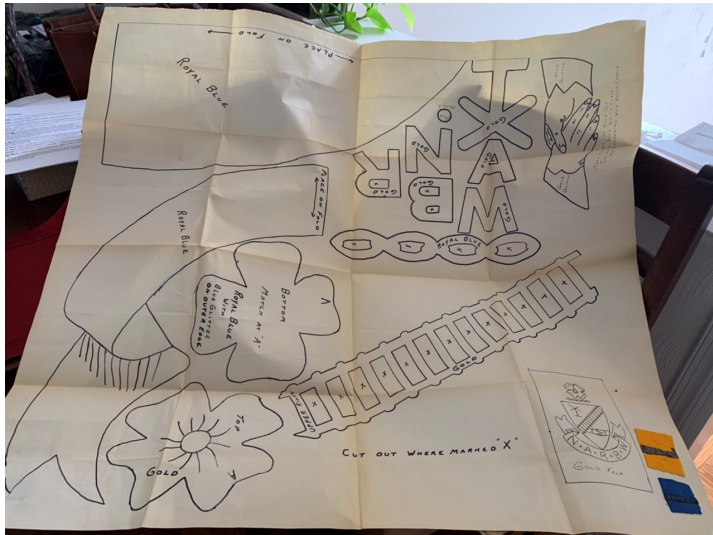
Part of Hazel's railroad duties were to telephone other area railroads regarding car records. One of her regular calls was to Sarah Miles, who worked at the Consolidated Ticket Office in Minneapolis. After telling Sarah about her experience at the Chicago Depot they decided they had to do something for railroad women.

NARBW CREST



NARBW Crest

The Wild Rose is the symbol of femininity.
The linked chain at the top characterizes strength through unity.
The Railroad crossing arms signify alertness.
The Railroad track represents the industry that has employed our members.
The clasped hands indicate friendship.



ORIGINAL DESIGN PAPERS FOR CREST

DORIS STEMMER JACKSONVILLE 1996—1998

It has been my privilege to be a member of NARBW for over 40 years. Due to relocations, I was a member of 5 different chapters (Jacksonville, Cincinnati, Louisville, new Cincinnati, and now Indianapolis Charter). During that time I held all chapter offices and was on the National Board as Convention Chairman twice, National Secretary, First VP, Publications Chairman, and National President. As I write this, so many memories are going through my mind, but a couple really stand out.

I was transferred with the L&N Railroad to Jacksonville in 1980. While we were in our temporary location in the Seaboard Coast Line Building, now known as CSX, I met a lovely lady, Mattie Belle Miller, who worked for Fruit Growers Express. She asked me to come to a NARBW meeting, I did, and the rest is history. I joined the Jacksonville Chapter and after holding several offices, became President and from there went on to the National Board as Convention Chairman in 1985.

The 1985 Convention is my fondest memory. We contracted with the Jacksonville Hilton for May 20-23, 1985. As it turns out, the convention this year is being held in that very hotel, now known as the Doubletree Riverfront Hilton, and on exactly the same dates, 36 years later! The theme was, "Sentimental Journey." The pre-convention tour was to St. Augustine, and there was a tour to Fernandina Beach on the 20th for non-delegates. There were two nights for the hospitality room and the Activity Books that were kept by some chapters were judged on the 19th. The formal opening was on the 20th Parliamentary Orpha Wardle gave an hour long class every day. Fun Night was held at a 40's style restaurant known as "The Henderson" where they played Winston Churchill speeches and there were World War II airplanes and memorabilia everywhere. May 21st there was another tour for non-delegates and the Presidents' Breakfast was a three hour function, which included a fashion show. The Candidates' Reception was held that evening across the river in the Seaboard Coastline Building. On the 22nd, in the evening there was dinner and a play at the Alhambra Dinner Theatre. After the last business meeting, there was a shopping trip to the Grand Boulevard Mall before the reception and banquet in the evening.

The National Board told me to get a hotel with a ballroom for 500. Well, we almost filled it up! The evening began with free drinks and hors d'oeuvres, complete with a gorgeous ice sculpture, paid for by Seaboard Coast Line. We had a magician who presented "The Magic of Creating Opportunity". It was most entertaining, but I'll leave Sandy Hall to tell you about that! Mr. Sanborn, President of Seaboard, was our speaker and the installation of officers was presented after that. Mr. Sanborn said "it looked like a Chinese fire drill." Picture a three-tiered head table and all the old and newly elected officers marching between the tiers. Not too professional looking and it made for a long night with dinner, speakers, entertainment, and installation. Not too long after that we began installing our officers at our last business meeting and reduced the head table to two tiers.

The convention finished up with a cruise to the Bahamas. The weather was awful but we still had a grand time aboard ship. My convention committee was the greatest and it was a really fun time. As you can tell, it remains one of my best memories.

A funny memory from my first convention in Portland. Dot Chumley introduced the speaker at one of the meetings and she stood up and said Mr. "Whoever", (sorry I don't remember his name or railroad, but he was a CEO), will speak on "Whatever." After he finished, Dot stood and said she was sorry she didn't give us any information about him and proceeded to give his introduction. Everyone had a good laugh.

During my presidency there were many memories, some sad, some funny, some bittersweet. During my presidency we did away with districts, which had been coming for a long time due to dwindling membership. During my presidency I began to reduce the National Board expenses by combining offices.

This year may be my last convention. I turned 85 this year and am not getting around as well as I would like. My heart and my brain says I'm still young, but my body says, "Whoa, girl, you can't do that anymore." My hope for NARBW is that it remains a viable organization and can increase membership, but my heart says its coming to its end. My strong recommendation to the National Board is that they make plans now for its dissolution if and when it appears there is no alternative.

ALICE McCABE ALBANY 2001—2002 (Joan Mauro)

Sorry to say that Alice has suffered several strokes. It is very hard for her to write or speak. I worked with her many years and she was a wonderful friend and a great president for NARBW. She could always get up and talk to a large group about any subject at any moment. She is loved by all of the Albany girls and by anyone that ever knew her. She is our treasure.

DORIS STROMBERG TWIN CITIES 2003—2004 (Pam Warren)

I am writing on behalf of my Auntie, Doris Stromberg, who has been stricken with Alzheimer's, much to the heartbreak of family and friends. She lives in Nevada with her brother and his wife and her little white dog, Lily. Her decline has been slow and difficult for everyone.

I believe Doris' first membership was with the Twin Cities chapter, but it's possible she could have been involved when she was in Springfield, MO. She left there in 1980, so I am not certain about her start. She is now a member of the Chicago chapter due to her "permanent" address being mine.

Doris was a huge part in the life of NARBW and NARBW was a huge part in her life! Almost every conversation I had with her in the 90's and into the 2000's included NARBW: Preparing for a trip, convention, National Board meeting, local board meeting, etc.

Her dear, beloved husband Kirk accompanied her on many trips and chauffeured and escorted friends during these travels. His unfortunate, unexpected passing in the fall of 2004 kept him from seeing the love of his life receive the "NARBW Woman of the Year" award in Louisville in 2005. I made the trip from Illinois to be with her knowing she might possibly win the award. I was very proud of her. She gave her heart and time to NARBW over and over.

She hosted the convention in Asheville sometime around 2007 or 2008? I'm sorry I'm not sure. Doris was in her glory when she was hosting. If memory serves me correctly, she cooked for some friends during that convention as she did when she lived in Hudson, WI. Cooking was her second passion, next to NARBW. And shopping(!), for those of you who knew Doris well! She found the best shopping in every city that NARBW took her to.

My Auntie made my children, Heidi and Brandon, part of NARBW as she took them along on National Convention trips to Las Vegas, Detroit and Jacksonville. Now adults in their late 30's, those trips are some of their fondest memories. My daughter was involved in speech contests in Jr. High and High School and my Auntie had her give a humorous speech at a luncheon in Las Vegas. She is able to tell people that she performed at The Hotel Riviera in Vegas! I was later introduced to NARBW friends as Heidi and Brandon's mom.

Since Doris' diagnosis NARBW friends helped her make trips to St. Louis and Cincinnati. Vicki Dent flew to IL after Doris had left Asheville to drive her to conventions. Huge thank you to Vicki!

I know there is much more to Doris' NARBW contributions and adventures, but she has no memory to tell them to anyone any longer. I did the best I could in passing along what I can remember from our many conversations. It is an honor to provide this information on her behalf.

I love the heartfelt tribute Pam Warren contributed for Doris Stromberg. I wanted to add a few facts, as I was privileged to serve with Doris on the National Board.

Doris joined NARBW in Springfield, MO and transferred to Minneapolis, St. Paul with the BNSF. She served her chapter loyally and was Membership, Revision, and Publicity chairman as well as Secretary, 1st VP and President. I first met her when she was District Director, with Carole Dahlquist serving as her District Secretary-Treasurer.

At the national level, Doris served as the 2nd VP from 1998 – 2000 and jointly served as Finance and scholarship chairman ('99) and Revisions ('00). Quite a busy lady! She served as our National Secretary 2000-2002, and Convention Chairman in 2002 for the Twin Cities convention. From 2002 – 2004 she was National President. She convinced her bosses at BNSF to cover her travel expenses while she was President. This was a bonus to our treasury, and she shared it with the board by covering our meal expenses at the board meetings. (Apparently, the board had been covering their own meals prior to this).

After Kirk passed away, Doris kept the plans she and Kirk had made and retiree to the Appalachian Mountains. She wanted to share her love of her new home and invited NARBW to visit her home and hosted the 2009 Convention in Asheville, NC. It was the first time in awhile that we had a professional photographer take a group photo of the convention attendees.

As her niece Pam says, Doris was an outstanding hostess. She loved to cook and to dress and to be with people!

Written by Jay Nelsen, Emeritus Council

Sandy Hall Jacksonville 2004—2006

I was privileged to be the National President of NARBW 2004 – 2006. During my term we went from three districts to two districts. It was the beginning of our search to find ways to sustain our organization and grow our membership. That was our mantra then and is still our issue today.

Many of you may be wondering what Doris Stemmer was referring to from the 1985 convention. Here is my side of the story:

The convention in 1985 was in Jacksonville. Doris Stemmer, convention chairman, one of my mentors, made me her special assistant. I led the tour to St. Augustine and most important I got to pick the magician up at airport. He was a very nice person, extremely interesting and from Las Vegas. He asked me lots of questions and one was "is there anything you would like to stop doing." Remember he was not only a magician but he was also a hypnotist. I was to be part of the entertainment unknowingly! We talked all the way back to the hotel and I told him I'd like to stop smoking. We laughed some more and I forgot about it. Our banquet was 500 people and the room was filled with Seaboard RR Officials, Chairman of the Board, President and many VP's also my boss the Chief Mechanical Officer, who would come into play later also. Don't you think Doris might have had a hand in this?

The entertainment was a great show and the finale was a special demonstration of hypnosis. I began to get nervous because he talked about hypnotizing someone who really wanted to stop smoking. Well, he called my name and asked me to come up to stage. He asked for two straight back chairs to be brought to the stage.

Those chairs with rounded metal tops, very hard. He asked Mr. Sanborn, President of our railroad and my boss, Mr. Tutko, Chief Mechanical Officer to come up to the stage also. He really did hypnotize me and he asked these two men to lift me and place me across the top of the chairs, with my legs and back placed on the hard metal tops of the chairs. Mr. Tutko said when the magician stepped up on a chair and then he stood on me, he almost pulled him down. I don't remember any pain or embarrassment or applause which I was told he received! If someone hadn't taken pictures of it, I would not have believed it. And yes, I did quit smoking for about 20 years.

Another important part of this story is this was my first convention, and I was enthralled by the order and the professional way the meetings were conducted. I did ask a lot of questions and was at the microphone several times. In fact, the National President, Fran Hanebrink called me by name and it thrilled me to no end. When I was reflecting on the day with my mentor, Doris Stemmer and I was telling her how impressed I was that the National President knew my name.... Doris quietly said, it's because you were at the microphone about 15 times it would have been hard for her not to learn your name. Now that should answer a lot of questions as I've been accused many times of being always at the microphone.

It was at that convention and the many more I attended that formed my dream to become a part of NARBW history and I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve this organization.

I remember in my final address as president in 2006, I said it was a very quick term that just when you have an idea of how to be president you're out of office. Well not much has come out of the pandemic we have been plunged into this past year but maybe having our National Officers remain in office for what could be a four-year term for some. A quick story, on a balcony in a hotel in Myrtle Beach I met a new NARBIE. Melanie McKim, Bennett back then and it was like I could see the spark in her eye that I got in 1985, more on that story later. Well, she was chapter president even though she was a very new member of NARBW and in 2005 joined our board as National Convention Chair.

Like many young members of NARBW, I had lots of seasoned veteran members as mentors, but that was not going to be the case for long, so new members need mentoring and experience quickly. Melanie is a great example of how young women can still find our organization something worthy of joining.

I had wonderful and many mentors. I would be amiss if I didn't put Ruth Ann Mary Perry Spears at the top of my list. That's my name for Ruth Ann Spears, she was our National President 1998-2000. She brought us into the new millennium and she made me a better person and for that I'm eternally grateful to her. I loved my drive time with Doris Stromberg, she'd call me many days on her way to work and we'd talk shop or just visit. Pat Cohen whose strength, knowledge, patience and friendship which continues today was a mentor through her grace and actions. Ernestine Gudgen who was my first NARBW hero as she was a groundbreaking woman who was born before her time. Nancy Beard who left us too early was a strong mentor. Her faith, quiet leadership abilities and her demeanor helped develop my leadership style both with NARBW and with CSX. I've already mentioned Doris Stemmer who began it all by asking me why I wasn't a member of NARBW one day in 1983. The rest is history, so maybe I did become a part of the great history of this organization that began 100 years ago by a woman and her friends she met through work.

I'd like to speak to that a little more. When I joined NARBW, Jacksonville Chapter in 1983 I never dreamed what it would or could add to my life and it's been a never-ending gift of friendships that extended across this nation, and that would never have been possible without NARBW. In 1983 there were 66 chapters and approximately 6000 members across our country with an endless group of women to network with, exchange ideas and just become friends with. While our numbers have dwindled and we appear to be on a road that might not sustain our organization, I think about those women long ago who started with friendships and a common goal.... isn't that still true today.

My advice to NARBW future members whether they are officers of chapters or the National board is never giving up on new ideas that just might work. Don't let our past get in the way. Remember how hard it was for those few women to start this organization without a long-range plan or any idea that it would be still in existence today. It began through friendships and a common goal, isn't that still true!!!

Barbara Barthle Jacksonville 2006—2008

My BFF Margaret Pickering was a member of the Tampa Chapter and kept inviting me to attend a meeting. I went to a meeting and really did have a good time and immediately joined. The first District Meeting I attended was in St. Augustine, FL at the Ponce de Leon. I met women from the Jacksonville Chapter and I don't think I ever had so much fun. I met Sandy Hall, who was not only very friendly but quite the comedian, Ruth Ann Mary Perry Spears, and Doris Stemmer (all now Past National Presidents) and whose friendship, love and trust I truly value. I also met Marion Puckett, Judy Folger, Anna Mae Wright, Alma Traynam, ladies I will never forget and remember fondly.

When Tampa Division became a Business Unit I transferred to Jacksonville and was delighted that I had met those ladies in St. Augustine. When the Tampa Chapter gave up their Charter they wanted me to take it to Jacksonville to turn it in. Everyone of my NARBIE friends were so helpful and made me feel so welcome.

My first convention was in St. Louis and their fun night was "Meet me in St. Louie" and Margaret Pickering and I roomed together. We rented long dresses with hats, gloves and old tie-up shoes. We both had 5 pieces of luggage and had changes of clothes for everything, (This was before you were charged for extra luggage) .

Rozane Prizmich was National President and she was just beautiful to me. I was surprised how the business meetings were conducted and that is how I met a very special lady, Sue Goers, Parliamentarian. Sue Goers has meant so much to me and our organization. She taught us about Parliamentary Procedures and when I was National President she was simply amazing. She was right there by my side, She had reviewed my "script" for the business meetings and gave me so much confidence. I could not have survived without her support, I think the hardest part of being National President is knowing how to conduct the business meetings. I sure didn't want to look as terrified as I felt.

I have used her "Goers' Guide" many times and would recommend it for all our members.

After my first convention, I attended every one until my health has not permitted me to do so. I have great hopes that soon I will be able to travel again. NARBW has been a big part of my life and during my tenure it was decided to sell the residence in Green Valley. I did sell it and I am sure without selling it we probably would not be able to support our beloved organization. Some things in life are bittersweet , but times change and NARBW is worth changing for.

Jay Nelsen Omaha 2008 - 2010

I went to work for the Southern Pacific in Denver, Colorado in 1994. My husband worked for Southern Pacific and they had moved us from San Francisco to Denver when DRGW bought the SP. I had worked in Customer Service since High School; and it seemed a good fit. I could earn a decent living as a clerk but there was plenty of opportunity for promotion. In August of that year the Denver Chapter of NARBW held a membership drive where I first met Fran Minnich. Fran was a dynamic lady, running a railroad consulting business with her husband Joe. She was a licensed RR Engineer, the Denver Chapter President and had an interesting and varied history. I signed on and have enjoyed most of my NARBW time since then.

The Denver chapter had welfare chairmen that were incredibly involved in the community and that has always appealed to me. They also wanted every member to be on a committee and to keep involved in the chapter. I began helping with publications and eventually became the Chapter President (1996-97). I also got to spend time with some amazing women: Maizie Hester, PNP 72 – 74, Terry Biles, National Treasurer, Jenni Gustafson who had been active on the National Board and others who encouraged me to be involved and continue with NARBW.

In 1998, Union Pacific bought SP and moved us to St. Louis. I left my home in Denver, attended the 1997 National Convention in Omaha, and went to my new home to St. Louis. I was lucky to have a welcoming NARBW chapter in St. Louis! It made the transition easier and helped me to learn my way around St. Louis. The St. Louis Chapter has not been a large chapter, but they have heart. I remain an associate member of St. Louis. JoAnn Rowe, PNP 2001 – 02, became a good friend and mentor. When she became National President, she gave me her Chapter President's pin and I proudly wear it today.

I was District Director with Diane Huntington and could not have asked for a more supportive or competent Secretary – Treasurer. District II was eleven chapters when we began, and during our term two chapters turned in their charters: Amarillo and Denver.

Cynthia Chandler Omaha 2012—2014

My term as District Director was ending when UP closed the customer service center in St Louis and moved us to Omaha. Again, fate was kind, with the Omaha Chapter of NARBW welcoming me. Amy Schapp taught me the true value of giving to the community and listening to the community to be of service.

I served on the National Board for 10 years, as District Director, National Third VP, Jewelry Chairman, Scholarship Chairman, Publications Chairman, Welfare Chairman, First Vice-President, National President and Nominating Chairman. Along the way, I was privileged to work with some astounding women, who encouraged me, mentored me, educated me and I am thankful to all of them.

Somewhere along the way, I developed a fascination with the jewelry of NARBW and have amassed an almost complete collection of the charms and other numerous other jewelry items with NARBW crests on it. My favorite memory involves NARBW jewelry. In 2006, two former members donated their jewelry to NARBW. The donation was 2 Presidents pins, one with a train guard and gavel dangle, the other with pearls and sapphires and a train guard. They also donated the 24 convention charms and various other railroad related pins they had. What a gift! The board decided to auction them at the Indianapolis convention. The auction raised about \$1,000 for our scholarship fund.

NARBW is responsible for getting me involved with the Ronald McDonald House, in Denver, St. Louis and Omaha. RMHC is where you will find me most days and where I strive to help make a difference, in the spirit of our founders, as one of the Omaha members said, "bringing the heart of the railroad to our community".

At convention, the resumes of the scholarship winners affirms the future is in good hands. I am inspired by the good our members and chapters accomplish in their communities. I am often rejuvenated by our conventions. I am proud to say I am a member of NARBW.

My life with NARBW started in the mid 80's which means I joined the Houston Chapter of NARBW more than 30 years ago. It was a time when there was 6 districts and more than 4000 members.

A group of ladies who sounded like they had a lot of fun, especially for bosses' night whispered at work. They also showed me the volunteer work they did and the fun they had doing it. I had a lot of good mentors in NARBW, a main one they called Mama Grace.

Momma Grace (Past National President) use to bug all the ladies in the office to join and we did. She was a person who was ready to retire and we were the young ones. She'd say, "We need replacements, we're getting old". And the older group was our mentors. Momma Grace was always the ring leader no matter where we were, her house, work, meeting, fall conference or convention. Full of advice. We learned a lot. Even though I was a busy mother and wife, I thought that one night out a month among other NARBIES was rewarding. Some of those same people who were already members and those who joined back then are some of my dearest friends today. And they are not all from one railroad.

Today I am one of the old ones and hopefully a mentor to others!

I had to move in my career and the year I was moving I went to convention in Long Beach, CA. Mary Knox took my hand and introduced me to the other NARBW ladies from Omaha, NE that I had not met yet and said that I was coming their way to take care of me. And that they did. More lifelong friends. No matter what chapter I belong to there are NARBW sisters to bond to.

I have a lot of good memories from attending the conferences and conventions. But as the saying goes, "What happens at convention, stays at convention!" I also learned a lot by going to these. I now know all about Parliamentary Procedures. Even took some classes, participated in workshops and received a certified certificate in Parliamentary Procedures. So now when I go to other meetings and they try to do Robert's Rules of Order, I can tell when they are way off.

Back in 2000 I was on the National board and was asked at that time where do I think NARBW was heading. I said I gave it another 5 years in existence with the membership going down. Yet here we are in 2021 and still kicking. I hope it is still around for a long time.

The volunteering, networking, and friendships that come from being a member of NARBW is something that is very dear to my heart and very rewarding with the good that we do in the community and as well as what we do on the National level with the Scholarships.

Theresa Harper Houston 2014—2016

Writing this note has brought so many memories to the surface..... I started my railroad career in 1974 in Houston Texas at Union Station in an office with hundreds of employees working at desks and there were a group of ladies who always seemed to have a special bond and friendship. Later I learned they belonged to an Association and they were always talking about fun times and selling raffle tickets to raise money for some sort of charitable event. And yes they got my donation for their worthy charity events. One day, I saw a Capsule Newsletter for their Association NARBW and there was a photo of the most elegant lady ever, Grace Nowlin and I read her professional President's Message and knew I wanted to be involved in NARBW. I was told the elegant lady worked at another location and then I was asked if I want to attend a meeting. I accepted and hoped that my extra board assignment would allow me to attend the meeting. I met some very special ladies that night and yes that elegant lady, Grace Nowlin (Mama Grace) was there and welcomed me like I was her daughter. Remember, I was 19 years old and that was the beginning of my aspiration.

I had several mentors that were Houston Chapter leaders – Mary Belle Griffin, Mary Knox, Martha Baldwin, Elaine Myers just to name a few. I learned so much about the world from these ladies. Yes, the world. Then I started to make friends from other railroad offices in Houston. Then there was a NARBW National Convention and the number of ladies from other Chapters and Cities was unbelievable. I had friends in every state and they worked for railroads I had never heard of.

Being involved in NARBW has allowed me to grow as a person and the friendships bring tears of joy to my eyes. I am talking about friendships that cross the United States of America. I started out writing about my individual special friendships but quickly realized that I didn't have enough paper to write about each one of my NARBW sister friends and our accomplishments and memories. These sister friends that I reference have been in my life for every event; happiness, sadness, death, illness, promotions, and retirement. They are just a phone call or a text away. I only hope that I have been the sister friend to them that they have been to me.

I want to share a few words that are representative of the National Association of Railway Business Women..... *fascination, inspiration, motivation, value, success, aspiration, leadership, service, skills, influence, giving, sharing, generosity, emotions, desire, charity, opportunity*..... from my perspective.

Laura Gutteridge Años Jacksonville 2016—2018

My favorite convention was my first convention in Indianapolis in 2006. Any time you have me and a karaoke microphone, I am going to have a blast! I remember how welcome I felt and what a great time I had spending time with the other members. I was never a member of a sorority in college and I feel like the camaraderie that many feel there is what I felt at that convention and all conventions afterward. We really are a sisterhood.

Obviously a most special memory is becoming President. I got to be the Belle of the Ball at the Candidate's Reception! I consider being National President and now a member of the Emeritus Council as one of my greatest honors. NARBW holds a special place in my heart and I hope that the organization can continue to be as special as it is to me to other women in the years to come.



Momma Grace Nowlin, Joyce Higgs, Sandy Hall,
Doris Stemmer, Pat Cohen, and Doris Stromberg (2014)

1920 - 1939 The beginning Railway Business Women's Association

1920s – Railroad employment = 2,100,000 RBWA = chartered

Culture - The 19th amendment giving women the right to vote passed (August 18, 1920) and promised dramatic social and political change. More woman worked in white-collar jobs (clerks, stenographers, etc.). More people lived in cities rather than on farms for the first time in history and migrated from the South to the North helping create a cultural Civil War. Wealth more than doubled during this decade sweeping America into an affluent society and the roaring 20s. People bought radios and cars. Nationwide advertising helped spread chain stores. Jazz was the predominate music.

Railroads – From 1870 onwards women worked in railway offices, giving them access to labor and trade union movements – until marriage, when they were immediately dismissed. World War I provided women new opportunities at railroads both in clerical and labor jobs. After the war many of these workers were dismissed or left when they married.

1921, Jan A group of ladies from the Consolidated Ticket Office in Minneapolis met for dinner with the purpose of forming a club. The group was called together by Sarah Miles who served as chairman. Those present included:

- Pauline Dow – Consolidated Ticket
- Emma Gebhardt – Consolidated Ticket
- Emma Murphy - Consolidated Ticket
- Mary Murphy – Consolidated Ticket
- Pearl Culbertson – Soo Line Railroad
- Signa Holes – Soo Line Railroad
- Freda Olsen – Consolidated Ticket
- Marjorie Space – Consolidated Ticket

1921 A group of about 45 ladies met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ella Sturges Pennington, with the purpose of forming a club. Mr. Pennington was the President of the SOO Line. It is mentioned in a 1980 letter from Hazel Roberta Williams of Minneapolis, President 1933 – 1934 of Twin Cities chapter. The article was written by Nellie Severance, president of the Twin Cities chapter.

1921, August 45 women met and established the first club for railroad women. Annual dues were one dollar beginning in 1922. Sarah Miles was elected as Founder President. 1922 and 1923 were years of elaborate functions. But the group was not simply a social outlet. Their objectives included the serious purpose of furthering business education interests of their members, finding a place in the community

life of their city and demanding recognition as employees of the great transportation system of railroading. Membership was growing in Minnesota and divisions were formed, each division representing one of the various railroads represented by members (Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Soo Line, C.M. & St P. etc.), each division with a chairman, secretary, and treasurer.

1924 American Railway Express Division (a shipping company) joined our ranks, broadening membership. They later created a division of their own, with employees of steamship lines.

1924, March RBWA had a travel booth at Women's Activities Exhibit in Minneapolis March 5 – 8. The booth was one of the most popular at the exhibit and distributed fliers of information about railroad and steamship lines as well as popular destinations (Yellowstone, Niagara Falls, Canadian Rockies, etc.). This activity was one way the ladies proved their worth and the value of the association to their employers.

1925, March Charter from state of Minnesota for RBWA (Railway Business Women's Association). Cora Abrahamson from Chicago was invited to the celebration party and was so impressed she determined to form a chapter in Chicago, Illinois. Twin Cities turned in their NARBW charter in 2018.

1925, November Chicago, Illinois became Chapter #2.

1926, April 30 Cleveland, Ohio became Chapter #3. They turned in their charter in 1995. Their original membership was 884 members of which 866 were charter members. Chapters had educational programs at meetings, toastmistress club meetings, joined affiliated civic clubs in each city and they had social functions: bowling, card parties, Choral clubs, etc. They created the Emma Redel Memorial Fund to assist members with funds for educational purposes. Legislation dealing with conditions affecting our members was watched with the idea of keeping membership alert to bills and their effect if passed.

1928, May 22 Cincinnati, Ohio became Chapter #4. During World War II their membership climbed to almost 300. Cincinnati was a charter member for Morale Builders sending packages to Armed Forces during World War II. They turned in their charter in 2010 and in 2014 formed another Chapter #82. Chapter #82 turned in their charter in 2018.

1929, March Detroit, Michigan became Chapter #5. They turned in their charter in 2003.

1929, July 3 RBWA was incorporated in Chicago, IL (Chapter #2). The Illinois state charter allowed them to apply for non-profit status.

1930s – Railroad employment has decreased by 42%

NARBW has Five Chapters

Culture - the 1930s began on an historic low. The October 29, 1929 crash of Wall St led to the Great Depression where more than 15 million (1/4 of all wage earners) were unemployed. FDR was elected in 1932 with a pledge to use the power of the federal government to make life better. His New Deal created a new role for government in America. The National Labor Relations Act in 1935 gave workers the right to form unions. Also, in 1935 the Social Security Act set up a pension system. The Railroad Retirement Board was established in 1936. Streamlined was a key word at the end of the decade and used for the new locomotives. Clothes were simply designed and accessorized. Bingo and Monopoly were huge successes. The radio was the main source of entertainment, music, and news.

Railroads - The 1930s was a time of contrast. The railroads shrunk due to the economic crisis and competition from the automobile (for personal travel) and trucks (for freight movement). In the last part of the decade, the nation prepared for war and diesel replaced steam locomotives. Shippers diverted freight to trucks. The net income of railroads plummeted. Capital investment was cut, and maintenance was deferred. Short lines were often able to continue only because of the federal mail contract subsidies. Profits decreased from 1929 (\$977 million to \$122 million in 1932). The industry would not show a profit again until 1937.

When a special party was planned by one chapter, all the chapters were invited and train travel between major cities allowed the women many opportunities to gather. Since railroads were passenger and freight carriers most of the employees had passes for reduced fare or free travel by train on their railroads routes. Most chapters held two meetings a year and they were large formal events.

1934, May Buffalo/Niagara, New York became Chapter #6. They turned their Charter in 1995. The Buffalo/Niagara Chapter was a leading supporter of establishing a national residence.

1937, May 17 Kansas City, Missouri became Chapter #7. They turned in their charter in 2006. In June of 2010, they reorganized as Chapter #81.

The 1920s - 1930s



1940 – 1959 The creation and expansion of the National Association of Railway Business Women

1940s – Railroad employment = 2,005,000
NARBW has Seven chapters

Culture – In December 1942, the US entered World War II stimulating American industry and ending the Great Depression. Women were encouraged to replace their husbands and brothers at work to keep industry working and support the war effort. The first programable electronic computer was unveiled at the University of Pennsylvania.

World War II – members were working under high pressure, but surveys showed almost 100% also assisted with the war manning US canteens, Red Cross, Gray ladies, etc. Their war work did not stop after the war, they delivered birthday boxes to hospitalized veterans.

Railroads – Nearly everything moved by rail during the war, leaving railroad workers exalted but exhausted as they approached the postwar era. Due to a shortage of male workers, women began to have more substantial roles as laborers, conductors, and engineers during the war. When the war was over and men returned to work, many women were given pink slips. While railroads did not pink slip as many women as other industries, women found states laws mandated limitations on jobs they could perform, affecting promotions or lateral moves.

National Presidents

1941 - 1943 Hazel Cornell - Twin Cities
1943 - 1946 Bernice Kohler – Chicago
1946 - 1948 Kathryn Whelan – Buffalo/Niagara
1948 - 1950 Margaret Grahn – Detroit

National Conventions

1942 Chicago
1943, 1944, 1945 No conventions due to World War II
1946 Chicago
1947 Buffalo/Niagara
1948 Buffalo/Niagara
1949 Detroit

1940, July Nellie Severance Karst hosted a party at her dude ranch: Karst's Ranch in Gallatin Gateway, Montana. 35 members were expected and 75 women from the seven chapters attended. Here they decided to form a National Organization. Hazel Cornell was elected our first National President.

1941, February 14 A Certificate of Incorporation was issued from state of Minnesota and NARBW came into existence. The charter for the association was issued for January 1941, but we were incorporated in February and so correctly celebrate our anniversary on February 14.

Originally, all Chapter Presidents were members of the Board of Directors and expected to attend the Board Meetings. Many issues facing the board were decided by mail ballot. The National Presidents railroad was expected to pay for the Presidents Brunch function (discontinued in 1955, when members paid for this function as part of their Convention Registration fee). Outgoing chapter Presidents were presented a golden wreath for their membership pins (the crest lapel pin – chapters were billed \$4.50 for the wreath).

1947, June 27 Indianapolis Charter, Indiana became Chapter #8.

1948, May A donation of \$2,079. was made by the Buffalo/Niagara Chapter to start the Residence Fund. Each chapter was encouraged to donate to the residence fund. Keys were awarded to members who made a \$20 donation. There was a ceremony during the Presidents brunch for each chapter to present its Residence fund donation.

1949, June 25 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania became Chapter #9.

1949, February 22 Metro St. Louis, Missouri became Chapter #10. Although they were not a chapter during World War II many of the future members spent several nights of the week at the Union Station USO. They had 284 charter members and membership grew to over 700, divided into divisions by their railroad affiliation. There is a discrepancy on their charter date. Their original certificate was issued June 25 but later amended to February 22 the day they voted to join the NARBW. Their original application was for St Louis, they amended it to Metro St Louis and kept the first date of their application.

1950s - Railroad employment 1950 = 1,354,000

NARBW has Ten Chapters

In 1954 nationally we had 6452 members and 40 chapters.

Culture - The 50s had a sense of conformity and uniformity. Women who had worked in record numbers during World War II were reluctant to give up work although there was pressure to stay home and raise families. The post war building of the interstates, helped to create the suburbs with inexpensive tract housing. The GI bill, created a better educated workforce and helped double the GNP. People had more money to spend and there were more goods to buy. There was an atmosphere of booming prosperity creating a sense of contentment and consensus. The 1950s saw the post war boom, a focus on Civil Rights, fighting communism and the Cold War.

Railroads - Diesel engines replaced steam. Railroads watched passenger traffic plummet (due to increased car sales). LTL (less than trailer load) freight was also in decline (increased trucks on the road). TOFC (trailer on flat car) service began and proved to be extremely efficient. Railroads were investing in their infrastructure and by the end of the decade 100-pound rail covered more than half the lines in operation. Train crews were traditionally 5 members (Engineer, 2 Brakeman, Conductor, Fireman).

The 1950s saw explosive growth in NARBW with the opening of 19 chapters. In 1950, Chicago had 18 divisions and a peak membership of 1436 members (1949 – 1950). The divisions represented different rail lines in the Chicago area. Members would spread the word about NARBW during their interactions with their counterparts on other rail lines. Invitations to events were extended to help encourage NARBW's expansion. National and local members would travel to cities interested in starting a chapter.

National Presidents

1950 – 1952	Sarah Barker – Twin Cities
1952 – 1954	Georgia Turpin – Saint Louis
1954 – 1956	Bessie Ross – Chicago
1956 – 1958	Evelyn Pierce – Twin Cities
1958 – 1960	Elizabeth Umhau – Atlanta

National Conventions

1950	Atlantic City
1951	Minneapolis
1952	Colorado Springs
1953	Saint Louis
1954	Miami Beach
1955	Chicago
1956	Los Angeles
1957	Sun Valley (sponsored by Union Pacific and National Board)
1958	Dallas
1959	Philadelphia

1951, October 14 New Orleans, Louisiana became Chapter #11.

1950, October 25 Washington DC joined as Chapter #14.

1951, February 17 New York, New York became Chapter #12. They turned in their charter in 1998.

1951 Milwaukee, Wisconsin became Chapter #13

1951, June 15 San Francisco, California became Chapter #15. They had 83 charter members and soon grew to 100. They turned in their charter in 1995.

1951, June 18 Los Angeles, California became Chapter #16. They turned in their charter in 2000.

1951, September 29 Mobile, Alabama became Chapter #17. In the tradition of Hazel Cornell 2 members of the New Orleans chapter who worked with ladies in Mobile by phone helped them start a chapter. They turned in their charter in 1980.

1951, September 8 Omaha, Nebraska became Chapter #18.

1952, February 9 Roanoke, Virginia became Chapter #19.

1952, May 19 Miami, Florida became Chapter #20. They turned in their charter in 2003.

1952, June 21 Jacksonville, Florida became Chapter #21. Another chapter begun with assistance from an existing chapter. Washington DC suggested becoming a chapter to the Fruit Growers Express employees and helped them through the process.

1952 Glendive, Montana became Chapter #22

1952, October Dallas, Texas became Chapter #23. They eventually combined with Ft. Worth chapter and turned in the Dallas charter.

1952, October 11 Houston, Texas became Chapter #24.

1952, October 27 Amarillo, Texas became Chapter #25. They turned in their charter in 2002.

1952 San Antonio, Texas became Chapter #26.

1953 Due to the increasing numbers of chapters it was determined during President Georgia Turpin's term that we create Districts. Five districts were formed.

The Chapter bylaws once unique to each Chapter were standardized (note of 28-year history so 1967?). Districts were a great way for members to meet and share experiences as most Districts held Conferences in the fall. Because the Chapters were grouped geographically the travel to conference was easier and less expensive than Convention and so more could attend. Districts were a great leadership training tool for women. Each District had a Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and various chairmen.

1953, January 23 Sacramento, California became Chapter #27 with 99 charter members.

1953, April 8 Toledo, Ohio became Chapter #28.

1953, April 22 Denver, Colorado became Chapter #29. They turned in their charter in 2003.

1953, May 17 Memphis, Tennessee became Chapter #30. They turned in their charter in 1995.

1953, March 15 Birmingham, Alabama became Chapter #31 with 40 charter members. We have no notes on why becoming a chapter before Memphis they were numbered after them. Birmingham was a huge encouragement to Atlanta becoming a chapter and the two chapters visited each other regularly. They turned in their charter in 2001.

1953, October 10 Boston, Massachusetts became Chapter #32.

1953 Billings, Montana became Chapter #33.

1953 El Paso, Texas became Chapter #34.

1953, May The post-convention tour was a cruise on the Peninsular and Occidental Steamship Company line to Havana, Cuba. 369 enjoyed the cruise.

1954, February 20 Atlanta, Georgia became Chapter #35.

1953, December 1 Salt Lake City, Utah became Chapter #36.

1954, February 1 Richmond, Virginia became Chapter #38. They turned in their charter in August 2013.

1954, February 20 Tampa, Florida became Chapter #37 with 37 Charter members.

1954 Pocatello, Idaho became Chapter #39.

1954, February 4 Galveston, Texas became Chapter #42 with 55 charter members. Mr. Osborn, General Manager of the Santa Fe Railway presented the new chapter President, Paula Kinkley, a gavel made at the Santa Fe shops from wood from one of the first Santa Fe coach cars. Galveston chapter was instrumental in establishing the National Benevolent Fund when members needed assistance rebuilding / repairing their homes after a hurricane. Galveston turned in their charter in 2003.

1954, April 27 Portland, Oregon became Chapter #41 with 30 Charter members.

1954, May 17 Columbus, Ohio became Chapter #40 with 60 Charter members. They turned in their charter in 2004.

1954, May National membership at convention was given as 6452 with 40 chapters. Having accurate and complete reporting of charity work was emphasized to ensure NARBW's request for tax exempt status would be successful. Our attorney, Mr. Mueller, felt this charity work would be the best basis for a non-profit status to assist NARBW in fund raising to build our residence. All chapters were also encouraged to apply for non-profit status in their respective states.

The convention body approved the appointment of a "File Secretary" who would keep important records and use her address as the associations address. We purchased her a filing cabinet to store the records. (it is not known where this filing cabinet and its contents ended up).

We also had a convention secretary who would type the minutes of the convention daily. The previous days minutes were approved in the next days business. Only the minutes of the last day were sent to the minutes approval committee.

Districts existed, but each Chapter President voted for their chapter at Board Meetings.

1954, October 14 Chattanooga, Tennessee became Chapter #43 with 100 charter members. The Chapter was organized with assistance from Tom Kennedy, General Auditor of Railway Express Agency. It was voted at this meeting of the Board of Directors that future chapters be admitted via mail ballot, rather than waiting for a Board meeting. President Turpin noted "our greatest fault is planning and establishing a new chapter and then leaving them on their own."

Membership eligibility was debated. Mrs. Kahler, from Alaska US Dept of Interior applied to be a member. Membership at Large was not yet available, and the Board decided to recommend she become a non-resident member of the chapter of her choice. "Borderline" cases of eligibility of membership were to be decided at District meetings.

1955, January 15 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania became Chapter #44. It was admitted via a mail ballot.

1955, March 5 Albany, New York became Chapter #45 with 82 Charter members.

1955, May St Augustine, Florida became Chapter #46.

1955, May 26 Ogden, Utah became Chapter #47 with 40 Charter members.

1956 Tri-state, Charleston SC became Chapter #48. Their charter was revoked that same year because they were buying and selling stocks (a bylaw violation).

1956, June 21 Little Rock, Arkansas became Chapter #49 with 54 charter members. Little Rock began the "Little Train Project". The chapter worked with a state supported school for mentally handicapped children and with their railroad officials. They had built a small train which the children could ride in on a track around their school. The train could hold 50 passengers and ran on a ½ mile scenic route. The project continued to expand, and a station was built, Open houses for the public were held. The train was therapeutic motivation for the children (and valued at above \$30,000). The Chapter turned in their charter in 2000.

1956 Las Vegas, Nevada became Chapter #50.

1956, May National convention was held in Los Angeles, May 22-24. Delegates still traveled by train to the convention, some in their railroad's private Pullman cars courtesy of their railroads. Conventions were officially four days. Monday was usually a free day with planned events (pre-convention tours, etc.). Tuesdays started with breakfast meetings for Chapter Presidents and Editors of newsletters / scrapbooks being held. Business meetings began that afternoon with committee reports. It was reported that three new chapters joined during the last year (Tri-states, Little Rock and Las Vegas). Tuesday night was Fun Night. Wednesday began with District meetings at breakfast and then continued with National committee reports and then elections.

(Attendance at the luncheon was 740). Wednesday afternoon was a continuation of committee reports and the election results were announced. Thursday began with the memorial service for members lost during the last year. Thursday night was the closing banquet with 860 attending the gala occasion. The delegate count for the convention was 648! Friday the attendees either departed for home or the post-convention tour. There is a newspaper clipping in the files with the headline of "7000 Railway Business Women start arriving today for National Convention". The post-convention tour was a choice between Las Vegas, a two-day tour of the Missions in Southern California or a trip to Hawaii.

1956, May The formation of a 6th District was approved. The original Chapters were Atlanta, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Miami, and Tampa. Other chapters in the region could move from District 4 to District 6 with approval of chapter members and 2nd VP. The National budget was increased to pay for the 2nd VP to attend District meetings.

1956, October It was approved to have a monthly bulletin issued by the National Corresponding Secretary with "capsule news items" from National Officers and Chapter presidents. The bulletin would be distributed to Chapter Presidents and National Officers.

1957, February Hinton, West Virginia chartered as Chapter #51.

1957, May Newport News, Virginia became Chapter #52.

1957, May Our National Convention was held in Sun Valley, Idaho, Union Pacific's new ski resort town. UP hosted the convention, provided trains to Pocatello, ID and then shuttles to the hotel. They gave each attendee a gold charm in the shape of a locomotive. This started the tradition of a convention charm. The next year the

charm was a cross buck and then they were all custom-made jewelry with a design showing something about the location and the year on the charm.

1957, May Chapter Presidents were no longer required to attend National Board meetings, they could however attend as guests. They were to give their vote (proxy) to their respective District Director who would then cast their vote. If a District had 6 chapters, the District Director would have 7 votes at the board meetings.

1958, February 22 Peoria, Illinois became Chapter #53 with 62 charter members.

1958, April 26 Spokane, Washington became Chapter #54. They were nicknamed the Lilac Chapter. They turned in their charter in 1995.

1958, April 26 Baltimore, Maryland became Chapter #55 with 47 charter members. They originally organized as the Chesapeake chapter and then changed their name to identify with their city. They turned in their charter in 2004.

1958, May NARBW bought our first National Residence in Boca Raton, Florida for \$40,000 cash. 5 apartments were "air conditioned, equipped with private bath and kitchen facilities that were tastefully furnished". We took possession in November of that year. In **May 1966**, the residence was named "Silver Rails". The apartments were rented to "outsiders" as no members were currently interested in moving there. This residence was sold February 25, 1969 for \$144,000.

1959, May Huntington, West Virginia became Chapter #56.

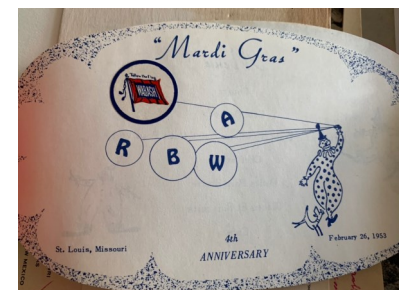
A proposal from Montreal, Canada to form a chapter was considered. It was decided they could apply. Our Parliamentarian felt North American cities should be preferred over International requests. No application was received.

The National President was given the authority to appoint a Convention Chairman who would become a member of the Board. Previously, the hosting chapter appointed the Convention Chairman.

1959, August 22 Marion, Ohio became Chapter #57.

1959, November NARBW was the only outside organization recognized by the Civil Defense League for our home preparedness program.

The 1940s - 1950s



**1960 – 1979 NARBW expansion continues.
Changes in Railroad Industry come into focus.**

1960 - Railroad employment 1960 = 862,000 (a 37 decrease in employment in ten years).

NARBW has 53 Chapters

In 1968 we had 58 chapters and 5000+ members.

Culture - The inauguration of JFK was to usher in the Dawn of the Golden Age, but it never materialized, tarnished by his assassination and the Vietnam War. Large social projects were undertaken: Medicare, Head Start, Job Corps to name a few. The 60s saw a rejection of the "establishment" although important changes took place. The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964 followed by the voting rights act in 1965. In 1968 a woman became the first teacher allowed to teach while pregnant. Schools refocused on phonetics, college campuses were full of the baby boom babies and became centers of heated debated and social change (driven by Vietnam war among other issues). Barbie dolls and slot cars overtook toy trains as the popular toys. Woodstock was in August 1969.

Railroads – The Federal Railroad Administration was created in 1966 to enforce safety regulations. The expansion of the interstate system continued to erode freight and passenger traffic. (Between 1945 and 1964 passenger travel declined 84%). The railroad industry had a somber time as numerous bankruptcies led to abandoned track, takeovers, and some mergers.

National Presidents

1960 – 1962 Bess Bowling – Columbus
1962 -- 1964 Otha Smith – Houston
1964 – 1966 Clara Mayhall – Mobile
1966 – 1968 Grace Johnson – Milwaukee
1968 – 1970 Catherine Krimm – Baltimore

National Conventions

1960 Atlanta
1961 Las Vegas
1962 Cleveland
1963 Hollywood, FL
1964 New Orleans
1965 Portland
1966 Minneapolis
1967 Washington, DC
1968 Little Rock
1969 Tucson

1960, May Atlanta Convention presented the National Multiple Sclerosis Research Project a check for \$8,000.

1960, October 1 Tucson, Arizona became Chapter #59. They turned in their charter in 2009.

1960, November 19 Grand Rapids, Michigan became Chapter #58.

1961, October 14 Baton Rouge, Louisiana became Chapter #60.

1961 NARBW members wrote over 15,000 letters to their elected representatives and senators supporting the "Magna Carta" for transportation – giving railroads freedom from discriminatory regulation, taxation, from subsidized competition and freedom to provide diversified Transportation.

1962, March 24 Savannah, Georgia became Chapter #61.

1962, May National Transportation Week saw Chapters purchase and donate Lionel trainsets to homes for mentally disabled in their communities. This activity was recognized by President John Kennedy and led to the Wednesday in National Transportation Week being designated as Railroad Women's Day.

1962 Modern Railroads magazine began an annual Kate Shelly Award competition presented to "Railroad Women's groups or Railroad employees who do outstanding public service work on behalf of the Railroads". Awarded by the magazine from 1962 – 1965. NARBW continued to award a Kate Shelly Award to a member or Chapter who made significant contribution to Railroad Safety and Operation Lifesaver Presentations in particular. Chapters were encouraged to have kids draw original posters on railroad safety and contests were held at the chapter, District and National Level. NARBW was on the program committee of Operation Lifesaver until the late 1990s. We continued the Kate Shelly award and poster contest for a few years, discontinuing them in the 2000s.

1962, June NARBW BENEVOLENT FUND begun. It was recommended each chapter annually donate twenty-five cents per capita to the fund. Our crest reminds us of this fund. The handclasp of friendship is also the Helping Hand.

1964 A Cancer and Dread Disease plan, Disability Income and Hospital Indemnity plan, and Life Insurance plan was offered to members as a supplement to their existing health Insurance. The plans were offered through the American Casualty Company of Reading, Pennsylvania. Not sure when this was discontinued.

1964, April 25 Akron, Ohio became Chapter #62 with 16 charter members.

1964, April Waycross, Georgia became Chapter #63.

1964, May The attendees to the National Convention in New Orleans chose between a post-convention trip to Jamaica or Mexico.

1966, May NARBW Song adopted

Refrain: Onward, Onward! Lift your voices, work with heart and hand!

Make your Railroads contribution best throughout the land!

Verse 1 Hail to Thee! NARBW, colors gold and blue

Railway women dedicated to your purpose true

Verse 2 Hail to the dear old National, may your fame be spread

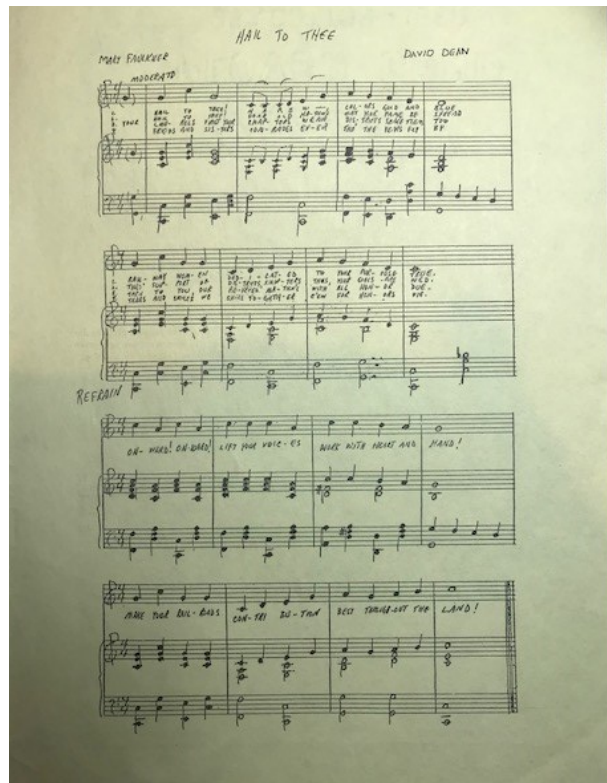
This support of districts, chapters thus, thou your goals are wed

Verse 3 Laurels first your chapters wear, districts share them too

Then to you, our revered national with all honors due

Verse 4 Friends and sisters, comrades ever, tho the years fly by

Tears and smiles we share together, even for honors vie.



1966, May Nampa, Idaho became Chapter # 64. The Chapter turned in their charter in 1970.

1966 Bought land in Green Valley, AZ to build a National Residence (our second). The residence was opened 70 days after the first "turning of the sod". It was sold in 2007.

1967, May NARBW bought an acre of land adjoining our Green Valley residence to allow for expansion (building 5 more units).

1967, May NARBW has the distinction of being the largest association of women employed in a single industry. Membership is 5000+ in 32 states and District of Columbia with 58 chapters.

1969, February The residence in Boca Raton, Florida was sold for \$144,000.

1969, September 9 Cumberland, Maryland became Chapter #65.

1969, September 22 Members were urged to write their congressmen in support of HR11607 the Staggers Bill. The bill would preserve our supplemental pension, in light of mergers and employee reassignments resulting in a larger than anticipated number of retirement claims. The plan was financed by a two cents per hour tax covered by the railroads.

They were also encouraged to write in support of HR11814 which would provide for equal treatment of men and women and would allow men to retire with a full pension at age 60 with 30 years of service.

HR11870 was nick-named the Truck-trains act and would establish length and weight limits on trucks on the interstate highway system.

**1970s – Railroad employment 1970 = 617,000
NARBW has 60 chapters, 5500+ members**

Culture – The 1970s were a tumultuous time. Marginalized groups continued to fight for their equality, the “New Right” banded together for conservatism and traditional family roles. The Equal Rights Amendment was passed in 1972 but has yet to be ratified. Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970. 1973 saw American troops leave the Vietnam region. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974. Fashion saw bell bottom jeans, ponchos, and maxi dresses.

Railroads – The Burlington Northern was created in March 1970 with the consolidation of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railroads. The California Zephyr completed its last run to Oakland on March 1, 1970. The trip was resurrected on Amtrak in a few months’ time. Railroads no longer carrying passengers often abandoned their large train depots. Twenty railroads agreed to participate in the formation of Amtrak but ultimately only 13 lines were used. Pennsylvania Railroad and New York Central had merged in 1968 to form Penn Central, who declared bankruptcy in 1970 (the largest bankruptcy in history at that time), Congress created Conrail to run the freight lines. Those first six months of the decade resulted in consolidations, mergers, layoffs, downsizing that stressed the flexibility of the railroad employees (furloughs, transfers, relocations, etc.).

National Presidents

1970 – 1972 Ruth Elliott – Little Rock
1972 – 1974 Maizie Hester – Denver
1974 – 1976 Elinore Prize – Cleveland
1976 – 1978 Grace Nowlin - Houston
1978 – 1980 Frances Hale - Memphis

National Conventions

1970 Denver
1971 Roanoke
1972 Houston
1973 Spokane
1974 Omaha
1975 Hollywood, FL
1976 Philadelphia
1977 Baltimore
1978 Kansas City
1979 Sacramento

1970, May Our first National Woman of the Year was announced. Mrs. Ruth Maloney of the Kansas City, Missouri chapter was chosen. Ruth was honored for the work she had done both for NARBW (served as Chapter President), and also for her work with the Kansas Women for Highway Safety. Ruth secured equipment for the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas and the Smoky Hill Railroad Historical Society. She prepared safety pamphlets for the local high schools. An amazing woman deserving of the honor.

1971 Land was purchased in Jacksonville Beach, Florida with the thought of having two residences East (Florida) and West (Arizona). The residence in Green Valley AZ was opened in 1971 with 5 units completed and 5 more under construction.

1971 Seattle, Washington became Chapter #66.

1972, July 30 Altoona, Pennsylvania became Chapter #67. They turned in their charter in 2011.

1975, March 25 Saginaw, Michigan became Chapter #68. They later updated their name to Saginaw Great Lakes Chapter and turned in their charter in 2020.

1975, July 19 Joliet, Illinois became Chapter #69. Mrs. Orpra Wardle our Parliamentarian spoke to the 120 charter members. They turned in their charter in 2000.

1975 Monroe, Louisiana became Chapter #70. They turned in their charter in 1980.

1976, February 19 Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin become Chapter # 75.

Editor’s note. There is a gap in our records and the numbering of chapters was confused during the 1970s. Typically, Chapters bore the name of their city. It is suspected that a move was made to rename Twin Ports to Duluth – Superior and Twin Cities to Minneapolis - St Paul. Those renamed chapters would have been Chapter #75 (Duluth, Superior) and #76 Minneapolis – St. Paul). This does not explain the out-of-date sequence of these chapter numbers.

1976, April 1 Springfield, Missouri became Chapter #71. They had 52 charter members. They turned in their charter in 1998.

1976, May 8 Twin Ports, Minnesota became chapter #72. The Twin Ports are Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. The Twin

Cities chapter took a bus to Duluth to invite them to join NARBW. Hazel Cornell presented their charter to the 41 Charter members. They turned in their charter in 2016.

1978, May NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM begun. Hazelle Anderson of the Chicago Chapter was Chairman of the committee that wrote the bylaw amendment. (Grace Nowlin of Houston, Fran Hanebrink of Metro St. Louis and Betty Goodwin of Jacksonville were committee members). The first \$1,000 NARBW scholarship was awarded to Chris Dickeson, a member of the Springfield Chapter. As of 2020, we have awarded \$386,070 in scholarships to 330 students!

1979, April 28 Albuquerque, New Mexico becomes Chapter # 77. They had 17 charter members. Two members of the Sacramento chapter were credited with helping found this chapter. They turned in their charter in 1987.

1979, August 11 Louisville, Kentucky became chapter #73. They turned in their charter in 2004.

The 1960s - 1970s

Kate Shelley's of 1965



(Left to right, standing in rear): Clara Mayhall; Mrs. Gertrude E. Fryer, Baltimore Chapter; Henriette McClelland, Tampa; Mary Frances Weeks, Washington; Mrs. Hazel Crowley, High Plains (Amarillo); Nancy Ford. (Left to right, seated in front): Bessie Sheffield, Richmond; Willamae Sappington, Jacksonville; Kathleen Lawler, Twin Cities; Mrs. Grace Johnson, Milwaukee; Ruth Atkins, Mobile.



JAMAICA

Approximately 57 of our members arrived Montego Bay International Airport on May 22. They were welcomed at Jamaica Hilton



MRS. RUTH MALONEY
Kansas City Chapter

Awarded 1970 National Railroad Woman of the Year



1980 – 2000 Rail Industry focuses on Downsizing, Technology and Mergers impacting NARBW Chapters

1980s – Railroad employment 1980 = 518,000.
NARBW has 62 chapters and 4191 members.

Culture – The idealistic dreams of the 60s were worn down by inflation, foreign policy turmoil and rising crime. The 80s are often remembered for consumerism and materialism. Reagan focused on industrial deregulation, reduction in government spending and tax cuts for corporations. 1982 saw a huge recession and people lost jobs, homes, and farms. The Staggers Act was passed in 1982. Railroads had been regulated since 1977 and with the passage of the Staggers act virtually every Federal regulatory control was reduced or eliminated. Both shippers and the Railroads benefitted from the Staggers act. The result was a 51% reduction in shipping rates, and a \$480 billion reinvested by railroads in their infrastructure. Yuppies had college educations and good jobs to allow them to buy. MTV debut and people copied the hair styles and fashion they saw in music videos.

Railroads - A series of bankruptcies and consolidations left the rail system in the hands of a few large operators. Mergers continued thru the 1990s. Mergers also resulted in closing offices and consolidating jobs. Amtrak was building new passenger cars and ordering locomotives. In 1987 they automated control of train operations and the electric power supply between DC and Delaware. Tickets were self-serve, both actions improved efficiency and eliminated jobs. Similar actions were taken by the freight Railroads. Employees had to choose between relocating or leaving the railroads employ.

In 1996 the Interstate Commerce Commission was disbanded and was replaced by the Surface Transportation Board, which assumed responsibility for the remaining railroad economic regulation. In 1999, the FRA announced that the years 1993 – 1999 were the safest years in rail history, for every safety category they measured!

National Presidents

1980 – 1982 Dorothy Chumley – Atlanta
1982 – 1984 Ernestine Gudgeon – Birmingham
1984 – 1986 Frances Hanebrink – St. Louis
1986 – 1988 Rozan Prizmich – Sacramento
1988 – 1990 Jane Sebeczek - Twin Cities

National Conventions

1980 Cincinnati
1981 Atlanta
1982 Portland
1983 Tucson
1984 Joliet
1985 Jacksonville
1986 Twin Cities
1987 Houston
1988 Fort Worth
1989 Long Beach

1980, April 25 Indianapolis Circle City, Indiana became Chapter #74. Letter dated July 10, 1979 to National President Frances Hale outlined the members desire and intent to form a second chapter in Indianapolis.

1983 National President, Ernestine Gudgeon was invited to attend a Global Conference to represent Women in Railroading. She was unable to attend due to the cost and the time away from work. This is worth recording as it indicates the significance of NARBW at the time.

1984, May Keynote address at Convention given by National Parliamentarian, Orpha Wardle. “The residence, the benevolent fund, the popular Scholarship program are but monetary units to which we can point to with justifiable pride. The fabric of the association is woven with the spirit of those pioneering women with their foresight who hand down to each succeeding administration the heartwarming friendship and good time together.... Friendship is the hallmark of the National Association of Railway Business Women. Cling to that talisman, knowing the language of friendship is not mere words – but action with kindness.”

1985, February 16 Ft Worth became Chapter #78. They later combined with the Dallas Chapter #23 as the Dallas/ Ft Worth Chapter.

1988, September 17 Twin Ports chapter unveiled the NARBW Collection of Dining Car China & Silver as a part of the Lake Superior Museum of Transportation. A repurposed caboos houses china from all railroad passenger services. National membership was 3500.

1990s – Railroad employment = 271,000.
NARBW has 35 Chapters 1430 members

Culture – The Mall of America opened in 1992 representing the Golden Age of Culture, peace, calm and abundance. Computers became fast and inexpensive, mobile phones and pagers were common. Communism fell and the War on Terror had yet to begin. The economy was growing at about 4% annually, unemployment dropped from nearly 8% to 4%.

Railroads - In the 1990s Railroads carried more commercial freight more miles than waterways or trucks. In 1995 congress enacted the Interstate Commerce Commission termination act and created the 3 member Surface Transportation Board.

National Presidents

1990 – 1992 Carmen Taliaferro - Cleveland
1992 – 1994 Mary Lewis - Portland
1994 – 1996 Pat Cohen - Twin Ports
1996 – 1998 Doris Stemmer - Jacksonville
1998 – 2000 Ruth Ann Spears - Jacksonville

National Conventions

1990 St. Louis
1991 Roanoke
1992 Twin Ports
1993 Denver
1994 Atlanta
1995 Detroit
1996 Las Vegas (sponsored by the National Board)
1997 Omaha
1998 Jacksonville
1999 Saratoga Springs (Albany sponsored)

1997, October 9 Topeka Heartland, Kansas becomes chapter #79

1998, May The appointed position of Corresponding Secretary was eliminated. With email, etc. the President can keep up with her own correspondence.

1999, May National Chapter dues were raised from \$25 per chapter to \$40 and the per capita dues were raised from \$5 to \$10. The Capsule was changed from a monthly publication to bi-monthly. NARBW had 35 chapters and 1430 members. Work was begun on our website NARBW.org. We welcomed our first Canadian member at large from Montreal, Quebec.

The 1980s - 1990s



2000 – 2021 Changes continue to Impact the Rail industry and NARBW in the 21st Century

2000s – Railroad employment = 232,000.
NARBW has 36 Chapters 1205 members

Culture – September 11,2001 began the War on Terror followed by wars in Afghanistan and Iran. China had double digit growth. Myspace was the most popular social network. The growth of the internet allowed faster communication around the world. 2007 was the banking, credit and housing crisis in the US sparking a global recession. Fashion saw baggy cargo pants, low rise pants, skinny jeans, and crop tops.

Railroads - About 40 freight railroads operated in 1980 and by 2003 there were four. These 4 railroads control 90% of rail traffic in the USA. BNSF, CSX, NS, UP plus CN, CP, KCS which are more like regional carriers. Amtrak in the post 9/11 world enjoys an increase in ridership.

In 2002 US railroads transported 1.56 Trillion-ton miles of freight, more than ever before. In 2003 the FRA noted positive long-term safety rates. The rate of Railroad employee injuries was the lowest rate on record. In 2003 Intermodal became the revenue driver for the railroads (22%), overtaking coal revenue (21.8%). In 2005, the District of Columbia passed the Rail Hazmat Ban on rail shipments through Washington DC. CSX and DOT sued opposing the ban.

In 2008 Congress passed The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 mandating Positive Train Control (PTC) be installed on all rail used to transport passengers and Toxic inhalation materials.

National Presidents

2000 -- 2001	JoAnn Rowe - St. Louis Passed away March 2001.
2001 – 2002	Alice McCabe - Albany
2002 – 2004	Doris E. Stromberg - Twin Cities
2004 – 2006	Sandy Hall - Jacksonville
2006 – 2008	Barbra Barthle - Jacksonville
2008 – 2010	Jay Nelsen - Omaha

National Conventions

2000	Cincinnati
2001	Fort Worth
2002	Twin Cities
2003	Baltimore
2004	Myrtle Beach (Jacksonville sponsored)
2005	Louisville

2006	– Indianapolis (Circle City chapter sponsored)
2007	– Jekyll Island (Jacksonville sponsored)
2008	– Philadelphia
2009	– Asheville, North Carolina (Sponsored by National Board)

2000 A new century for NARBW. A unique pin was designed and distributed to all members at the convention to mark the occasion. A white enamel octagon with NARBW crest in the center and *A New Beginning* above the crest. There were 1279 members and 35 chapters. Our bylaws were amended to allow relatives of members to join.

2001 Apple Blossom, Pennsylvania became chapter #80. This was a unique chapter. The short line that employed the ladies paid their dues and encouraged their participation. The short line changed owners in 2003 and they turned in their charter. Some members became Members at Large.

2004 Merrill Lynch made a presentation at the National Convention and it was voted to open an account with them to invest our treasury.

2005, May The National Convention voted to eliminate one District. At the time there were three districts with 25 chapters, 848 members. The successful vote resulted in two districts.

2006, May The National Convention voted to eliminate Article II, Section (f) “establish, provide and operate a residence for members benefit” from the bylaws. This cleared the way for an eventual sale of the residence in Green Valley. The requirements for membership were also amended to allow members who worked for a railroad connected industry to become members.

NARBW had compiled and published a cookbook to raise funds. This was enormously successful.

2007, May A motion from the floor at National Convention was passed to sell the residence in Green Valley, AZ. The sale was completed in October and netted \$584,619.75 for our treasury. A committee worked on retrieving our documents that had been stored at the residence. The sale included a provision so members who were living in the apartments at the time could continue their residence there.

2009 New design to website approved and installed with desire to make website easier to use.

2010s Railroad employment = 216,000.
NARBW has 22 Chapters and 596 members

2020s Railroad employment = 150,000
NARBW has 16 Chapters - 401 members

Culture – The decade began in the wake of a global financial crisis. Social media was used to fuel protests movements (Occupy Wall Street – 2001, Black Lives Matter – 2003, Brexit – 2016). Gun Violence in schools and other public venues led to calls for increased legislation. #MeToo exposed accusations of sexual harassment. Simone Biles became the most medaled gymnast in history (25 world medals, 19 Gold Olympic Medals). The Chicago Cubs won the 2016 World Series ending a 108-year drought.

Railroads – In 2012 Amtrak ridership and ticket revenue set records. In 2015 total rail traffic declined by 2.5% to 28 million carloads. Coal shipments fell 12% as natural gas replaced coal and electricity plants. The lower volume allowed better service and faster speed, but low fuel prices gave an advantage to trucking. CP announced its intention to merge with the KCS, pending regulatory approval.

National Presidents

2010 – 2012 Joyce Higgs - Roanoke
2012 – 2014 Cynthia Chandler - Omaha
2014 – 2016 Theresa Harper - Houston
2016 – 2018 Laura Gutteridge Años – Jacksonville
2018 – 2020 Melanie Williams McKim - Central Florida
2020 – 2022 Melanie Williams McKim - Central Florida

National Conventions

2010 Roanoke
2011 Omaha
2012 Chicago
2013 Nashville
2014 Houston
2015 Savannah (sponsored by Atlanta)
2016 Saint Louis
2017 Cincinnati
2018 Kansas City
2019 Atlantic City (sponsored by Philadelphia)
2020 Chicago (cancelled due to Covid Pandemic)
2021 Jacksonville

2010, August 13 Kansas City became chapter #81. Because the chapter had turned in their charter earlier, the newly formed chapter was given the next number for a chapter rather than the original chapter number so they can write their own history.

2010 Virginia Museum of Transportation accepted our request to house our memorabilia. Two large display cabinets were built and donated for the display. Our members toured the museum during the Pre-convention tour of Roanoke, VA. The Roanoke chapter maintains the display.

2011, May Districts were eliminated. National Second Vice President became chairman of the chapters.

2014, January 13 Cincinnati, Ohio formed a new chapter becoming Chapter #82. They turned in this charter in 2018.

2015, July 10 Central Florida became chapter #83.

2020, March 28 Southern California became chapter #84. The Chicago chapter were instrumental in helping this chapter get started. The chapter was installed via Zoom, a NARBW first.

2020, May A pandemic of Covid 19 was sweeping the United States and our National Convention scheduled for May in Chicago was changed to an online/ virtual meeting. After conversations with our Parliamentarian, it was agreed that the current officers would remain for another term.

2021, May The Covid-19 pandemic is fading, and vaccines are available. Our National Convention is to be held in Jacksonville, FL with social distancing and following CDC guidelines.

NARBW is ready to begin our next century.

The 2000s - 2010s



National is selling a watch with a train that circles the face of the watch with the NARBW logo and is currently selling for \$135.00. Contact Monica Rodan at Jewelry@narbw.org for inquiries. See picture below.



The 2020s



Residences

When the Railway Business Women's Association was formed in the 1920's working women were expected to be single. When they married, they were expected to quit work and take care of their husbands, their home and raise a family. Our members were mostly single women, who did not have the earning potential of their male co-workers and so would not have as secure a retirement. NARBW had conversations about a home for retired members from its inception. The first record on file is in the minutes of the 1945 Convention in Chicago where the resolutions Committee recommended the President appoint a fact-finding committee. At the 1948 Convention in Buffalo, the first contribution of \$2,079 from the Buffalo / Niagara chapter was made to start the residence fund.

It was agreed that we have \$100,000 in the residence fund before making a purchase and would not pay more than \$50,000 for a property. The money was held in government bonds.

There were special fundraisers for the residence fund. Members were asked "to buy a brick" for fifty cents. Chapters were awarded prizes based on their contributions. Chapter presidents would pledge a certain annual contribution from their chapter and during the President's brunch they would present their contribution. Chapters were awarded prizes based on their contributions. If a member donated \$20, she was awarded a pin in the shape of a key. For a time, we had 2 Residence Chairmen on the National Board (East and West).

At the 1958 convention in Dallas, the delegates voted to buy property at 3763 NW Fourth Avenue, Boca Raton, Florida. It was a converted surplus government building 5-unit apartment building for sale at \$40,000. It had been remodeled into five apartments of different sizes all equipped with private bath and kitchen facilities. We took possession in November 1958. The William J Day Realty Company was hired to manage and maintain the property. The smallest apartments were rented for \$60 a month or \$20 a week which included pots and pans, but not the linens. NARBW covered the utility bills. One apartment was reserved exclusively for NARBW members, the others were rented out.

The Residence Chairman wrote to every retired member telling them of the Residence and asking for their interest in moving to Florida. She did not receive many responses indicating a desire to relocate to the Residence.

The Residence committee reported at the 1957 Winter Board meeting that they were investigating a proposal by the Ambassador Hotel in Dallas, TX. The hotel proposed assigning NARBW a floor for its members (residents) on a year-to-year basis. The hotel had all hotel facilities, dining room, nurse, and Doctor on call. They would furnish the bed linens, but maid service would be extra. Rooms rates

would be \$65 to \$87 per person, double occupancy. A report was to be prepared for the convention body, which turned down the proposal. This demonstrates the residence committee was willing to listen to any proposal to provide our retired members facilities.

In 1960, the residence was painted white and flamingo which was determined to be preferable to the previous brown color. Electrical appliances were replaced as necessary the sprinkler system was replaced and the entire building was rewired to comply with existing building codes. The Miami chapter performed annual spring yard cleanups.

At the 1965 convention in Portland, Oregon a motion was made to purchase a second residence in the west. The 1966 delegates voted to establish a second residence at Green Valley, AZ (26 miles South of Tucson). The new residence was completed 70 days after the ground-breaking ceremony. The cost of land, construction and furnishings was \$50,000 and was fully paid for. Each apartment had a living room, fully equipped kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and patio. At the 1970 convention in Denver, we voted to purchase the adjoining acre of land to build 5 more apartments in the same style as the first (Spanish colonial architecture). The units were continuously improved, we connected the two 5-unit structures with a common room for storage of our archives and a laundry room for the residents. Arizona rooms were built for each unit on their patio. A covered parking area was built to protect the resident's cars from the heat and the parking area was paved. NARBW paid the insurance on the structure, taxes and utilities for the common areas.

The 1968 convention body voted to sell the residence in Boca Raton as it was being rented to the public to keep the property occupied. Members could use it for a vacation stay but the facility was usually rented to non-NARBW vacationers to keep it full. The convention body recommended we sell Boca Raton and look for another location in Florida. The residence was sold in February 1969 for \$144,000.

In 1971 we voted to buy property in Jacksonville Beach, Florida and build a 10-unit facility. This beautiful building was completed, but due to low prices for retirement homes and apartments all over the country it was never occupied by any member of NARBW. This residence was sold in 1978, leaving NARBW with the 10-unit facility in Arizona.

The Green Valley residence was seldom full and due to the low rent some members would "snow bird (live at their home elsewhere for the summer months and during the cold winter months stay in Green Valley). In 1999, the National Convention voted to increase the rents on the residence to \$155 a month for a single resident and \$220 a month for double occupancy, effective January 1, 2000.

The Green Valley residence was sold in October 2007 and netted \$584,619.75 for our treasury.

NARBW East Residence
Boca Raton
Boca Raton, Florida



Boca Raton Purchased November 1958



Boca Raton Sold February 25, 1969



April 2019

NARBW West Residence
Green Valley
Tucson, Arizona



Green Valley Purchased 1966
Opened 1971 & Sold 2007



Green Valley 2006



HALL OF PRESIDENTS



Melanie McKim
Central Florida
2018 - Present

Laura Gutteridge Años
Jacksonville
2016 – 2018

Theresa Harper
Houston
2014 – 2016



Cynthia Chandler
Omaha
2012 – 2014

Joyce Higgs
Roanoke
2010 – 2012

Jay Nelsen
Omaha
2008 - 2010



Barbara Barthle
Jacksonville
2006 – 2008

Sandy Hall
Jacksonville
2004 – 2006

Doris E. Stromberg
Twin Cities
2002 – 2004

HALL OF PRESIDENTS



Alice McCabe
Albany
2001 – 2002

***JoAnn Rowe**
Saint Louis
2000 – 2001

Ruth Ann Spears
Jacksonville
1998 – 2000



Doris Stemmer
Jacksonville
1996 – 1998

Patricia A. Cohen
Twin Ports
1994 – 1996

***Mary C. Lewis**
Portland
1992 – 1994



***Carmen Taliaferro**
Cleveland
1990 – 1992

***Jane Sebeczek**
Twin Cities

***Rozan Prizmich**
Sacramento
1986 – 1988

HALL OF PRESIDENTS



***Frances Hanebrink**
Saint Louis
1984 – 1986

***Ernestine Gudgen**
Birmingham
1982 – 1984

***Dorothy Chumley**
Atlanta
1980 – 1982



***Frances Hale**
Memphis
1978 – 1980



***Grace Nowlin**
Houston
1976 – 1978



***Elinore Prize**
Cleveland
1974 – 1976



***Mazie Hester**
Denver
1972 – 1974



***Ruth Elliott**
Little Rock
1970 – 1972



***Catherine Krimm**
Baltimore
1968 – 1970

HALL OF PRESIDENTS



***Grace Johnson**
Milwaukee
1966 – 1968

***Clara Mayhall**
Mobile
1964 – 1966

***Otha Smith**
Dallas
1962 – 1964



***Bess Bowling**
Columbus
1960 – 1962



***Elizabeth Umhau**
Atlanta
1958 – 1960



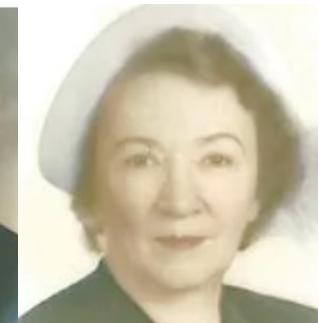
***Evelyn Pierce**
Twin Cities
1956 – 1958



***Bessie Ross**
Chicago
1954 – 1956



***Georgia Turpin**
Saint Louis
1952 – 1954



***Sarah Barker**
Twin Cities
1950 – 1952

HALL OF PRESIDENTS



*Margaret Grahn
Detroit
1948 – 1950



*Kathryn Whelan
Buffalo
1946 – 1948



*Bernice Koehler
Chicago
1943 – 1946



*Hazel Cornell
Twin Cities
1941 – 1943



1921



1971



1941

RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the members of the National Association of Railway Business Women desire to record their deep appreciation for the services of their esteemed associate, Miss Hazel Cornell, Twin Cities Chapter, who served as founding president of this organization through the years 1941, 1942, and 1943; and

WHEREAS, she is truly dedicated to the purposes of the National Association of Railway Business Women, having served faithfully and well through the years, advancing the cause of this organization and the industry it represents; and

WHEREAS, Miss Hazel Cornell's contribution as a wise and enthusiastic first president strengthened the instrumental genius which guided the beginning of the nationwide movement to unite the women of the railroad industry to the mutual benefit of themselves and their industry;

WITNESSETH, we, the members of the National Board of the National Association of Railway Business Women, acting for the national membership,

RESOLVE, THEREFORE, that it is fitting this organization honor its founding president, Miss Hazel Cornell, by conferring upon her the title

NATIONAL PRESIDENT EMERITUS

and that she shall pay no registration fee for any National Convention beginning the year 1971.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the original of this resolution, respectfully bearing the signatures of the National Board members, be tendered Miss Cornell personally before the current convention body, and that a copy of this formal expression of appreciation be entered upon the records and become a part of the Minutes of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Convention, Roanoke, Virginia, May 24-28, 1971.

Past National Conventions
Dates - Location

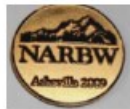
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1942 Chicago | 1983 Tucson |
| 1946 Chicago | 1984 Joliet |
| 1947 Buffalo | 1985 Jacksonville |
| 1948 Buffalo | 1986 Twin Cities |
| 1949 Detroit | 1987 Houston |
| 1950 Atlantic City | 1988 Ft. Worth |
| 1951 Minneapolis | 1989 Long Beach |
| 1952 Colorado Springs | 1990 Saint Louis |
| 1953 Saint Louis | 1991 Roanoke |
| 1954 Miami Beach | 1992 Twin Ports |
| 1955 Chicago | 1993 Denver |
| 1956 Los Angeles | 1994 Atlanta |
| 1957 Sun Valley | 1995 Detroit |
| 1958 Dallas | 1996 Las Vegas |
| 1959 Philadelphia | 1997 Omaha |
| 1960 Atlanta | 1998 Jacksonville |
| 1961 Las Vegas | 1999 Saratoga Springs |
| 1962 Cleveland | 2000 Cincinnati |
| 1963 Hollywood, FL | 2001 Ft. Worth |
| 1964 New Orleans | 2002 Twin Cities |
| 1965 Portland | 2003 Baltimore |
| 1966 Minneapolis | 2004 Myrtle Beach |
| 1967 Washington, DC | 2005 Louisville |
| 1968 Little Rock | 2006 Indianapolis |
| 1969 Tucson | 2007 Jekyll Island |
| 1970 Denver | 2008 Philadelphia |
| 1971 Roanoke | 2009 Asheville |
| 1972 Houston | 2010 Roanoke |
| 1973 Spokane | 2011 Omaha |
| 1974 Omaha | 2012 Chicago |
| 1975 Hollywood, FL | 2013 Nashville |
| 1976 Philadelphia | 2014 Houston |
| 1977 Baltimore | 2015 Savannah |
| 1978 Kansas City | 2016 Saint Louis |
| 1979 Sacramento | 2017 Cincinnati |
| 1980 Cincinnati | 2018 Kansas City |
| 1981 Atlanta | 2019 Atlantic City |
| 1982 Portland | 2020 Virtual |

Center Pin is the Anniversary Pin
Presented to Members Celebrating 25
Years as a NARBW Member



CONVENTION PICTURES

Center Pin is a Unique Cincinnati
NARBW Convention Pin Given to All
2000 Convention Attendees



Asheville 2009



Kansas City 2018



Atlantic City 2019



Indianapolis 2006



Jekyll Island 2007



Myrtle Beach 2004

Convention 'Fun Night' Costumes and Events



Louisville 2005

Jakvill Island 2007



Asheville 2009



Atlantic City 2019



Nashville 2013



Roanoke 2010

Convention 'Fun Night' Costumes and Events

Savannah 2015



Ft Worth 2001



Chicago 2012



Cincinnati 2017



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Sandy Hall
Barbara Barthle
Jay Nelsen
Cynthia Chandler
Theresa Harper
Laura Gutteridge Años

We are grateful to have heartfelt thoughts from

Pam Warren, Doris Stromberg's Niece
Joan Mauro, Alice McCabe's Friend

Virginia Transportation Museum

The National Association of Railway Business Women
Connecting, Learning & Giving

OUR PURPOSE

- To stimulate interest in the railroad industry;
- To foster cooperation and better understanding within the industry and its affiliates;
- To create good public relations for the railroad industry;
- To further educational, social and professional interests of its members;
- To undertake charitable, benevolent and social welfare projects

NARBW.ORG



100 year Anniversary
1921 - 2021