

BI - ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

NARBW SOCAL WOMEN ON TRACK

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Galentine's Day Membership Drive
- Warrior For Children Gala & Charity Basket
- Woman of the Year
- 2024 National Convention
- 2024/2025 Board of Directors



Happy 4th Anniversary to Us

March 28th was the fourth anniversary of the SoCal Chapter, and we were thrilled to commemorate this milestone in a fun and innovative way. In the spirit of celebration and creativity, our chapter ventured into the world of TikTok with a special video titled "We Are NARBW SoCal, of course..."

This engaging TikTok video captured the essence of our chapter - vibrant, dynamic, and unapologetically ourselves. Through a series of captivating moments and snippets, we showcased the spirit of sisterhood, empowerment, and camaraderie that defines NARBW SoCal.





Galentine's Day

The Southern California Chapter recently hosted a delightful Galentine's Day Membership Drive. This special event saw the addition of 17 vibrant and enthusiastic ladies to our esteemed chapter on that very day alone. Moreover, we are thrilled to announce that a total of 21 remarkable women chose to join our family throughout the entire month of February, marking a significant moment of growth and connection for our chapter.

The Galentine's Day Membership Drive was more than just an opportunity to welcome new members; it was a celebration of sisterhood and empowerment. Attendees enjoyed engaging in games and activities while also having the chance to learn more about the mission and purpose of NARBW. Through heartfelt conversations and shared experiences, we were able to convey the essence of our organization and the invaluable support it provides women in the rail industry.



- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Abby | Alexis |
| Amber | Ashley |
| Brittany | Daniella |
| Denise | Felicia |
| Kim P | Kim T |
| Jen | LaTrice |
| Marty | Melany |
| Monica | Natacha |
| Rox | Sallie |
| Sandy | |

A Message from the President

I want to express my gratitude in you being a part of the Southern California Chapter of NARBW. Our sisterhood is truly remarkable. We are dedicated to philanthropy while empowering one another, as a true sisterhood should.

As the newest chapter, we have already achieved so much and have the potential to accomplish even more.

We've recently implemented many positive changes, and I appreciate your patience through this process. Most importantly, thank you for your time and generosity.

Shamonda



2024 SoCal Woman of the Year Shamonda Jones

With over 25 years of railroad experience, Shamonda is currently a Sr. Manager, Dispatching at Metrolink. Joining NARBW in 2018, she was one of the founding members of the Southern California Chapter in 2020. Shamonda is constantly on the move and 2023 was a productive year for her.

Shamonda was featured in "Metrolink Celebrates Women in Rail" video. She became a Certified CPR Trainer. Recognizing the importance of mentorship, Shamonda has been providing guidance and encouragement to a coworker, particularly in navigating the challenges of working in a male-dominated industry. Her commitment to fostering inclusivity and supporting others is evident in her actions.

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 also wrapped Christmas presents for Warrior for Children.

Understanding the vision of NARBW SoCal, Shamonda has been a Member, Vice President, and currently Interim President. Her creativity brings new ways to market NARBW SoCal (i.e. Galentine's Day Video). She revamped the Chapter's website. Her hard work, determination and enthusiasm brought in 17 new members at the Galentine's Day Membership Drive, bringing a total of 22 new members joining February 2024 alone.

Warrior for Children Gala

The spirit of generosity and compassion was on full display as the Southern California Chapter joined forces to make a meaningful contribution to Warrior for Children's annual gala. Through collaborative efforts and unwavering dedication, our chapter donated over \$600 worth of items to create a luxurious spa basket, which was graciously offered as part of the gala's raffle.

The spa basket donation serves as a symbol of our chapter's commitment to making a positive impact in our community. By contributing to the gala's raffle, we hope to not only raise funds for Warrior for Children but also spread awareness about the vital work they do in supporting children in their healing journey.

During the heartwarming event, we were honored to witness one of our own members, Sandra Martinez, being recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Sandra's selfless dedication and tireless efforts have made a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals. With hundreds of hours of volunteer service to her name, Sandra has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to spreading joy and kindness wherever she goes. From wrapping birthday and Christmas gifts to assembling back-to-school backpacks and volunteering at events for foster children, Sandra embodies the spirit of service and compassion that defines our chapter. Her passion and generosity serve as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the power we each hold to make a difference in the lives of others.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Sandra Martinez on being named Volunteer of the Year and express our deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the success of our donation efforts for Warrior for Children. Together, we will continue to make a difference and spread love and compassion to all.



1st Pic: Shamonda, Ashley, Roxanne, Denise, Amber & Kim T.

2nd Pic: Sandy, Natacha, Marty & Shamonda

3rd Pic: Winners of the Basket

Last Pic: Sandy receiving award



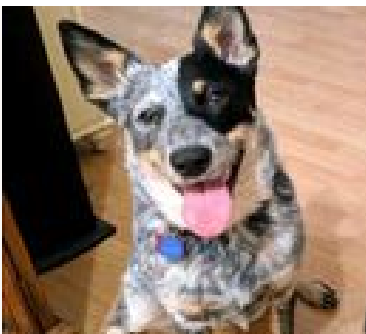
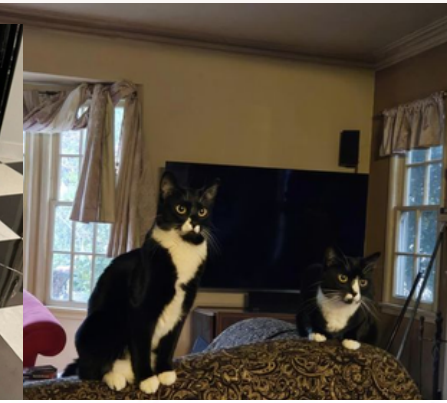


On April 27th, we walked in honor of Gilbert Nunez, Jr., son and brother of Abby Canales and Roxann Nunez. Gilbert was a huge advocate for organ donations and encouraged his family to be donors before his sudden passing of a heart attack at the age of 31. It is heartwarming to know that his spirit continues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



We raised \$760!!!!

\$250 of it came from the help of the SoCal NARBW Furrries!!!



2024 CONVENTION OMAHA CHAPTER



SATURDAY'S MEETING

A member of the Omaha Chapter who recently passed away, NARBW jewelry which was collected over the years was donated and an auction was held for the proceeds to go to the National Scholarship Fund.

A presentation of video and pictures of the Virginia Museum of Transportation, in which NARBW has an exhibit, was displayed.

The 2024/2025 newly elected President, 1st Vice President and Treasurer were inducted.



FRIDAY'S MEETING

Union Pacific President Beth Whited gave an inspirational speech explaining how Women Should Own Their Power. With it, she provided 5 reflections

1. Your path may not be your plan
2. Be authentic - stay true to self
3. Work balance is not always equal, sometime you need to lean in
4. Don't lose sight of the bigger picture. It's easy to get lost in the day to day.
5. Enjoy what you do & who you do it with. Remember: STRONGER TOGETHER

National Woman of the Year - All of the Chapters Women of the Year were recognized, and Theresa Harper of the Houston Chapter was announced the winner for National Woman of the Year.



BANQUET

At the banquet, the new National Board was introduced, including two of our very own: 3rd Vice President is Trischelle Baysden and the Jewelry Chair Person is Sandra Martinez.

We danced the night away, singing "We Are Family" and of course the various line dances.



Pass the Purse

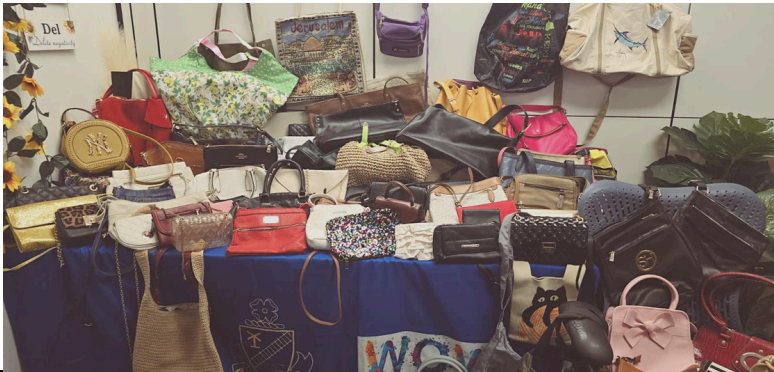
In connection to this year's NARBW convention, the Omaha Chapter asked fellow NARBW sisters to donate their gently used purses (from their closet or garage sales, etc.)

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.

NARBW
SoCal
Charities



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

The theme for Fun Night was board games.... and Trischelle & Shamonda played to win! Dressed as Hasbro's Operation, they captured the essence of the game with precision and creativity while recognizing Organ Donation Awareness.

Other Chapters came as Monopoly, Checkers, Bingo, and 5 chapters came as Scrabble.



2025 Convention - Houston

The Houston Chapter will be hosting the 2025 convention May 15 - 17. It'll be at the Sheraton Hotel at \$105/night. And the theme for Convention is "In the Heart of Texas", so for fun night, dress up in your cowgirl gear. (NARBW SoCal Style of course!)

See you there!!!





Our NARBW SoCal Sisters had a lot to celebrate these last 6 months. We share in your joy and celebrate these special moments.



On December 2, 2023, Denise Herrera became Mrs. Denise Perez



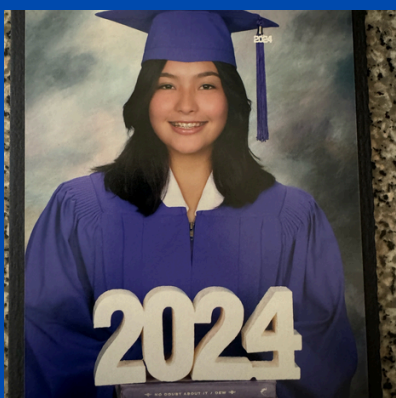
Jen Miller's 1st Granddaughter and future NARBW SoCal member Tallulah Paige was born January 23rd



Is there a Dr. in the House? Yes!!! Brittany Ahumada's cousin Kaleigh Perez just graduated from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine as a Pediatrician.

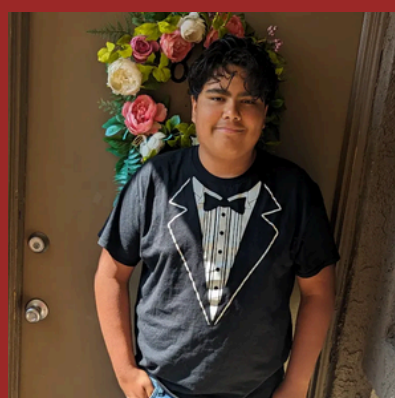


Tracy Gerendas & hubby Stuart are super proud of their eldest, Ethan, graduating June 8 with a MA in Marriage and Family Therapy from the Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena!!!!



Denise Herrera's daughter Penelope is graduating from Mt. SAC Early College Academy on June 4th.

She's attending Cal Poly Pomona to major in Architecture.



Sallie Rodriguez's son Ethan Payan is heading to high school this fall!

COMING SOON !!!

Hitting the Links 3

Hitting the Links Golf Tournament Part 3

This year we are playing for our California Fire Fighters!!! Let's come together, have a blast, and make a real difference! And there's **FIREFIGHTERS**!!!!

This year's event will be Sunday, September 22nd at Los Serranos Golf Course in Chino Hills. We're looking for volunteers to help make decorations, sell raffle tickets, make raffle baskets, registration, etc.

Please see Chair Jen Miller for details.

And did I mention the **Firefighters**? LOL



We're Hosting the 2029 Convention

We have 5 years to plan the best Convention in the history of NARBW California . . . Knows How to Party & We're partying like it's 2029

MUD GIRLS RUN

Join the Pink Army in Supporting Breast Cancer Prevention by "Running Like a Girl". You can also support by taking pics or just cheering us on!

Los Angeles - Sept. 21

Temecula - Sept. 28



For More Info about the SoCal NARBW Chapter
Email:
narbwsocal@gmail.com
or visit our webpage
www.socalnarbw.org

Follow us on:
LinkedIn, Facebook,
Instagram & X



Meet Your 2024/2025 Board

President



Shamonda Jones

Vice President



Lorraine Aldridge

Treasurer



Roxann Nunez

Secretary



Jennifer Avelar

Sergeant at Arms



Sandy Martinez

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Sunshine & Membership



Sallie Rodriguez

Ways, Means & Charity



Sandra Martinez

Publicity



Amber Peters

Scholarship



Tracy Gerendas

Golf Tournament



Jennifer Miller

**Just a
reminder...**

**\$50 Annual Dues
are due.**

Zelle or email
narbwsocal@gmail.com

*Thank
you!*

Special Thanks to Terrence (TJ) Martin for providing the beautiful picture used on our cover page.

Special Thanks to York, Wire & Cable for shipping the purses to Omaha.



JOIN A COMMITTEE

Learn all about our committees by visiting www.socalnarbw.org or email narbwsocal@gmail.com

Our 24/25 Goals

- LA Metro Membership Drive
- Philanthropy
- Finance Training
- Career Building
- Chapter Scholarship
- We're looking for ideas

