

President's Message

NARTS Needs You!

Have you registered for Conference yet? Can you believe it's 8 weeks until Conference? I'm excited and nervous at the same time! I'm ready for it to be here and get that shot in the arm that comes with Conference! I gather new ideas and learn new business methods as well as I reinforce what's already in my brain but doesn't always want to come to the forefront. Additionally, I'm eagerly awaiting that piece of information or my "aha" moment I always get at Conference that will catapult my business to a new level, making Conference worth the cost and effort to attend. I also can't wait to visit with longtime friends and to make new ones. What a joy relationships with others in our industry bring to my life! They understand what I encounter daily!



—Kreta Lee

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I'm also nervous. We still have so much to do before we are ready for Conference! I feel like we won't get everything done before time runs out. You know, I guess we'll wing it if we don't!

As an organization, NARTS is on the move! We have our ups and downs, like all businesses, but we are getting some things done. For instance, have you seen the new website? Although we still have work to do updating content matter, we finished revising the main page. We hope to continuously make changes to keep the website relevant as new events, interests and opportunities arise. I want to thank the NARTS members who are serving on the Website Committee for their contributions to this major project. They are Judy Connor of *StillGoode*, Lori Hannon of *Emily's Closet*, Traci Hassett of *It's Once 'n Again*, Merra Holmes of *Another Season*, Lisa Ibias of *Alaskan Dames*, and Board Members Kimberly Smith of *Retail Therapy*, Chris Swanson of *one more time*, and Sara Sundblad of *Stuff Etc*, Committee Chair. I also want to thank Adele Meyer for her input and for taking time out of her busy schedule to work with me to get the website update live. We've had remarkable teamwork and it shows!

As most of you know, the last few years have been challenging for our businesses. It's been challenging for NARTS too. We have had many members retire or close their stores for various reasons. This and other circumstances have also affected our Conference attendance. The Board and Adele are trying to make this year's Conference one that you don't want to miss! We have fantastic workshops with speakers who are donating their time and effort to assist you in making your business successful. We made changes to the agenda last year and are making more this year.

Since we have lost so many members, I believe we need to have a membership drive to make additional stores in the resale industry more aware of this incredible organization. I am establishing a Membership Committee to accomplish this goal. We already have a few members but if you would like to serve on this working committee or if you are willing to call and/or visit other store owners to invite them to join our organization and to come to Conference, **I want and need YOU!!**

I know we are in uncertain times with many unknowns. I also know many owners and managers are burned out, in a funk, or tired of dealing with rude customers or other stressful issues. I promise if you make the effort to come, you will be inspired, refreshed, revived, and renewed! I appeal to you to attend Conference. I truly believe it will pay for itself with the knowledge and energy you gain.

You won't regret being there! ♻️

Your NARTS Network—May 2025