

on the free exchange of information with horror. They prefer to filter and interpret the facts for us by providing only THEIR opinions.

Threats to free speech and our other freedoms aren't new. We've had them before and we've defeated them. Let's do it again. Write your representatives. Let the FCC know how you feel. Talk to your friends and neighbors. It's called People Power!

Like I said, I was wrong in the '80's, but I think I'm right on this one. Hind sight tends to be 20/20.

Terri Marinucci New Operations Director

In July, Terri Marinucci became NARTE's operations director, replacing Laura Holmberg.

Laura, who has been with NARTE for over 10 years, left the position upon the arrival of her baby boy, Cazimir John Holmberg. She will continue to be on NARTE's staff as a part-time accountant.



Before accepting this position, Terri held the position of Exam Program Coordinator for NARTE. Prior to joining NARTE's staff, she worked as the licensing department coordinator and office manager for The Sanger Organization which was sold to Dearborn Financial. In addition to running the Insurance Pre-Licensing Department, she managed staff, including the

Continuing Education Department and the Production Department.

Congratulations Laura, and welcome aboard Terri!

What is the Value of Certification?

By Russell V. Carstensen, PE, NCE
NARTE Executive Director

A while back a person asked me what the value of certification was. He was trying to determine if his

company should continue to subsidize certification and renewal for their employees. He actually posed two questions – what is the value of certification and is there more to renewal than just a monetary commitment? The following is the essence of my response.

Value to Self and Employer

I perceive the first question to be a request for a statement as to the value of NARTE certification. First, let me state that NARTE is a nonprofit professional association. NARTE certification programs are accredited by the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC). ICAC certification surveillance requirements will be discussed later in this note.

To be NARTE-certified, individuals must have proven expertise that is verified by personal references. Our certified members have years of field experience (the number of years vary, depending on the field of certification) and have met stringent requirements for education and training, work experience, supervisory and peer endorsements and examination. NARTE certification is truly an objective credential confirming competence in the individual applicant's field. NARTE certification assures a measurable level of expertise and competence. The credibility of NARTE certification has prompted many corporations as well as parts of the U.S. military to mandate or prefer NARTE certification as a prerequisite to employment.

NARTE certification enhances the public image of the company and its technical personnel. NARTE certification offers a reasonable assurance of character and is evidence of willingness to abide by NARTE's honorable and ethical code of conduct. NARTE certification provides a substantial sense of achievement and confidence among employees.

The rigorous NARTE certification criteria prove to employers that certified individuals have the training, experience, discipline and the initiative to get the job done right. Levels of NARTE certification, when used as a benchmark for advancement, serve as a barometer for assessing training requirements and personnel evaluation. At a recent technical symposium I had three individuals report to me that their NARTE certification was the single element that confirmed their selection for their current position.