

We had steady traffic at our booth giving us a chance to talk with old friends and to meet new people interested in NARTE certification. The workshop on NARTE examination was attended by about 40 people and 26 signed up for the exam. Of the 26 who sat for the examination, 9 passed both parts and 11 additional passed one part.

NARTE Attends IEEE Product Safety Symposium

The IEEE Product Safety Engineering Society held its Second Symposium on Product Safety Engineering in the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg on October 3-4. NARTE participated with a workshop on certification. The workshop included a discussion of the examination question structure, strategies for passing the examination, a trial examination and review of the correct answers. Two applicants sat for the examination at the end of the symposium.

NARTE Welcomes Baby Cazimir

Laura Holmberg (Couple), our long-term operations director, gave birth to a beautiful baby boy in July. She and her husband, Joe, named him Cazimir. He is thriving! With his arrival Laura took time off to be mother. She has since returned part-time to do accounting for NARTE. It is a good deal for us. We still have access to her expertise and she gets a periodic break from mothering.

Converting Laura to part-time led to other staff adjustments. NARTE Staff has transitioned into new positions with Terri Marinucci moving into the Operations Director slot (see page 5), Melissa Bregani as Exam Coordinator, and the addition of Amanda McBride as Administrative Coordinator.



I Was Wrong!

*by John Holmes
NCE (Retired)*

Back in 1987, when NARTE News was still on old-fashioned paper, I wrote an article about the demise of the Fairness Doctrine. When the FCC repealed the rule I felt the move was detrimental, espe-

cially in rural areas where there wasn't an abundance of media sources to discuss controversial issues.

From 1949 to 1987 there was a government rule that was designed to create fair and balanced broadcasting by compelling radio and TV stations to air both sides of issues. It was such a great idea. The trouble was, as I look back now, it had just the opposite effect of what the term "fairness" implies. The stations simply avoided broadcasting anything controversial.

When the FCC dumped the "doctrine," all sorts of talk radio took off, both locally and nationally. Some of those who jumped on the bandwagon were: Rush Limbaugh, G. Gordon Liddy, Sean Hannity and many other lesser known individuals. This provided the public with a variety of alternative thoughts on local and national issues other than those dispensed by the big three networks.

Next came cable TV, CNN's 24-hour news coverage and a major competitor to the "big three" called Fox News. That added other perspectives to the national news scene. This in turn generated more demand for alternative commentators on other networks plus more cable channels.

When I wrote that original article, never in my wildest imagination could I have envisioned receiving 180 channels of programming from a satellite dish. You see, our ranch is in the middle of nowhere, far from any cable TV. Satellite TV opened up even the most remote areas to what everybody else in the country can watch. In fact, I can even watch it in my motorhome while driving!

The impact from cable and satellite TV on the dissemination of ideas was nothing compared to the Internet and the current explosion of "blogs" (individual web journals). This means every Tom, Dick and Harry can log on to pontificate, along with political pundits, about everything from soup to nuts.

Now that we've reached what seems like the pinnacle of information availability, with all manner of ideas spread out on the table, there are groups calling for the revival of the Fairness Doctrine. In fact, two of our FCC commissioners have come out in favor of a modern version of the old "doctrine". Some in Congress are beginning to look at this too. That's scary!

You see there are those that don't want all of those opinions expressed on the airwaves. The bureaucrats have lost "control" of what's broadcast to those of us who they feel may not be able to sort through all of the facts for ourselves. There are those who look

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.