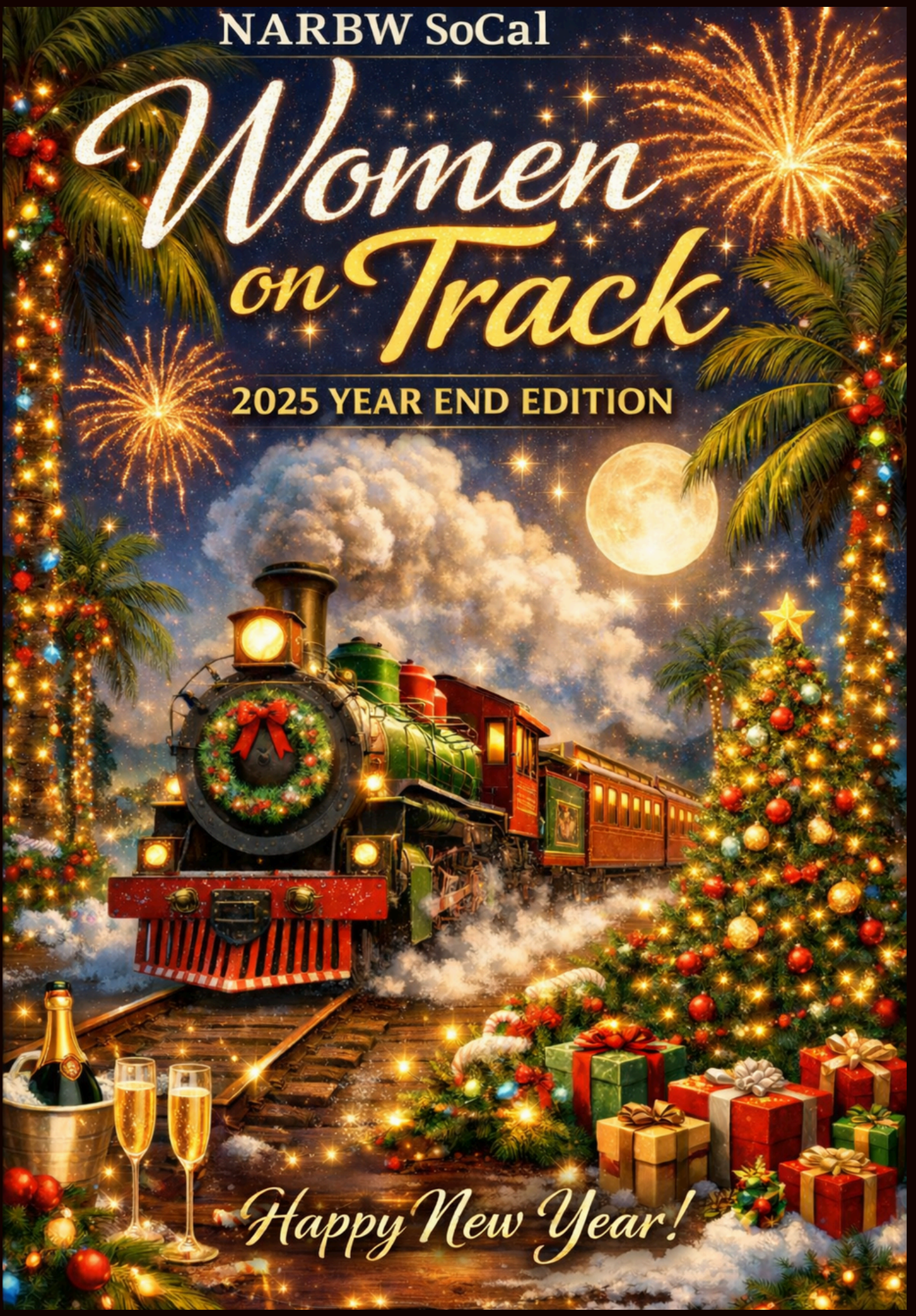


NARBW SoCal

Women on Track

2025 YEAR END EDITION



Happy New Year!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

SHAMONDA JONES



Dear Sisters,

Can you believe 2026 is already knocking on the door? As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we accomplished together. This past year was nothing short of extraordinary:

- Our very own Sandy Martinez was honored as the NARBW National Woman of the Year
- We celebrated our 5th Anniversary in style at the Ontario Reign Game
- We awarded the 1st Ilyssa DeCasperis Scholarship, opening doors for future leaders
- Our generosity shone brightly - we walked to support abused women and the American Heart Association, collected 732 Beanie Babies for our Soldiers, and gathered 524 Christmas Gifts for traumatized Children.

With hearts this big, perhaps we should rename ourselves NARBW Hearts, because that's exactly what we are—a chapter overflowing with compassion, dedication, and love.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting future planned, but none of it will be possible without you. Your energy, kindness, and commitment are the heartbeat of this chapter.

Please enjoy this newsletter, and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 17th at 10:00 a.m. Let's step into 2026 together with the same spirit that made 2025 unforgettable.

With gratitude and excitement, Shamonda

Meet Your Board



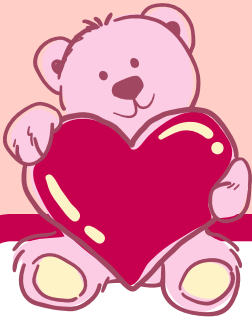
Sandra Martinez
Vice President



Jennifer Miller
Secretary



Roxan Nunez
Treasurer



January & February

CALIFORNIA FIRES

For the month of January, the California Fires had a profound impact on our Southern California area, causing widespread devastation and displacing thousands of residents, including some of our sisters. NARBW SoCal sold popcorn and donated gift cards to help those that were impacted.



UNION STATION HOMELESS SERVICES

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, we, the members of the NARBW SoCal Chapter, are honored to contribute these hygiene kits. We hope this small gesture brings comfort and warmth to those who receive them.

Valentine's Day is a time to show love and kindness to one another, and we hope these hygiene kits serve as a reminder that even those experiencing homelessness are valued and cherished members of our community.

Together, we can create a world filled with compassion and support.

With heartfelt wishes.

NARBW SoCal



FOUNDER'S DAY

In honor of NARBW's Founder's Day, the SoCal Chapter celebrated our legacy with activities that reflected our values of compassion, unity, and community support. We launched a special social media frame for sisters to showcase their pride throughout February, and in the spirit of Valentine's Day, assembled and donated 50 hygiene kits to Union Station Homeless Services—each accompanied by a heartfelt note of love and kindness.

On Founder's Day itself, members gathered to share cake and reflect on the incredible impact NARBW has made in our community. The celebration was a joyful reminder of our commitment to service, camaraderie, and sisterhood. Here's to many more years of making a difference together!



MARCH & APRIL

Happy Anniversary

NARBW SoCal proudly marked its 5th anniversary on March 28, 2025! To celebrate this milestone, each member received a thoughtful collection of gifts, reminding us of the impact we make every day.

The following day, we celebrated at the Ontario Reign Hockey Game, cheering them onto victory! Cheers to five incredible years and the many more ahead!



Webinar

On March 8, 2025, the NARBW SoCal Chapter hosted an energizing webinar that inspired sister chapters with fresh ideas. The session focused on empowering members through the transformative tools of Canva and Microsoft Pilot.

Ilyssa DeCasperis Memorial Scholarship

Penelope Montes, recipient of the NARBW SoCal 2025 Ilyssa DeCasperis Memorial Scholarship, is a Cal Poly Pomona student majoring in Landscape Architecture with a minor in Real Estate. Balancing school, work, and leadership roles, she is dedicated to creating sustainable, welcoming spaces and advocating for equity in her field. Congratulations to Penelope, her proud mom Denise Perez, and Tevin Perez, who received Honorable Mention.

MAY

Shelter's Right Hand

On May 2nd, NARBW SoCal members and their families laced up their sneakers and braved the rain to take part in The Shelter's Right Hand 5K Walk Against Domestic Violence.

Despite the gloomy weather, our spirits were high as we joined the community to raise awareness and show support for survivors. With five dedicated walkers representing our chapter, we proudly stood in solidarity, proving that resilience and hope shine even through the storm.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our members and families who showed up, stepped up, and stood up for this important cause. Your commitment reflects the strength of our chapter and the power of unity. Together, we are making a difference—one step at a time.



Beanie Babies

In preparation for the upcoming NARBW convention in Houston, members proudly demonstrated their ongoing support for our military troops through Operation Gratitude. The chapter collected an incredible 732 Beanie Babies, offering comfort to service members stationed far from home and to children in those communities. These small but meaningful tokens reflect the compassion and unity that define NARBW.

Alongside the donations, members also wrote 175 handwritten notes, each filled with gratitude and encouragement for those bravely serving our country. Together, these gestures serve as a powerful reminder that our troops are never forgotten. This inspiring effort highlights NARBW's commitment to advocacy, outreach, and kindness, showing the true impact of community and compassion.

2025 CONVENTION

Highlights

The National Convention launched May 15 in Houston with a Lone Star-style kickoff: a double-decker bus tour of downtown's bold murals, followed by an "Under the Sea" adventure at the Aquarium. Friday and Saturday brought powerhouse speakers—Brian McGavock of Union Pacific spotlighted Houston's vast rail network and safety innovations, Coleman Ryan of KGriff Investigations warned of cyber threats like "Wi-Fi jacking," and Sonja Sutton of World Financial Services shared her Four Cornerstones of Financial Independence.

Beyond business, members enjoyed plenty of Texas-sized fun. A taco-filled Meet & Greet set the tone, Friday's "Heart of Texas" night featured cowboy flair and brisket, and Saturday's banquet closed with heartfelt goodbyes and nonstop dancing. From murals to mentorship, cybersecurity to sisterhood, Houston delivered big ideas, big energy, and unforgettable memories.



2025 WOY

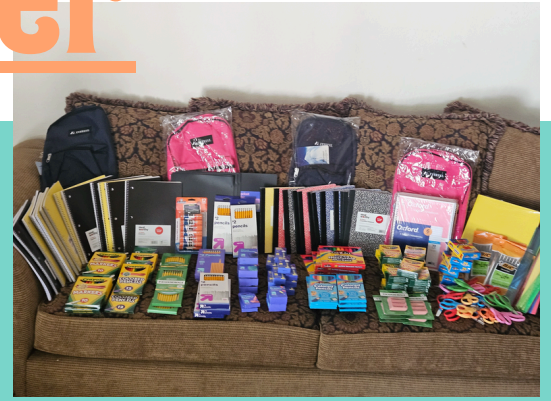
Sandra Martinez, honored as the 2025 NARBW National Woman of the Year, embodies compassion, resilience, and leadership. With 27 years at Metrolink and countless volunteer efforts—from raising funds for charities to supporting troops and children—she continues to inspire through her dedication to service and community. Sandy's generosity and spirit make this recognition truly well deserved.



September

Back 2 School

In September, NARBW SoCal partnered with Warriors for Children to support kids facing trauma as they returned to school. Thanks to our members' generosity, four children received new wardrobes, backpacks, and comfort items to start the year with confidence and care. Our chapter also donated over 100 school supplies, ensuring even more students have the tools to succeed. We're proud of our sisters for uplifting the community and making a lasting impact.



American Heart Walk

On September 20, our chapter proudly joined the American Heart Walk in memory of our beloved sister, Ilyssa DeCasperis. With unity and purpose, we raised nearly \$700 to support heart health awareness—a cause close to Ilyssa's legacy.

Her spirit continues to inspire us to walk boldly, love deeply, and support one another. Representing our chapter with pride and joy were Shamonda Jones, Sandra Martinez, and our ever-cheerful mascot Honey. Thank you to all who supported this meaningful journey.



Celebrating Tradition

On September 27, our chapter celebrated a beautiful milestone—Gitzel's quinceañera, daughter of our sister Ana Martinez. The evening sparkled with joy and elegance as Gitzel shone like a princess. Rooted in Latin American tradition, a quinceañera honors family, faith, and community while marking the transition to adulthood. It was a night filled with love, heritage, and sisterhood.



DECEMBER



The Giving Tree

This Holiday season, the NARBW SoCal Chapter was pleased to support the nonprofit organization “Warrior for Children” with their “Gift the Joy” campaign. Warrior for Children’s purpose is to assist children who are navigating trauma. They believe each child deserves an opportunity to thrive, and they help make this happen by providing tangible resources, trauma-informed education, and small group, trauma-informed, relational experiences. During the Christmas season, the organization collects personalized wish lists for over 3,000 children and provides them with the wrapped Christmas gifts they’ve requested.

SoCal NARBW chapter members decided to jump on the giving train and collect toys to donate to the cause. They began by setting up a small tree with a few tags, aiming to make the wishes of 20 children come true. However, the generosity of their members and coworkers at the Southern California Railroad Authority turned out to be well beyond their expectations. The SoCal Chapter had to put up a larger tree and request more wish tags to meet the demands of the generous, train-sized heart of their railroad family. Everyone understood the assignment; they weren’t just picking a wish tag off a tree; they were making a child’s holiday wish come true.

From items like bikes and kitchen sets to must-have toys like Legos, Barbies, and action figures, the incredible generosity of the one railroad family fulfilled every child’s Christmas wish list! The tree grew, and the toys started piling up. By the end of the drive, the chapter had collected 524 toys, making the wishes of at least 50 children come true this holiday season. Fifty-seven rolls of wrapping paper, plus bags and ribbon, were also donated. It took 4 carloads to transport the donations to the Warrior for Children headquarters in Upland, California.

The holiday spirit in NARBW’s SoCal hearts is as bright as their sunny winter days!



COMING IN 2026

GALENTINE'S DAY DRIVE

💖 This February, NARBW SoCal is spreading the love with a Galentine's Membership Drive! Celebrate sisterhood by inviting new members to join our vibrant community, and you could win special prizes for recruiting the most. It's the perfect way to grow our circle of strong, inspiring women while sharing the joy of connection, support, and empowerment.

2026 Meeting Schedule

January 17
February 13
March 13
April 10
June 12
July 10
September 11
October 9
November 13

CAREER WORK SHOP

This spring, NARBW SoCal will host a Career Workshop (Spring 2026) to help sisters strengthen resumes and sharpen interview skills. The workshop will provide practical tools and guidance to support career growth and confidence in every stage of the journey.

TRICK OR TEE

Get ready to tee off with a spooky twist! This October, our NARBW SoCal sisters will be hosting a Halloween-themed golf tournament that's sure to be a hole-in-fun. Picture pumpkins on the putting green, costumes on the course, and plenty of treats along the way. It's the perfect chance to show off your swing, your spirit, and maybe even your best witch's hat!

We're also looking for enthusiastic committee members to help make this event a success. If you'd like to join the planning fun, please contact Jen Miller at 518.610.4418. Together, we'll make this spooktacular celebration one to remember!

Convention & Committees



Southern California

2027 Convention!!!!

(Can You Guess The Theme)

Big news, sisters—NARBW SoCal is hosting the 2027 National Convention! Mark your calendars for May 12–15, 2027 in sunny Ontario, California, where we'll gather for inspiration, connection, and plenty of fun.

We're calling on all creative minds to help make this convention unforgettable! Whether you've got ideas for decorating, games, tours, or other festive touches, we'd love for you to join the planning committee. Please reach out to Shamonda Jones at 213.494.8513 to share your talents and be part of the magic. Together, we'll make Ontario sparkle with sisterhood and celebration!



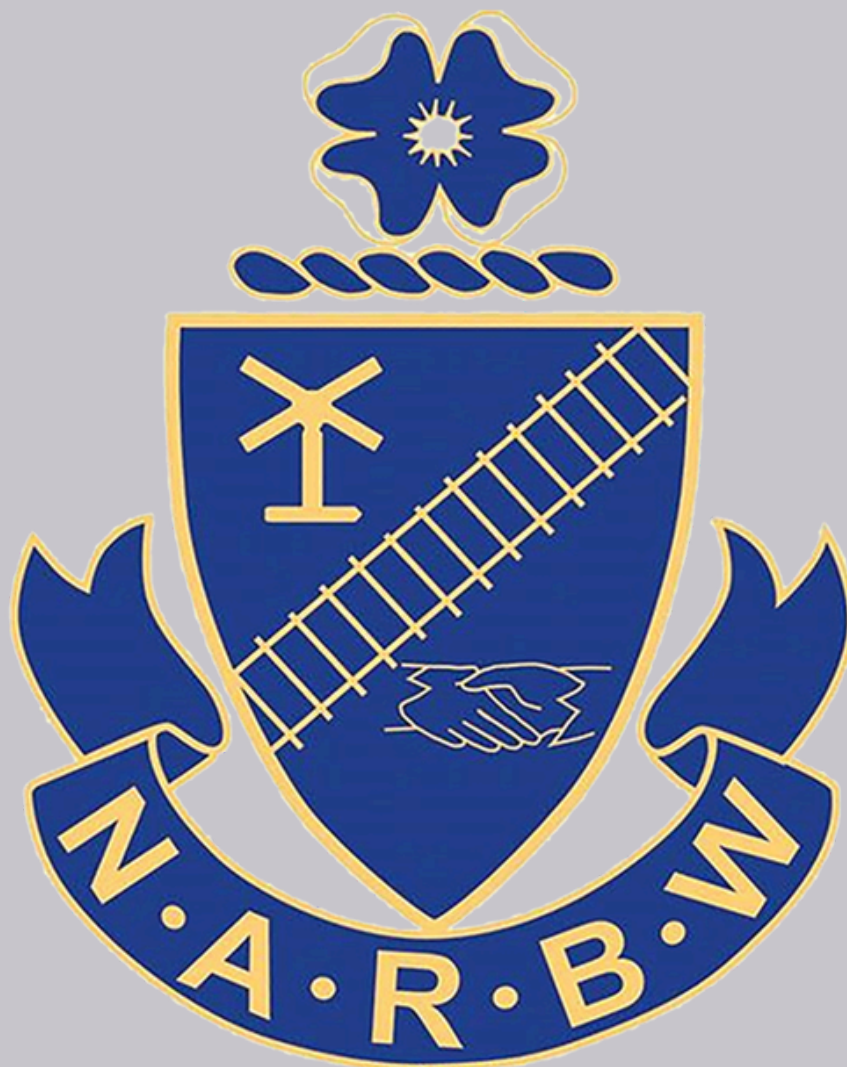
Join a Committee!

Membership
Sunshine
Publicity
Ways & Means
Golf Tournament
Convention

**The 2026 NARBW
Convention is in
Roanoke, VA
Apr. 30-May2**

**Go to
[https://www.narbw.org
/convention](https://www.narbw.org/convention)**

for more details



Southern California



Women of the West