



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN

THE CAPSULE



THE CAPSULE - JUNE 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear NARBW Members:

First and foremost, I would like to say **Thank You** to Anne Menichetti, Omaha Chapter President Kay Leslie, Omaha Chapter Convention Chair and all the ladies of the Omaha Chapter for hosting our 80th National NARBW Convention. They knocked it out of the park!

I am very proud and honored to be your 42nd national president, and might I add that this is a first for the Kansas City Chapter to have a national president in the books! I look forward to the opportunities and the challenges that lie ahead of our organization. With your support, the national board and I will endeavor to seek innovative solutions to our membership decline and work within our industry to elevate the role of the NARBW members. I challenge each chapter to bring in two new members as we will then gain 26 new friends, members and colleagues. The national board is preparing for the Summer Board Meeting which will be held in Kansas City, MO on July 12-13, 2024. Even though we will have a full agenda, we are looking forward to the members from the Kansas City Chapter joining us for dinner on Saturday.

It is my honor to introduce to you our National Board of Officers. You will find the list located in our Capsule. They are a great group of railroad women dedicated to the objectives of our organization. I am excited about the Board's diversity with representation from eight of our chapters I hope that you get to know them better.

As we begin another fiscal year of our beloved National Association of Railway Business Women, let it be with a renewed commitment of working together to accomplish the same goals and with the same purpose. The Plans of Work will be forthcoming during the month of August. I am confident that our chapters will be gearing up for a wonderful year, and I hope that we increase our membership across the board. We will be electing three national officers (Second Vice President, Third Vice President and secretary) at our 81st convention in Houston, TX on May 16-17, 2025. If you are a current member eligible to run, please let Ida Carmouche, Nominating Chairman, know as soon as possible. Convention Chairman Bridget Hammons and her committee are diligently working to make this convention a memorable event.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your president, and I believe we can find solutions to benefit our organization. Wishing everyone a very successful year, and I appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

National President

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SAVE THE DATES

The Houston chapter is
hosting the

**NARBW 2025
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

May 15 - 17, 2025
Sheraton Houston
Brookhollow Hotel

See page 13 for details.



National Association of Railway Business Women

RESUME OF THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OMAHA, NEBRASKA MAY 17-18, 2024

- The formal opening was on Friday, May 17, 2024, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha Downtown Old Market. The Omaha Chapter President Anne Menichetti welcomed members to the convention. Past National President Pat Cohen gave the response. President Ida Carmouche introduced the national board members and welcomed the Emeritus Council members present. Chapter Women of the Year were introduced by Sylvia Long, National 1st Vice President. Seven of the eight nominated women were present.
- The Presidents Brunch was hosted by 2nd Vice President Yolanda Barbosa. The invocation was given by Melanie McKim, Central Florida Chapter. Presidents and chapter representatives read their activities for the past year. Emeritus Council members were introduced. Scholarship Chair Peggy Simon Cuellar reported on Scholarship Fund Donations. The Welfare Chair Rhonda Gomez reported on chapter donations and thanked the ten chapters who submitted their volunteer hours, monetary donations, and their 2023-2024 Good Samaritan reports. Sylvia Long National 1st Vice President announced the 2024 Women of the Year, Theresa Harper, past national president, Houston Chapter.
- On Friday, The Business Meeting opened with Credentials Chair, Rae Huebner, Philadelphia Chapter, announcing the voting strength of 46 members, establishing a quorum. President Carmouche gave a State of NARBW address. As President Carmouche's second year as president, she is happy to report we have preserved our 13 chapters and 4 Members at Large. First time convention attendees were introduced. National Treasurer, Jasmine Manley presented the Treasurer's reports which were discussed and approved as amended. Sandy Hall, Nominating Chair presented the slate of officers for election; there were no nominations from the floor. The Finance Chair, Yolanda Barbosa presented the 2024-2025 Proposed General Operating Budget. The budget was discussed, a motion was presented, budget was amended, and approved.
- On Saturday, a Memorial Service was presented by the National Membership Chair Trischelle Baysden, honoring the six members we lost since our last convention.
- The second day of business meetings began with a voting strength of 46 members. National President, Ida Carmouche asked Past National President Sandy Hall to move for a voice election of the unopposed, nominated officers. Sandy then performed the installation ceremony for the new officers: Rhonda Gomez is the incoming national president, Dana Robles is the incoming national 1st Vice President, and Julie Nelson is the incoming National Treasurer.
- National President Ida Carmouche invited Jay Nelson, Omaha Chapter, to present jewelry she has received from Jane Sebeczak Clapper's daughter to auction with the proceeds going towards the National Scholarship Fund.
- The Membership Luncheon was hosted by 3rd Vice President, Trischelle Baysden. The invocation was given by Jasmine Manley, Chicago Chapter. Trischelle Baysden welcomed everyone and introduced the six members attending their first convention.

2024 NATIONAL BOARD CORNER

RESUME OF THE 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION (CONTINUED)

- Cynthia Chandler, Emeritus Council, introduced Ann Gentle and Jessica Coor from Toastmasters to give a presentation on POWER Speaking with Rail Talker's.
- Bridget Hammons, Houston Chapter, gave her presentation on the 2025 National Convention in Houston, Texas, May 15-17, 2025, at the Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel. The 2026 National Convention will be hosted by the Roanoke Chapter, April 29-May 2, 2026, at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood Hotel. Convention bids from the floor are: Central Florida, 2027, Chicago, 2028, and Southern California, 2029.
- National 2nd Vice President Yolanda Barbosa presented the 2024 Founder's Day Chapter Winner to the Houston Chapter.
- National President Ida Carmouche thanked National Convention Chair Kay Leslie and the Omaha Chapter for making this a wonderful 80th convention.
- Final business conducted included the first-time members addressing the body, and an introduction to the new National Board members. The Courtesy Resolutions were read by Cle Shaw, Chicago Chapter and members were recognized and thanked. The chapter and national raffle drawings were held; the 80th National Convention was adjourned at 3:20pm with the formal banquet to follow. National Scholarship Chair, Peggy Simon Cuellar gave the invocation. In addition, the 2023-2024 eight scholarship winners were announced.

President
Ida Carmouche

Second Vice President
Yolanda Barbosa



**The National Association of Railway Business Women National Convention
May 17 - 18, 2024 - Omaha, Nebraska**

2024 NATIONAL BOARD CORNER

PRESENTING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN'S 2024/2025 NATIONAL BOARD



Bottom L-R: Board members Ida Carmouche, Nancy Von Dolteren, Rhonda Gomez, Carol Gentilini.
Top L-R: Board members Yolanda Barbosa, Gail Hendrix, Julie Nelson, Trischelle Baysden, Bridget Hammons, Dana Robles and Sharon Slaton. Not shown: Sandra Martinez. Emeritus Council Representative Sandy Hall.

**Congratulations to our National Board, and thank you for your service.
We wish you much success in the upcoming year.**

- National President **Rhonda Gomez** - Kansas City Chapter
- National 1st Vice President/Public Affairs **Dana Robles** - Jacksonville Chapter
- National 2nd Vice President/Finance Chair **Yolanda Barbosa** - Chicago Chapter
- National 3rd Vice President/Membership Chair **Trischelle Baysden** - Southern California Chapter
- National Secretary **Carol Gentilini** - Roanoke Chapter
- National Treasurer **Julie Nelson** - Omaha Chapter
- National Convention Chairman **Bridget Hammons** - Houston Chapter
- National Jewelry/Revisions Chairman **Sandra Martinez** - Southern California
- National Nominating Chairman **Ida Carmouche** - Houston Chapter
- National Publications Chairman **Sharon Slaton** - Chicago Chapter
- National Scholarship Chairman **Gail Hendrix** - Central Florida Chapter
- National Welfare Chairman **Nancy Von Dolteren** - Jacksonville Chapter
- Emeritus Council Representative **Sandy Hall** - Jacksonville Chapter

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For NARBW news, visit [NARBW.org](https://www.narbw.org), follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/narbw) and connect with us on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/narbw).

# 2024 NATIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR



## NARBW NATIONAL CONVENTION - OMAHA, NE



### PRESENTING THE

## 2024 NATIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

## TERESA HARPER - HOUSTON CHAPTER

The National Association of Railway Business Women (NARBW) is proud to announce that Theresa Harper has been selected as the 2024 Woman of the Year. According to Theresa, “*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart,*” and she has certainly embodied this sentiment through her service to NARBW. Theresa joined NARBW’s Houston Chapter in 1980, and has held over a dozen leadership positions at the chapter, district, and national levels, including chapter president, district director and national president.

She is currently an active member of the Emeritus Council and is the Houston Chapter’s treasurer. Theresa provides leadership to our members and graciously shares her experience and vast knowledge of NARBW history.



Since joining NARBW, Theresa has always been very active. She has hosted chapter meetings, supported fundraisers and has attended “40” national conventions. Over the years, Theresa represented NARBW on the Federal Railroad Administration’s Railway Safety Advisory Committee and also participated in Houston’s National Transportation Week. She is also heavily involved in NARBW’s charitable activities including breast cancer and Alzheimer research initiatives and has supported the Houston Chapter’s efforts to collect items for military care packages, volunteered at the Houston Foodbank, and supported Wreaths Across America and the Veteran’s Card Project. She is a supporter of her chapter fundraising activities by participating in raffles for designated causes and working at the Houston Astros baseball games. Operation Lifesaver presentations and activities are also important to Theresa, as she has investigated and been on the scene of several grade crossing accidents.

Growing up in a railroad family, Theresa understood the significance of railroads in our nation’s commerce. Her railroad career began as a clerk at the Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company (HB&T), and she steadily advanced in the industry. She later was promoted to transportation supervisor and city railroad coordinator. At the closing of HB&T, she transferred to the Union Pacific Railroad as the city railroad coordinator, then became manager of public projects. In 2001, Theresa accepted the position of director of operations with the Texas City Terminal Railway Company/Port of Texas City; and was later promoted to vice president/deputy director. Theresa retired in 2017 after an impressive 42-year career.

In addition to NARBW, Theresa has served as a board member and vice president in her homeowner’s association and recently revised the neighborhood Architectural Control Guidelines. Theresa coordinated the National Night Out in October each year for her homeowner’s association. She has also maintained her Texas Real Estate Salesman License since 1996 and is current with her continued education hours.

Congratulations Theresa on your achievement!



## 2024 CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR



Chapter Women of the Year at the 2024 National Convention in Omaha, NE.

### Central Florida Chapter - Gail Hendrix



Gail is a charter member of Chapter 83 Central Florida, chartered in July 2015. She was the chapter's first welfare chair. Gail also stepped into the position of chapter secretary after the first secretary stepped down for health reasons. She was elected president in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. During this time, she continued to hold the welfare chair position, and mid-term she also served as secretary. She is currently secretary and Welfare Chair.

Gail has been instrumental in establishing benevolent relationships with the United Methodist Children's Home, the Sanford Outreach Mission, the Neighborhood Center, and the Pace Center. With her guidance, the chapter donated toys at Christmas to both the Children's home and Outreach Mission, and personalized items for the girls at Pace. With the Outreach Mission, she organized and collected Mother's Day bags for ladies in the shelter and organized backpack collections for needy students. Gail has volunteered at the Heart & Home Thrift Store which benefits The United Methodist Children's Home. She has set up annual food drives for The Sanford Outreach Mission and The Neighborhood Center. Her donation helped buy additional food. She set up a community volunteer day at a local no kill animal shelter and she cleaned cat houses. Through her, the chapter sponsored several charity walks. Gail has worked on her church's kitchen committee and taught Sunday School.

Gail is an Army veteran and enjoys talking about her service time to young chapter members. She began her railroad career as a Ticket/Baggage Agent in Pittsburg (she worked in PA for 32 years). In Sanford, she worked as an Auto Train Rep; the Training Resource Employee (helping train new hires as Ticket/Baggage Agents); and with Operation Redblock. She received the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Stars for Customer Service Excellence; the Amtrak President's Service and Safety Award for Sustained Excellence; and the Above and Beyond Award from The Auto Train Sanford Station as "Caregiver." In 2016, she retired from Amtrak after 37 years of service. After retirement, she worked for Home Instead Senior Care. Gail is a Caregiver in every sense of the word.

## 2024 CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR

### Chicago Chapter - Ruby Brownlee



Ruby has been a dedicated member for nearly seven years. Although she never worked for a railroad or railroad affiliate, she has an unwavering commitment to NARBW. She was introduced to NARBW through her daughter Jasmine Manley. Since joining the Chicago Chapter in July 2017, Ruby has consistently attended chapter meetings and always volunteers for NARBW activities and projects. She served as Welfare Chair for two years. She was an integral part of the Chicago Chapter's 2022 Convention Planning Committee. She has attended every Convention since joining, has been a Delegate for several years, and has served as both a Timekeeper and a Page. She has also worked at the chapter's Marketplace table, helping to raise funds for the chapter.

In the community, Ruby has packaged meals at Feed My Starving Children and the Greater Chicago Food Depository; volunteered at the Knight Ministries assembling wound care and hygiene kits for those in need; supported the chapter's *Chicago Books to Women in Prison* drive; and the Winter Wear Drive for School Kids. She participated in breast cancer walk-a-thons and helped prepare meals for families at the Ronald McDonald House and La Casa Norte (which serves the homeless). Ruby has participate in chapter fundraisers (Super Bowl Squares, Bingo, Bakers Square pies, and raffles). She has worked the chapter's membership table at Metra Family Day Picnic and the chapter's virtual membership drives. At church, Ruby served on the Nurses Board, was appointed to the Mothers Board, and she volunteers with the monthly *Feed the Hungry* program.

Ruby works as an Administrative Assistant for the Human Resources Development Institute, Inc. (HRDI), a community behavioral health center supporting underserved communities. It provides prevention, intervention, and treatment services to address various mental health, substance use, and health concerns. During the COVID 19 pandemic, Ruby was recognized for being an essential worker. Prior to HRDI, Ruby worked in the banking industry for over 30 years.

### Jacksonville Chapter - Lori Ledoux



As Sunshine Chair for the Jacksonville Chapter, Lori sends greetings and well wishes to the chapter members. She participates in Board and chapter meetings and supports the chapter's social and volunteer activities. She has planned multiple events and hosted events in her home. Lori assisted the Ways and Means Chair with fundraising activities and co-chairs with the Convention Marketplace. She was a member of the 2021 National Convention team, assisted with updating the Convention Handbook, and provided support to the 2023 Convention Chair for the San Diego Convention. She has been a delegate at multiple Conventions.

In the community, Lori became a volunteer at Pace Center for Girls shortly after joining NARBW. She works on Ms. Mary's Boutique, Family night, and prom shopping events as well as graduation events. Lori is a key member of the Pace Annual Silent Auction team and the Annual Fundraising Luncheon team. In 2023, she helped design the in-school boutique at the Pace Center. She supports local charities such as 3 Grains of Rice and Habitat for Humanity. She has put up siding, done landscaping, and painted homes. She participated in an early education program by reading to underserved preschoolers. Lori volunteers by decorating at the Bailey Hospice in St. Augustine at Christmas and Easter egg stuffing for the Malivai Washington Youth Foundation. She participates in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's in her hometown of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Lori began her railroad career in 1984 when she joined CSX Technology as a developer. She wrote software for a variety of applications, but it was the 28 years supporting the Locomotive Operations Department that she is most admired and remembered for by business partners and technology coworkers. When Lori decided to take the CSX buyout in 2015, she was one of a select few who was held over for six months to train her replacements since her subject matter expertise was unmatched. Lori participates in many Florida East Coast Railway events where her husband works. She is a mentor to new volunteers and their families about safety on and around trains. For nine years, she has been an elf on their annual Santa Train. Lori is a member of the Supervisory Committee at Coastline Federal Credit Union, which is responsible for ensuring that the credit union meets required financial reporting objectives and ensuring that practices and procedures are sufficient to safeguard members' assets.

## 2024 CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR

### Omaha Chapter - Julie Nelson



Julie joined Omaha NARBW in 2009. She has recruited new members and has served as chapter Treasurer, Finance Chairman, and Convention Registration Chairman. On the National level, she has served as Treasurer and Welfare, Credentials, Resolutions, and Rules Chairman. She has also assisted the National Board with reviewing the National Treasurer's reports and helping Board members understand the financial reports. Julie is the in-house expert on the chapter's Standing Rules; she helps members understand them and, if necessary, helps to amend them. She is currently the Registration Chairman for the 2024 Convention.

Julie volunteers for the chapter's community projects. She rang the bell for Salvation Army, donated hats, gloves, and scarves to the Salvation Army Warm the Night program; volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity Restore; set up collection boxes for Toys for Tots at her credit union and donated toys; she collects pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House; and donates purses and the "stuffings" for Pass the Purse, supporting Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault shelters. Julie fundraises and participates in the Susan Komen Race for the Cure 5K walks. She co-chaired golf tournaments, participated in Village Inn Pie sales, Krispy Kreme donut sales, and works at the chapter's garage sales. Julie is the President/CEO of OPPD Employees Federal Credit Union. Over the last five years, she has implemented several new services, which has helped the credit union to grow. She has participated in CU on the Hill, which involves traveling to DC to visit our congressmen to help educate them on the work of credit unions (how they help members buy homes, build wealth, and save for the future). She was recently rated as Far Exceeds in several areas of her annual review by the credit union's Board of Directors, which means her performance is consistently above the standards expected of an individual with her training and job experience.

### Philadelphia Chapter - Helena Funk



From the first meeting Helena attended in 2018, she fully committed to the NARBW and her member sisters, who were hosting the 2019 Convention. She designed and created the Convention contest entry, made various Convention decorations and marketplace pottery items, and eventually chaired the committee. The chapter won the first Founder's Day Gold Medal because of her creative talents. Since, she has planned and managed the chapter's Founder's Day events.

Helena organized and hosted the chapter's yard sale (proceeds benefit chapter delegates attending the 2024 Convention). She is the chapter president for the 2022-2024 term. Though new to NARBW, she took the reins eagerly and has diligently guided the chapter.

The chapter is stronger, kinder, and better with her leadership, support, and unwavering commitment. Helena has already committed to taking on the Presidency in the next term, if needed.

Helena serves as a Volunteer/Teacher at the Tyler Park Center for the Arts and is a resident artist/potter. She volunteers at the center's community outreaches and has managed to engage the arts community with the chapter's outreach. Artists have contributed handmade jewelry, toys and gifts to the Christmas toy and gift drive for a city shelter. Her pieces have sold out at every Convention.

Helena was hired by Amtrak in 1976 as the secretary in the Operations department. She retired in 2018 after 42 years of service in various positions and departments. At age 41, she enrolled as a student at Cabrini College and graduated, with honors, with a business degree. She accomplished this feat while supporting her children in school, caring for elderly parents, and working full time at Amtrak. Helena eventually became the sole caregiver for her aging parents and her disabled husband. She ended her career in 2018 as the New York City sales and marketing manager with a territory having the highest revenue in Amtrak's Northeast Corridor.



## 2024 CHAPTER WOMEN OF THE YEAR

### Roanoke Chapter - Mona King



Mona became a member of the Roanoke Chapter on May 6, 2014. During her time with the chapter, she has served as secretary (currently in her 2<sup>nd</sup> term), Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, and Chairman of Press & Publicity/Facebook.

Mona's railroad connection is through her father who was a longtime NS employee. Both of her grandfathers, her dad, and two of uncles worked for the railroad. After transferring from West Virginia to Indiana, Mona was 3 months shy of turning 16 when they were transferred to Roanoke in 1974.

After high school and college, Mona went to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). She worked for VDOT for five years until being offered a job with another state agency, Virginia Department of Labor & Industry (DOLI), as the administrative manager for the southwest regional office. The main mission of DOLI is the enforcement of the Occupational Safety & Health regulations. Her duties were numerous and included supervision of administrative staff in Roanoke, Lynchburg, and Abingdon, ensuring state and agency policies and procedures were being enforced, issuance of citations for safety/health violations and all follow-up data and correspondence, and handling the everyday crisis's that arose.

After 32 years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mona retired on July 1, 2011.

### Southern California Chapter - Shamonda Jones

Joining NARBW in 2018, Shamonda was one of the founding members of the Southern California Chapter, chartered in 2020. Understanding the vision of NARBW SoCal and refusing to let it fall, since May 2023, Shamonda went from being a member to vice president to her current position as chapter president.



Her creativity brings new ways to market NARBW SoCal (i.e., Galantine's Day Video). She revamped the chapter's website and created a Facebook Page. Her hard work, determination, and enthusiasm brought in 17 new members at the Galantine's Day Membership Drive, bringing a total of 22 new members who joined in February 2024 alone.

In the community, Shamonda's warm heart and bubbly personality glowed when she volunteered 24 hours for the Metrolink Holiday Express: dressing as an elf, reindeer, and an Elf on the Shelf, filling her cars with carols sung by passengers of all ages. Along with her protegee', Shamonda organized and hosted a golf tournament raising over \$13,000 for One Simple Wish (granting over 175 wishes for foster children). She gave both her time and her money to Warrior for Children by wrapping Christmas presents for traumatized children and attending their fundraising gala.

With over 25 years of railroad experience, Shamonda is currently a senior manager, dispatching, at Metrolink. She is constantly on the move. This woman phenomenon handles the never-ending work week and daily stress with grace, poise, and skill....and 2023 was a productive year for her. Shamonda was featured in "Metrolink Celebrates Women in Rail" video. She became a Certified CPR Trainer. She's mentoring a coworker, providing much needed encouragement of working in a male - dominated industry.

## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### **Aneesha Mummareddy**

#### **Recipient of the 13th Past National President Award - Grace Johnson**

Aneesha Mummareddy, born in Jacksonville, FL., is currently a freshman at the University of Florida. She has a fervent love for staying active, particularly through dance, and is an enthusiastic member of a dance team at UF. Beyond her passion for movement, Aneesha finds joy in spending quality time with friends and family, often enjoying simple movie nights together. With aspirations set on becoming a sports medicine physician, Aneesha is dedicated to pursuing a major in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology on the pre-med track. Her ambition is fueled by a deep-seated passion for sports and a desire to aid athletes in achieving their peak performance.



### **Lillian Cloud**

Being a Hoosier, Lillian is proud to have been raised to appreciate the natural beauty her home state of Indiana has to offer. Parks like Brown County and Turkey Run have served as sources of inspiration for Lillian, fueling her passion for the outdoors and shaping her professional aspirations. She is extremely passionate about the natural sciences, and finds fulfillment in learning subjects like entomology, local paleontology, and botany. Currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology at Franklin College, her goal is to work within the land management and conservation division of the DNR. Even in her leisure time, Lillian remains committed to engaging with the natural sciences.



### **Joseph Boppell**

Joseph is a freshman at Penn State University in Springfield, PA, studying computer science. He is sponsored by his grandmother, Katherine Bevilacqua, a member of the Philadelphia Chapter, and sister to Marianne MacLure, a 2022 Chapter Woman of the Year recipient. In his first two semesters of college, Joseph maintained a 4.0 GPA while tackling challenging courses and balancing extracurricular activities. His club involvements include serving as a committee member for Rules and Regulations of THON, a member of the Google Student Developer Club, and a member of the Nittany AI Student Society. Joseph aspires to join the Schreyer Honors College in the upcoming fall term and also become a math learning assistant. In high school, Joseph ranked 13th out of 339 students, took numerous AP classes, played varsity football, and led the Operations Committee for the Steve Stefani Dance Marathon, the second-largest mini-



### **Grant Finke**

Grant is a native of Houston, Texas, and is currently a freshman at Tarleton State University with plans to transfer to Texas A&M this fall. Grant takes his studies very seriously, and despite facing challenges such as the loss of his mother last September, he still managed to earn recognition on the Dean's List at Tarleton State. Prior to beginning college, he attended Magnolia High School, where he was an integral part of the baseball team throughout his high school career.

Grant expresses his sincere appreciation to NARBW for selecting him as a recipient of this scholarship. The generous support provided not only alleviates some of the financial burden of his education, but also serves as validation for the hard work and dedication he has put into his academic pursuits.

## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### **Kirsten Manley**

Kirsten Manley, a compassionate and caring senior at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, is sponsored by her grandmother, Ruby Brownlee of the Chicago Chapter. With a passion for aiding children in need, Kirsten has chosen a career path in Pediatric Nursing. She has demonstrated her dedication to this field by caring for family members, church children, and volunteering at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Kirsten also has a love for singing and plans to join the college choir at Winston Salem State University in North Carolina, where she will continue to volunteer in between studies. She is grateful for the support of NARBW as she embarks on this new chapter in life.



### **Mia Huebner**

Mia, an undergraduate student at the University of Oregon College of Design, is majoring in Interior Architecture. Originally from Seattle, WA, Mia moved to Asheville, NC, at the age of two. Since childhood, she has had a longing for new experiences and meeting people from different places. Despite most of her friends staying in North Carolina for college, Mia felt drawn to the West Coast. The distance has given her the opportunity to grow independently and carve out her own path in a new environment. In her free time, Mia enjoys biking, traveling, hiking, skiing, and listening to music. She is also a member of the University of Oregon women's club volleyball team. Upon graduation in five years, Mia plans to use her Bachelor of Interior Architecture to embark on a new life abroad. This scholarship will support Mia on her academic journey and enable her to continue pursuing her passions for design and travel.



### **Brayden Sullivan**

Brayden, 17 years old, lives in Tampa, FL and is a student at Plant High School. He is enrolled in five AP classes and has a 6.7 GPA and 145 hours of community service. Brayden has excelled academically and in his community. As a three-year Varsity Football player at Plant High, Brayden played as the middle linebacker. He was named to the 2022 High School Football America Florida Academic All-America Team and served as the captain of the JV Football team. Brayden led his team to two district championships during his two years on the Varsity team, with a notable accomplishment of reaching the State Semifinals in his Senior year. Additionally, he was selected for the 2023 Hillsborough County All-Star Team and the 2023 FACAA All-State Football team, and received the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award.



### **Mallory Battista**

Mallory Battista, a soon-to-be sophomore at Texas State University, is pursuing a major in Digital Media Innovation and a minor in Business Administration. Her passion for the different aspects of the yearbook program during high school sparked her interest in this field and drove her desire to build a career in media. Having a lifelong love for videography, photography, graphic design, editing, and related fields, Mallory is eager to explore opportunities within the media industry.

Beyond her academic pursuits, she enjoys hobbies such as reading, tubing, boating, driving around with friends while listening to music, and engaging in fun activities with them. Known for her diligence in staying on top of assignments and striving for academic excellence.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## ALBANY CHAPTER

Several of the Albany Chapter members toured the Ronald McDonald House in Albany for the May meeting.

They toured three buildings and were given information about volunteering. This is one of Albany Chapter's charitable locations.

L to R back: President Jan Darling and Betty Jean Hoffmann, forward L to R: JoAnn Powers, Peggy Sweeney and Penny Jones.



## CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER



Top Left: President Melanie McKim is at preconvention tour of Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Bottom Melanie and Gail at Fun night. Right: Convention delegates Melanie and Gail Hendrix.



Above: Debbie Dubois and her daughter Emily Martinez both Central Florida chapter members. Emily just graduated from High School and began U.S. Navy basic training on July 1st, 2024. She was honored at the June 20<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting as our youngest member and also as our safety chair. We wish her much luck and love as she enters military service. We will miss her.



Left: Chapter President Melanie McKim bestows Denise Forbes, Amanda Julis and Denisia Dukes their NARBW pins and official welcome to the Central Florida chapter during our June meeting.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## HOUSTON CHAPTER



The chapter members were saddened to learn of the passing of their dear member on April 17.



The Houston ladies had a wonderful time at the 2024 Convention in Omaha



NARBW Houston ladies at the April chapter meeting.



June was an exciting month with the installation of our new Houston Chapter President Brenda Bob and Vice President Debbye Converse

### The 2025 81<sup>st</sup> Annual NARBW National Convention







Use the designated convenient web link or QR code to book your reservations!

**NARBW National Convention May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2025**  
 Room Rates \$105 per night (plus applicable taxes)

Room rate applies from Tuesday, May 13, 2025 to Monday, May 19, 2025

**Last Day to Book: Thursday, April 24, 2025**

### Deep in the Heart of Texas

The Houston Chapter is gearing up for the 2025 National Convention. The theme for this event is "Deep In the Heart of Texas." Look for details on the convention that will be posted on NARBW.org and emailed to members. If you're a Facebook user, you can also join the [Houston 2025 National Convention](#) group for updates.

- May 15 - Pre-Convention Tour
- May 16 - Convention  
Fun Night - Wild Wild West Theme
- May 17 - Convention  
Banquet Dinner

# CHAPTER NEWS

## JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER



We had a fabulous time at the 80th National Convention in Omaha and were able to support the Omaha chapter 'Pass the Purse Project' with purses, wallets and five-dollar bills. Everyone enjoyed our Monopoly costumes as well.



Nancy and Lori wore their Omaha convention t-shirts to an Operation Gratitude event sponsored by CSX where they helped pack 7,500 Christmas-in-July care packages for deployed service people.



Our first activity that we have completed this new fiscal year is Snack Bags for Kids, which is part of the United Way Day of Action. Many children within Duval County do not have regular access to food outside of the free and reduced lunches provided by Duval County Public Schools, and this issue disproportionately affects the resident families of North Riverside. Food insecurity has a true negative impact on their health and academic success. These packs of shelf-stable snacks provide nourishment in between meals and will help alleviate some of the discomfort and worry that negatively affects their learning, social interactions, and ability to enjoy life as a child should.

Pictured are our members (as well as 4 that were virtual), during our June meeting where we created 18 Snack Bags for this initiative. We are looking forward to many more activities like this in the future that will make a positive impact within our community.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

Our Kansas City ladies recently held our installation of new officers. They are as follows:



President Megan Cibulski



Treasurer Sarah Wilbur



Vice-President and Secretary Kimberly Isabell



The Kansas City chapter's new officers

Since the convention, the group has been busy setting events up for the next four quarters and will have a busy schedule ahead. Also, we will keep you informed as to when baby Isabell will be born as it's getting near. The chapter is excited about having their first national president, Rhonda Gomez, and are looking forward to what her term brings.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## OMAHA CHAPTER

The Omaha Chapter has spent the weeks since the Convention resting and sorting out the convention aftermath! The largest pile to sort was ALL the donations for our Pass the Purse Project! Welfare Chair Kathy DuVall plans a fall donation of 200+ purses (double our normal donation). We also received so many “stuffings”: manicure sets, key chains, hand sanitizers, lotions, makeup and more! There are a couple of items we need to pickup but not many. It is humbling to see how generous all NARBW members are!

The months prior to the Convention, it felt like we were making lists, checking them twice, making changes and then moving forward. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to Omaha! I know we slept some, drank more, hugged lots and had a wonderful time with the NARBW ladies who attended the convention and other guests.



Member news: It was a sad day when our oldest member Marge Carson passed away on May 14. She had been a member for many years, serving at the chapter and District levels. She was a force in our chapter and in her church. Her services were standing room only. Our condolences to her daughters, Colleen Brabec, Trisha Gillespie and Amy Thompson. Julie Nelson was elected our Chapter Woman of the Year, and we honored her at our April meeting with a clock and a Standing Ovation. She and hubby John are packing, having bought a different home in their subdivision. Janet Anderson was awarded IPC’s “Spokesperson Award.” It honors the employee who is a continuous example of “Work Hard, Play Hard.” I know everyone who attended the convention knows this is Janet to a T! Cynthia Chandler participated in the Crush Cancer Golf Tournament. She has been on their committee for nine years. Congratulations to Anne Menichetti and Connie Prokupek who celebrated their Union Pacific 20-year anniversary.

Julie Nelson was elected National Treasurer, so we have some new officers mid-term. Janet Anderson is now our Treasurer, Connie Prokupek is our vice president, Kathy DuVall is the new finance chair and Sue Hess will take over as ways and means chair. Anne Menichetti installed the new officers at the June meeting. Our June meeting was exciting as we had a guest, Sara Taylor, who works in the Harriman Dispatch Center and was able to join us for a bit at Fun Night. We will work to get her involved. Her variable schedule may prevent regular meeting attendance, but we are hopeful. Omaha Chapter takes July off, and then we will start again in August with a board meeting. Have a great summer everyone!





# CHAPTER NEWS

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

We are so pleased to announce that the Philadelphia Chapter had two scholarship winners - Joseph Boppell, grandson of Kathy Bevilacqua, and Mia Huebner, niece of Rae Huebner. **Top left photo:** The official start of summer kicked off on June 22, when we met at Anthony's Ristorante in Springfield, PA. We enjoyed scrumptious Italian cuisine and reinstalled our current chapter president, Helena Funk. **Top center:** The next day, Elnora Cain attended her 66<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. She celebrated with fellow classmates of Paulsboro High School class of 1958 and alumni. Over 440 graduates and guests attended. The oldest graduate (101 years old from the class of 1942) received a standing ovation!



**Top right & bottom right:** In April, eight of us attended that Casino Royale fundraiser benefiting the Peace Valley Holistic Center at the VE club in Warminster PA, and it worked out well for some of our members too! From winning big at the table to winning an overnight all-inclusive trip to Smithville, NJ, we had a great time and some great wins. Helena, our president, shares a message she received from Dr Christina Davis about that night: *"Thankfully I could attend for the first two hours, and I thank all of you for your prayers, support, donations, time, and volunteerism for such a worthy cause. Hope you will continue to be part of a family team for this mission to grow. God bless you all."*

**Bottom left:** At the April meeting held at Fainting Goat in Glenolden, PA, members are hard at work assembling 50 gift bags with hygiene products for the Salvation Army's Elijah Shirley Mother's Day outreach project. **Bottom right:** Our three chapter delegates had a wonderful experience at the convention. Helena Funk, chapter president, Rae Huebner, treasurer, and Ann Gordan—newest member and first-time conventioner flew together and participated in the pre-convention tours. They made the most of their layover at Midway Airport on their way to the convention and enjoyed the pre-convention botanical garden tour and the miniature train exhibit at the Omaha zoo. They particularly enjoyed game night, where they walked away as winners on several challenges. They want to sincerely thank everyone who shopped at their marketplace table, which raised a good amount for our chapter.

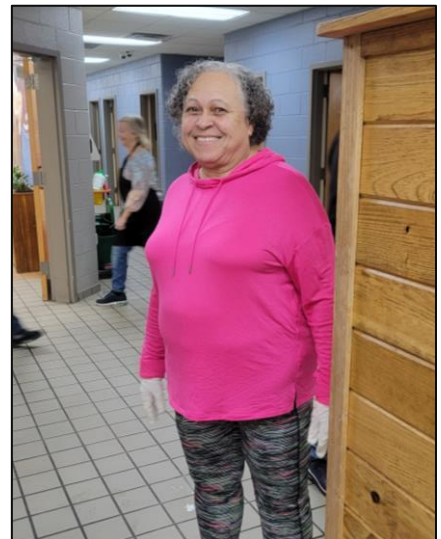
# CHAPTER NEWS

## ROANOKE CHAPTER

Chapter 19 Narbies participated in a Founder's project in February where we served lunch at the Rescue Mission on February 22, 2024. We had such a wonderful and humbling time serving a scrumptious meal to men, women and children in our community.

Our April project involved providing "Immediate Needs" to the Agape Center of Roanoke/Vinton. NARBW Chapter 19 collected a carload of housewares, toiletries, linens, towels, sheets, food and \$50 to the Agape Center. Items were delivered on April 9, 2024.

Our May/June project is hosting a "Picnic in the Park" in Fallon Park for the children of the Keystone Community Center. The picnic will be on Thursday 23, 2024 at 3pm. Pat Carter of the Keystone Community Center advise there will be 11 children and for staff members. She says the children love Chick-fil-A. Pat advises the Center will provide the paper products (plates, cups, napkins, etc). This is sure to be a fun time in the park. Who doesn't like a picnic? Pat says the children may perform a special outdoor drama.



# CHAPTER NEWS

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



  
**80s RUN WALK Family Festive**

**April 27, 2024**




**Run or walk to save lives**

On April 27th, we walked in honor of Gilbert Nunez, Jr., son and brother of Abby Canales and Roxann Nunez. Gilbert was a huge advocate for organ donations and encouraged his family to be donors before his sudden passing of a heart attack at the age of 31. It is heartwarming to know that his spirit continues to touch others through the gift of life.

**We raised \$760!!!!**


**2024 OMAHA CONVENTION**



**Pass the Purse**

In connection to this year's NARBW convention, the Omaha Chapter asked fellow NARBW sisters to donate their gently used purses (from their closet or garage sales, etc.)

This is for a program called PTP (Pass The Purse), which began in 2012. This organization runs a shelter, a counseling hotline, and classes to assist women who have been victims of abuse.



Why purses? When a woman walks away from abuse, she is encouraged to leave everything behind so she will have a better chance to get away. Think about it: how important is your purse to you? Some of us carry our lives in there!



Since it was Spring Cleaning Season, we asked our sisters to donate a couple of purses from their closet; and as always, SoCal NARBW understood the assignment! We donated 130 purses/wallets and 108 bottles of hand sanitizer.

**Calling Dr. NARBW SoCal**

Trischelle Baysden & Shamonda Jones represented Southern California at this year's convention. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun.

Can you keep a secret, Southern California will be hosting the 2029 Convention!!!




The SoCal Chapter is hosting this year's Hitting the Links Golf Tournament Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.

As you all know, California Firefighter's are the hardest working firefighters in the country and we want to show our appreciation by donating the proceeds to the Cal Fire Benevolent Foundation.

Last year, Hitting the Links raised \$13,000 for One Simple Wish. This year, we're hoping to raise \$20,000.

If you'd like to sponsor, donate or play, please scan the bar code.

We are accepting swag, prizes and monetary donations.



NARBW SOCAL PRESENTS

HITTING THE LINKS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

80's GOLF TOURNEY

Boombbox & Birdies!!!  
Wear your 80s gear (or not) for the "Safety Dance" Scramble

Proceeds Will Go to Cal Fire Benevolent Foundation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024  
LOS SERRANOS GOLF COURSE  
15656 YORBA AVE, CHINO HILLS CA



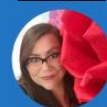


|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| REGISTRATION 0630           | SHOTGUN START 0700      |
| EARLY BIRD \$160 PLAYER     | AFTER 8/22 \$175 PLAYER |
| INCLUDES CART, LUNCH & SWAG |                         |

\$10,000 HOLE - IN - ONE, 50/50, CLOSEST TO THE PIN, BEST DRESS & MORE






TO REGISTER, DONATE OR VOLUNTEER, SCAN HERE OR CONTACT JEN MILLER 518-610-4418



Meet Your  
2024/2025 Board

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>President</u></b>                                                                                                 | <b><u>Vice President</u></b>                                                                                             |
|   |  |
| Shamonda Jones                                                                                                          | Lorraine Aldridge                                                                                                        |
| <b><u>Treasurer</u></b>                                                                                                 | <b><u>Secretary</u></b>                                                                                                  |
|   |  |
| Roxann Nunez                                                                                                            | Jennifer Avelar                                                                                                          |
| <b><u>Sergeant at Arms</u></b>                                                                                          |                                                                                                                          |
|  |                                                                                                                          |
| Sandy Martinez                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                          |

Meet Your  
Committees Chair

|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Sunshine &amp; Membership</u></b>                                                                                  | <b><u>Ways, Means &amp; Charity</u></b>                                                                                  |
|  |  |
| Sallie Rodriguez                                                                                                         | Sandra Martinez                                                                                                          |
| <b><u>Publicity</u></b>                                                                                                  | <b><u>Scholarship</u></b>                                                                                                |
|  |  |
| Amber Peters                                                                                                             | Tracy Gerendas                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                          | <b><u>Golf Tournament</u></b>                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                          |  |
|                                                                                                                          | Jennifer Miller                                                                                                          |

# CHAPTER NEWS

## CHICAGO CHAPTER

**2024 CHICAGO CHAPTER WOMAN OF THE YEAR – Ruby Brownlee**  
**INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER – Bernadette Tucker Duck**  
**OUTGOING PRESIDENT PINNING – Cle Shaw**

**INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS**  
**Jasmine Manley, President**  
**Cle Shaw, Secretary**  
**Michele Williams, Treasurer**

**Pullman Railroad Days** – exploring Pullman's rich railroad heritage through a whole weekend of historic railcars, exciting exhibits, tours, food, music & family-fun! NARBW members *Jasmine Manley, Sharon Slaton, Geneva Reed, and CleLeatha Shaw* spent time talking about our organization and women's contributions in rail. There was positive energy and knowledge within our presentation. This brought individuals to engage and be interested on what our society is about.

**NARBW CHICAGO ATTENDS THE 80<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**

11 Chapter Members represented in Omaha, NE  
 Jasmine Manley, CleLeatha Shaw, Michele Williams,  
 Yolanda Barbosa, Amy Louk, Sharon Slaton, Ruby  
 Brownlee, Fatoumata Diallo, Patty Helling, Patricia  
 Cohen and Basia Sidor

NARBW  
CHICAGO

### SCHOLARSHIPS

The Chicago Chapter is pleased to announce the 2024 four scholarship recipients for our local scholarship program

Elena Gerick  
 Kirsten Manley  
 Madison Manley  
 Jacobi Morton

2024

class of

CONGRATS!

Elena Gerick

Kirsten Manley

Congratulations to

KIRSTEN MANLEY

who received a scholarship from the National Association of Railway Business Women Scholarship Program