

SOCAL NARBW RIGHT OF WAY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to a wonderful start to our summer. It's a time to enjoy the sunny weather and take a break or vacation. I hope you all had a great Independence Day—the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. I am grateful for my independence and hope you are, too.

In this special issue, our main focus is on the great work of our chapter members producing the 79th Annual NARBW Convention. A huge thanks goes to our National Chair and Southern California chapter member Trischelle Baysden! With her leadership and diligence, we hosted a successful convention in beautiful San Diego, California!

Our work toward creating a great experience for NARBW members is at the core of who we are as an organization. At SoCal NARBW, we work to foster relationships, charitable giving, and professional growth with well-being at the forefront of our efforts. Our programs and activities are designed to be a catalyst to empower our members to reach their goals and achieve their full potential. Read on to learn more about our positive impact and how to join us in bringing about positive change!

Show up to go up!

Warm regards,

LAURENE LOPEZ, PRESIDENT
SOCAL NARBW



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79th Annual NARBW Convention

California Dreamin'!

It was truly a beach party at the 79th Annual NARBW Convention at the Island Palms Hotel and Marina in San Diego, Calif. Held May 19 and 20, more than 54 women, including some spouses, attended the annual gathering. Six attendees from the Southern California Chapter included: **Trischelle Baysden, Ilyssa DeCasperis, Shamonda Jones, Mary Toutouchi, Roya Toutouchi, and Victoria Seitz.**

The Pre-tour event on May 18 was a delightful cruise around San Diego Bay. While looking at the sites that included Hotel Coronado and the Naval base, members enjoyed a delicious brunch. Champagne flowed and many members got the opportunity to try The Hazel, a special drink that was developed just for this NARBW convention!

Although the formal opening was not until May 19, Thursday's hospitality reception at the pool couldn't have been more fun with hula dancers teaching many of the NARBW ladies the moves! **Practice, practice, practice!** 🍹



A bevy of fun activities that took advantage of the beauty of the region kicked off the convention for NARBW members!



NARBW Woman of the Year!

On May 19, NARBW National President Ida Carmouche opened the meeting, followed by the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance directed by the San Diego Imperial Council. Cynthis Chandler, Omaha Chapter and Chairwoman of Emeritus Council, presented the Chapter Women of the Year nominees. The nominees were Gwen Kropff (Roanoke), Kathryn Bolich (Philadelphia), Cookie Grant (Houston), Richalyn Williams (Jacksonville), Anne Menichetti (Omaha), Melanie McKim (Central Florida), Ilyssa DeCasperis (Southern California), and CleLeatha Shaw (Chicago).



Ida Carmouche, NARBW National President, greeted attendees.

Congratulations to Melanie McKim who was named NARBW Woman of the Year. She received a special charm and necklace at the President's Brunch.

The evening included the Candidates' Reception followed by a fun night themed "Beach Party!"



SoCal NARBW Woman of the Year!



Metrolink Chief People Officer Ilyssa DeCasperis (center) was named the SoCal NARBW "Woman of the Year."

A Night of Service & Fun!



It was truly a fun night with costume contests, dancing and lots of games with Omaha winning the costume contest for dressing in their favorite beach attire.



The presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was directed by the San Diego Imperial Council that started the opening ceremony.

In Memoriam

On May 20, a Memorial Service was held to honor those members who left us this past year. Nancy Von Dolteren, Publications Chair, provided the invocation, and the Memorial Roll Call was provided by Sandy Hall (Jacksonville), Renee Noble (Pittsburg), and Linda Taylor (Roanoke).

Yay New NARBW Officers!

NARBW had three open positions: 2nd VP, 3rd VP and National Secretary. During the May 19 reception, Melanie McKim and the attendees asked all the candidates questions. The candidates were Yolanda Barbosa (Chicago), Trischelle Baysden (Southern California), and Carol Gentilini (Roanoke).

The newly elected officers—installed by Laura Gutteridge Anos, past National President (Jacksonville)—included:

- Carol Gentilini, Secretary
- Trischelle Baysden, 3rd Vice President
Chairwoman of Membership, and
- Yolanda Barbosa, 2nd Vice President,
Chairwoman of Chapters

Congratulations to all!



**National: 2nd VP, Yolanda Barbosa (R),
3rd VP, Trischelle Baysden (C),
Secretary Carol Gentilini (L).**

SoCal NARBW's Trischelle Baysden Named NARBW's 3rd VP



**Trischelle Baysden is NARBW's newly
elected 3rd VP.**

A special congrats goes to So Cal NARBW's own Trischelle Baysden who was elected 3rd Vice President at the 79th Annual NARBW Convention.

As the 3VP, Trischelle's responsibilities include:

1. Responsible for Members at Large and keeping the members informed during each business year.
2. In charge of the memorial service at the annual convention.
3. Review of the Membership Roster with the National Treasurer.
4. Arrange and host NARBW National Meet & Greets as planned throughout the year.
5. Promote the establishment of new chapters.
6. Assist chapters to increase membership by creating a greater interest in the National Association's history, goals and purposes.

**I am looking forward to the next two years
of implementation.**

—Trischelle Baysden, 3rd VP

Special Speakers, More Recognition & Fundraising



At the Membership Luncheon, new members and attendees including our own Mary Toutouchi and her sister Roya Toutouchi were introduced.

Additionally, we heard from Darren Kettle, CEO of Metrolink who spoke about ridership trends for rail.

During the afternoon general session, we listened to speakers Otis Cliatt, President of Pacific Harbor Line, and Brandi Childress, Consultant with Kimley-Horn. After the speakers, Good Samaritans were presented and applauded for their donation of time. Good Samaritans are chapter members who have donated 300 or more hours in community service.

Special Guest Darren Kettle, CEO of Metrolink, spoke about ridership trends (above). Brandi Childress, a consultant with Kimley-Horn, also addressed the guests (below).



During times throughout the convention, chapters raised money for their club by selling items and raffle tickets for prizes at Marketplace. Lots of items were sold such as NARBW jewelry, monogrammed kitchen towels, and cookies. Our Southern California Chapter raffled a California Dreamin' Beach Party basket. The winners of the prizes were announced at the last business meeting/general session. 🎉



Final Banquet & Goodbyes

The final banquet celebrated NARBW scholarship recipients with the theme of Old Hollywood. There were a total of eight scholarship recipients from across the country. The room was decorated with the Hollywood sign, Oscar statues and of course, the red carpet. As we celebrated the recipients, the night was filled with dancing to great music and delicious food!

On Sunday we all said our good-byes and looked forward to getting together again in 2024 in Omaha!

NARBW's mission is to stimulate and foster cooperation, interest and a better understanding within the railroad industry and its affiliates,

create good public relations and undertake charitable, benevolent, and social welfare projects on behalf of the industry. As a member you are part of something that provides you with a sense of camaraderie, being part of a group of women who share a common bond, being part of an association that contributes to the community and furthers the educational, social, and professional interests of its members. To that degree, the 79th Annual NARBW Convention in San Diego brought it all together.

Finally, hats off to Trischelle Baysden and the convention committee for organizing a fantastic conference! 🌞



During the convention, a monetary gift was presented to the charity of choice, Animal Pad, a San Diego based non-profit, all breed dog rescue that focuses on saving dogs from high kill shelters and the streets of Mexico. 🐾

Speaker's Bureau

SEPTEMBER



September 16

Growing Purpose into Infectious Passion
– Railroading in Owens Valley

Presented by Dr. Carola Gregorich
Volunteer of Carson & Colorado Railway
(Independence, CA) & Laws Railroad
Museum and Historical Site (Bishop, CA)

NOVEMBER



November 18, 2023

Powerful Presenter- Three Techniques
to Knock Your Presentations Out of the
Park

Presented by Barry Mohn
Corporate Trainer in Communications

Join Us
via
Zoom!



On May 24, chapter member Ilyssa De Casperis and Metrolink's Chief People Officer provided Pro Tips on how someone prepares themselves for future promotions. There were some key takeaways on being a success at your interview and beyond. To get the recording email

southerncalifornia@narbw.org

new!

Above & Beyond

A new column celebrating women in rail who have exceeded expectations!

The Courageous Tami Crippin: Female Excellence in Action

Just another day on the train. At first glance, Tami Crippin appears as an unassuming train conductor. Her small frame and contagious smile are a welcome, but usual, sight on Amtrak train number ML 704. Despite her friendly demeanor, it's in Tami's intangible, yet ever-present dedication to safety and public service that we discover her true superpowers.

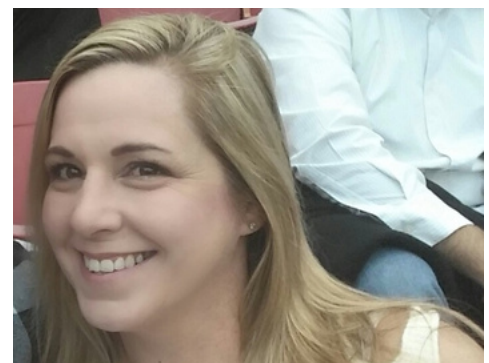
On a recent trip, Tami encountered two fare evaders who locked themselves in the bathroom. Tami promptly enlisted assistance from an off-duty LAPD officer who happened to be on board. She was able to resolve the issue, while never compromising her cool, professional, yet friendly demeanor, resulting in a peaceful resolution. Most of the train riders were never aware of the situation.

Later, on that same train ride, she bravely handled another incident when a man attempted to "skitch" on the back of the train as it departed from the station. With the LAPD officer's help, she successfully ensured both the individual's safe removal and timely departure.

Tami's commitment to safety on the railways extends beyond her job description and exemplifies the importance of women in public transportation.

Her actions illustrate the value of supportive relationships conductors can foster with train riders resulting in a safer environment for all passengers.

In the face of everyday challenges, Tami remains a shining example of female excellence in the traditionally male-dominated rail industry. Her unwavering dedication leaves a positive impact on passengers' experiences, highlighting the crucial role of public transport staff in ensuring smooth and secure travel.



Farewell with Gratitude & Welcome

VP Changing of Guards: Goodbye Ariel, Congrats Shamonda

We are excited to announce the appointment of Shamonda Jones as SoCal NARBW's Vice President replacing Ariel Carpenter.

Due to Ariel being out of the country the month our last monthly meeting was taking place, we were able to bid her farewell at our last board meeting prior to her departure. Ariel brought a strength of strategic thinking to assist us in the development of our chapter and superior writing and interviewing skills creating a very professional look and feel for our newsletter.

The bonus is she will stay on creating our newsletter for us so we aren't losing her all together.



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**I am excited to work
with a great team
that will continue to
build the SoCal
Chapter of NARBW.
—Shamonda Jones,
VP, SCNARBW**

Congratulations to Shamonda, SoCal NARBW's new Vice President!

Shamonda started with NARBW in 2018 with the Chicago chapter. In 2020, she moved to Southern California to accept a position with Metrolink as a Senior Manager of Dispatching. She later joined the Southern California Chapter that same year as the Vice President and Chair of the Sunshine Committee.



During SoCal NARBW's April Board Meeting, we said goodbye to Ariel Carpenter and thanked her for serving as VP. We appreciate the strategic counsel she imparted to the organization during her tenure.

She has now returned to the Vice President role and is the Ways and Means committee chair. As Vice President her role is to stay informed of all the committee activities, act in the absence of the President, and serve in her capacity when she cannot serve. As the Ways and Means Committee chair, she manages fundraising efforts for the general fund and charities.

Along with being a Dog Mom, with her cheery & optimistic personality, she enjoys event planning of various types, golf tournaments, weddings, and parties. Shamonda is also a member of Metrolink's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) program and is certified as a CPR/AED Instructor.

Support the SoCal NARBW **Mission**



**DID YOU KNOW IT'S EASY TO SUPPORT THE MISSION
OF THE SOCAL NARBW RIGHT FROM YOUR DESK!?**

AMAZON



SoCal NARBW now has an affiliate relationship with Amazon! Simply click the Amazon link on the front page of our website and start shopping. You get all the same pricing and offers from Amazon, and we receive a percentage of the sale to support our organization.

It's that easy! Start at <https://www.socalnarbw.org/> and click on the green Amazon box which links you to shop on Amazon!



GIFT CARDS

Need a gift card? When you buy through our link, you pay the same price and this company sends us a percentage of the sale to support SoCal NARBW.

Just follow these steps

1. Go to <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll>
2. "Join an Existing Program" and enter code: XQJ8UY9L7IIW
3. Create your account and start shopping! Easy, peasy!