



Headquarters Highlights

WINTER 2007

by Brian F. Lawrence, Executive Director

Board of Directors Meeting

This year's second board of directors meeting was held at NARTE Headquarters on Saturday, October 7th. Three of our members were not able to be present, **Gary Gorr**, **Glen Watkins** and **John Christensen**. However, with all other directors being present, a quorum was established and business was able to be conducted.

Two names were put forward for consideration as new members of the board; **Russ Carstensen** our recently retired executive director, and **Mike Violette** the president of Washington Laboratories Ltd., a testing and engineering firm. Both were elected and we look forward to their active participation in the strategic guidance of NARTE in the future.

The board also endorsed a proposal to pursue a partnership agreement with the IEEE Communications Society. In September, the IEEE board of directors had approved a plan that will provide US \$200,000 to develop and assess the value of a new certification program for technical professionals in communications.

The Certificate of Communications Expertise was proposed by the IEEE Communications Society at the board's June meeting. The society plans to use the money to develop materials describing the communications areas candidates must master, as well as a set of questions for the certification exam.

The certification program could be used as a pilot for other IEEE societies that want to develop similar certifications for their technical fields of interest, according to IEEE President-Elect **Leah Jamieson**, chair of the IEEE's New Initiative Committee.

I had already discussed the advantages of a cooperative agreement between NARTE and the IEEE Communications Society with their executive director, **Jack Howell**. Jack was very receptive to this idea and had asked NARTE to prepare a draft Memorandum of Understanding to detail areas in which NARTE could assist them in developing and administering their new certification program.

IEEE Communications Society, Certificate of Communications Expertise

As reported above, the NARTE board of directors approved a plan to cooperate with the IEEE Communications Society in developing a new certification program. Subsequent discussions between myself and several members of the Communications Society working group have confirmed that the basis for the initial certification will be wireless cell phone communications engineering. Phase one of the program development has been the formation of a volunteer task force drawn from a diversity of backgrounds, including industry, research Institutes and academia. The task force, which includes a number of NARTE members, held their first meetings in early December and has started a road map to define the critical professional attributes of engineers working in this communications field. The NARTE draft Memorandum of Understanding has been sent to Jack Howell and I am now awaiting a response from the task force in order to cement a relationship.

IEEE EMC 2007 in Hawaii

To mark the 50th anniversary of the IEEE EMC Symposium in 2007, this EMC Society annual event is being held in Hawaii from July 8th to 14th. NARTE intends to support this event and as usual we will hold a NARTE certification examination for EMC and ESD engineers and technicians at the end of the conference programs.

EMC 2007 will also feature the Global EMC University, a series of tutorials conducted by world renowned experts. The NARTE workshop, which offers information and instruction to prospective examination candidates, will be a part of the first day's Global University event, "An Introduction to the Fundamentals of EMC" on Sunday, July 8th. The

Global University tutorials will continue until Thursday, July 12th and the NARTE Certification examinations will be held on Saturday, July 14th. Friday, July 13th will feature an island tour for all attendees. Alternatively, NARTE examination candidates can forgo the tour and spend the day revising for the task ahead.

NARTE hopes that this schedule will encourage all those attending the Global University to also take this opportunity of achieving certification of their engineering knowledge and skills.

A full listing of the EMC 2007 workshops and the Global University courses will be published in the near future on the event website, <http://www.emc2007.org>

NARTE Programs in Singapore

It looks like the EMC 2007 in Hawaii will necessitate a round the world airline ticket for me. So I have decided to make the most of this and stop off for visits in Singapore and Japan on the way, before continuing on to the NARTE office in Massachusetts and finally returning to London.

NARTE had attended the event "EMC Zurich in Singapore," at the end of February 2006. At this time 18 candidates took the NARTE Certification examination and interest was expressed by both Nan Yang Polytechnic and the regional headquarters of Rhode & Schwarz to organize a regular training and examination program for candidates to achieve NARTE certification in Singapore. Since that time there has been no further work done to organize this cooperative venture. I have contacted both of these parties within the last month and hope that we can reach an agreement that can be ratified by a visit at the end of June as I make my way to Hawaii.

From Singapore, I will travel to Japan to visit our partner, KEC. Here we have a very active and successful program that has certified over 600 candidates since 2000. This year another 144 engineers and technicians are scheduled to take the examination.

O'Brian Becomes NIST Boulder Laboratories Director

Thomas R. O'Brian, chief of the time and frequency division at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), has been appointed director of the NIST Boulder Laboratories in Colorado. O'Brian is the senior site manager with oversight of the facilities and technical infrastructure for the agency's 400 scientists, engineers, technicians and support staff.

The NIST Boulder Laboratories are engaged in research activities in measurement science, including time and frequency standards; electromagnetics, including superconductivity and electromagnetic fields; optoelectronics; chemical engineering; materials reliability; laser physics; quantum and optical physics; and computational methods. industry, other government agencies and universities.

O'Brian earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, and a doctorate in experimental atomic physics from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He joined NIST's Physics Laboratory in Gaithersburg, Maryland, in 1991.

Frankie Thrower Passes Away

It is with great regret that we report that on Tuesday, December 5, Frankie Thrower, wife of NARTE founder Ray Thrower passed away at age 69 after an illness. Frankie and Ray married in 1985. She was a homemaker and a devoted loving mother and grandmother. The funeral was held at

Aderhold Funeral Home located in West, Texas. Memorials may be made to a charity of your choice.

