



# NARBW SOCIAL WOMEN ON TRACK

## 2024 Year Review Issue

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### **Cheers to a Fantastic Year, Ladies!**

What an incredible year we've had! Our young chapter has achieved so much in 2024, and I am thrilled to see what 2025 will bring. This newsletter is our year-in-review, showcasing all our wonderful accomplishments. Please enjoy and give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back for a job well done!

This year, we donated 130 purses, a gift basket valued at \$500, blankets, toys, and raised an impressive \$27,417.11! Let's keep the momentum going!

I'm always looking for ways to engage all our members. We will be sending out a survey soon to gather your input on meeting times and locations, charity suggestions, and fun activities we can do together. Remember, life happens, and I don't expect everyone to attend every function.

I also made a promise to Ilyssa DeCasperis to hold a membership drive at LA Metro to bring in more amazing ladies from there. Our Galentine's Day 2024 was such a hit, let's do it again at LA Metro for 2025!

Mark your calendars for March 28th, which will be our chapter's 5th anniversary. To celebrate, Ontario Reign is hosting a game on Star Wars night, Saturday, March 29th. Seats will be \$25 per person and include soda and a hot dog. Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled evening!

Looking forward to hearing from you and wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Shamonda



# FEBRUARY



*On February 10th, we hosted our first Galentine's Day Membership Drive. It was more than just an opportunity to welcome new members, it was a celebration of sisterhood and empowerment. Attendees enjoyed engaging games and activities while 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 this great organization and 17 ladies joined NARBW SoCal that day!!!*



# March

NARBW  
SoCal  
Charities



## Generous Hearts & Helpful Hands towards Those in Need or Suffering



### 1st Charity of the Year

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.





# WARRIORS FOR CHILDREN CASINO NIGHT



Sandy being serenaded by the King!



Winners of the  
gift basket





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.



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## DON'T HIT PLAY

For our 4th Anniversary, SoCal Chapter did a TikTok Video "Of Course We're From California" that was a big hit.

Any ideas for a 5th year anniversary video.? Any challenges?

WE ACCEPT.

To view the video, please visit our webpage

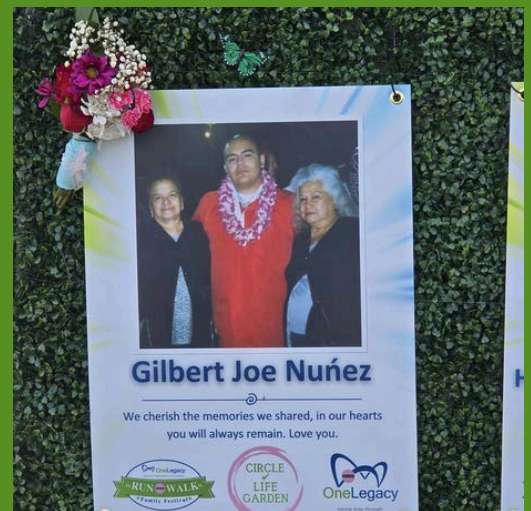
[www.socalnarbw.org](http://www.socalnarbw.org)

**TO THE TIK TOK  
WE DON'T STOP**





# April



On April 27th, the SoCal NARBW team took a heartfelt walk to honor Gilbert Nunez, Jr., brother and son of Abby Canales and Roxann Nunez.

With the delightful assistance of our furry friends, we proudly raised \$760!

[www.socalnarbw.org](http://www.socalnarbw.org)



# 2024 CONVENTION OMAHA



## MAY 2024

The 80th National Convention was hosted by the Omaha Chapter. The guest speakers during the meetings were quite informative. The first was night hospitality night, followed by Fun night in which the theme was Board Games, and boy, did these girls come to play. The last night was our banquet in which everyone came dressed to the nines.

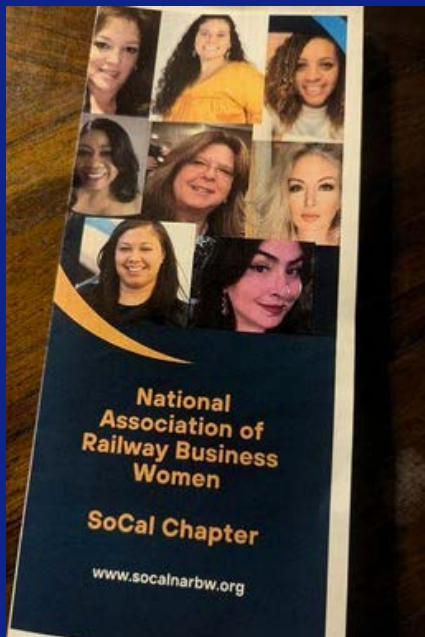




### We Remember

In commemoration of the sacrifices made on 9/11, NARBW SoCal extended our gratitude to the officers we collaborate with daily by treating them to sandwiches.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to the LA County Sheriffs, LA Police Department, and San Bernardino Sheriffs for their unwavering dedication in safeguarding LA Metro's and Metrolink's staff and passengers. Your service and commitment are deeply appreciated.



### **Chapter Brochure**

On September 17th, we premiered our chapter's very own brochure!!!



### **SoCal NARBW is Red Out for Safety**

In the railroad industry, we all understand the paramount importance of safety. On September 27th, NARBW SoCal demonstrated our commitment to rail safety education by wearing red. Together, we continue to prioritize safety and promote awareness within our community.



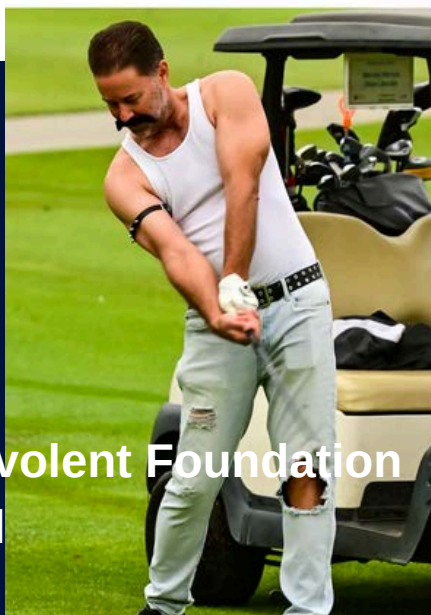


## Hitting the Links Golf Tournament Bringing Back the 80's

**September**

**We didn't do much**

**\$19,500 Raised**  
**\$10,000 to Cal Fire Benevolent Foundation**  
**\$9,500 To NARBW SoCal**



Thanks to the amazing efforts of our sponsors, volunteers, and golfers, this year's golf tournament was a smashing success!

The 80s theme was a big hit with everyone. Next year, our participants have requested a Western theme. Someone even suggested a Christmas twist. So, a Western Christmas theme it is!

A huge shoutout to Jennifer Miller & Shamonda Jones for their incredible work in planning this event.

We're thrilled to announce that next year's tournament will be in support of an animal rescue! 🐾🐶



You can get more information on  
the charity at  
[www.calfire.foundation.org](http://www.calfire.foundation.org)



# ILYSSA DECASPERIS

*(In Loving Memory of)*



Ilyssa was a dedicated member of the SoCal Chapter for three years, during which she was honored as Woman of the Year in both 2021 and 2022.

Known for her heart of gold and unwavering belief in NARBW, Ilyssa was always full of innovative ideas. Recently, she generously donated \$1,000 towards the golf tournament, driven by her desire to see it succeed. She was well-known for her philanthropic spirit and memorable Jewish anecdotes.

Tragically, on September 20th, Ilyssa lost her battle to heart disease. In her memory, a moment of silence was observed at the golf tournament.

Ilyssa was a fervent advocate for women's heart health awareness, passionately speaking on the topic at NARBW's 2023 convention. Sadly, just three weeks after losing Ilyssa, another cherished NARBW member, Jay Nelson of the Omaha Chapter, succumbed to the same terrible disease.

On October 22nd, together with Ilyssa's husband, son, and the LA Metro Family, NARBW SoCal participated in the American Heart Association LA Heart Walk in honor of both Ilyssa and Jay, raising an impressive \$7,157.11 in under two weeks.

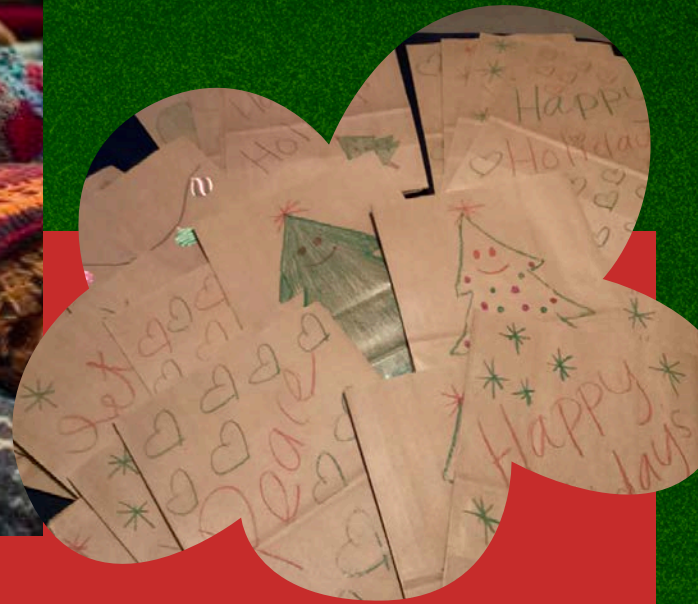
**Ilyssa's heart beats on through NARBW SoCal  
May You Rest In Paradise**





# Holiday vibes!

**NARBW SoCal continued their generous nature throughout the holiday season**



We donated 10 blankets and 30 decorated paper bags to the Meals on Wheels OC for homebound seniors..

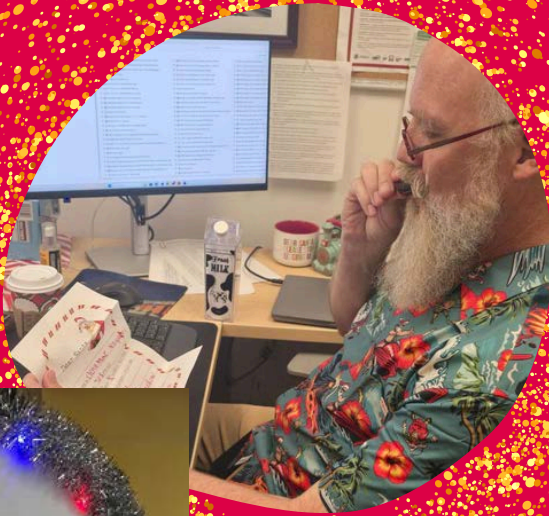


Socal NARBW had their year end event at the Piano Piano bar.  
(What happens at the Piano Bar... stays in the Piano Bar!)





# The best gifts ever!



At the Metrolink Holiday Express Event, NARBW SoCal delighted 160 children by helping them write letters to Santa. Those precious letters were then delivered to Santa himself (Eric Smith) to read while enjoying his milk and cookies.

We continued our holiday spirit as Santa's elves by donating 68 toys and wrapping gifts for Warrior for Children. 🎄👶🧸

Learn more about  
Warrior for Children at  
[warriorforchildren.org](http://warriorforchildren.org)





## NARBW SoCal Galentine's Day Membership Drive

This year, our membership drive will be held at LA Metro. Games, prizes, and new friendships.

### March 29 - It's our 5th Anniversary

#### May the Force Be With You

To celebrate NARBW SoCal's 5th anniversary, we've teamed up with the Ontario Reign for a thrilling hockey game on Saturday, March 29th.

Tickets are \$25 per person, which includes parking, lower-level seating, a hot dog, and a soda.

Here's a fun twist: It's also Star Wars night at the Ontario Reign!

So bring the family and join us in celebrating this milestone achievement.

Keep an eye on your inbox for an email with details on January 7th.



Let's celebrate the arrival of spring with an exciting Easter Egg Hunt! This event promises fun for both kids and adults. Join us for a day filled with laughter, adventure, and colorful eggs waiting to be discovered.

Don't miss out on the festive fun for everyone!

## Annual National Convention May 15th - 17th

This ain't Texas (woo), ain't no hold'em (hey)

Join us for an unforgettable gathering with your sisters from Jacksonville, Omaha, Chicago, and beyond! 📍 Houston is calling, and you won't want to miss it—packed with loads of learning opportunities, networking, and tons of fun. 🌟 Let's make some amazing memories together! Get ready, Houston, here we come! 🎉🎊

For More Information:

NARBW | Convention