



NATA UPDATE

A quarterly publication of the National Alliance of Trade Associations (NATA)

NATA Names 2019-20 Executive Committee

In May, NATA announced confirmation of its 2019-20 Executive Committee. The NATA Executive Committee members are volunteers who are also voluntary presidents of their respective trade associations. It is estimated that they serve more than 5,000 members across the country.

“The success of NATA proves that working together provides multiple opportunities for single operators to tap into resources that are usually only available to large corporations,” noted the new vice chairman Karim Thobhani. “It’s the ethic of volunteerism and unity that has led to the immense economic success of our members and it’s a privilege to serve our members to reach new heights of success in their businesses.”

The members of the 2019-20 NATA Executive Committee are as follows:

- **Chairman:** Mehdi Ali, Greater Austin Merchants Cooperative Association
- **Vice Chairman:** Karim Thobhani, Atlanta Retailers Association
- **Honorary Secretary:** Ahmed Mandani, Arkansas Business Alliance
- **Treasurer:** Rahim Umlani, Tri-State Trade Association
- **Member at Large:** Firdous Ali, Greater Houston Retailers Cooperative Association, Inc

NATA thanks the retiring executive committee members for their service and loyalty to NATA.



The 2019-20 NATA Executive Committee Members

Published quarterly, the *NATA Update* fosters greater collaboration among NATA’s 13 trade association members. Each issue highlights the work and accomplishments of NATA and its members and provides timely, meaningful, and relevant industry information.

Thank you for your continued support of NATA and its members. If you have any feedback or suggestions for future issues, please email them to info@natausa.com.

—Shaila Abdullah, Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S NOTE

NATA members represent more than 5,697 independent retail stores with more than \$2 billion in total sales per month and some 20,000 employees.



Highlights from our Trade Association Expos

Trade shows and expos are excellent venues to bring owners and decision makers together under one roof for networking and to allow them the opportunity to engage with local, regional, and national vendors and suppliers face to face.



1 TTA Expo

The Tri-State Trade Association (TTA) Expo was held April 24 with 300 attendees joining vendors at the Crowne Plaza Memphis East. The association raffled a brand new Nissan Versa as the bumper prize and brought members together to interact with current and new vendors. Members received special deals only for the trade show day, special pricing for attending members, and special sales offers from the vendors.

2 ABA Expo

The Arkansas Business Alliance (ABA) Expo is an annual event held in April with 300 attendees and 35 vendors at the GSA Community Center in Little Rock. The alliance promotes it as a “fun day of interaction among members and vendors in a casual setting.” Vendors offer members demonstrations of new products, one-day-only offers, and education on the latest trends in the convenience store industry.

3 GAMA Expo

The Greater Austin Merchants Cooperative Association (GAMA) 2019 Convenience Retailers Expo brought more than 125 vendors and 500 attendees. “These annual events are designed to bring owners and decision makers in one place for networking and face-to-face meetings, and this year’s expo brought together retail industry’s finest, from consumers to vendors from all facets of the operation,” said GAMA COO Shane Walker.

4 ARA Expo

The Atlanta Retailers Association (ARA) expo, held on February 27, attracted more than 70 exhibitors. At this one-day widely attended event, members had the opportunity to solidify relationships and build new ones with the vendors. The expo was inaugurated by Mike Thurmond, CEO, DeKalb County; Karim Thobhani, ARA Chairman; Murad Abdullah, SE council president; Zahir Ladhani, National Council vice president; and Adnan Virani, SE AKF Chairman.

National Independent Jewelers Association

NATA and the Aga Khan Economic Planning Board have collaborated to create the National Independent Jewelers Association (NIJA). The association is launching in July, and is dedicated to strengthening alliances between jewelry professionals by building an ethical community.

Did you know that the U.S. retail jewelry stores generate approximately \$34 billion in sales each year? The industry employs more than 164,000 individuals. In such a saturated as well as lucrative market, working together for a common goal is always advantageous.

NIJA was inspired by a meet-and-greet event in Miami in the Summer of 2018 and its main goal for the 2019-2020 year is to form, promote and maximize membership so that collective bargaining power can occur with vendors.

NIJA is led by a talented group of Board of Directors including the following:

- Farooq Muradali
- Firoz Merchant
- Hussain Tejani
- Jalaluddin Mohammed
- Nadir Meharali
- Nizar Virani
- Noorali Charania
- Sherazad Lokhandwala
- Shujaat Kerawala

Membership for the first year is free and provides access to a variety of events, programs, and services, including industry education, best practices and information sharing, networking, social events, and collective buying and savings on credit card fees, insurance, shipping, and merchandise.

To become a member, individuals need to have a physical retail jewelry store in the U.S. that sells jewelry to consumers.



To learn more, or to join the association visit tinyurl.com/NIJA-Registration. Alternatively, contact a board member who will provide a membership application and details on how to apply online.



63,500

approximate number of jewelry stores in the U.S.



34 billion

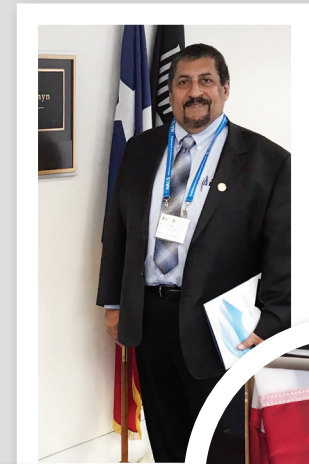
total annual revenue generated by U.S. retail jewelry stores

News from NATA

President Hooda Honored at NACS Day on the Hill

Ralph Hooda, president of the North Texas Business Alliance (NTBA), along with the NATA Leadership team, proudly represented members at the annual National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) Day on the Hill in March. A U.S. flag was presented by North Dakota Senator John Henry Hoeven III to President Hooda from Texas for his efforts in raising awareness of issues important to our members and supporting U.S. congressmen/women and senators.

NACS Day on the Hill is an opportunity for individuals to interact with members of Congress specifically on convenience store related business concerns. Every day, members of Congress work on legislation that impacts the day-to-day lives of NATA members.



Newest member of GHRA joins NATA

NATA is proud to welcome our newest member of the association: Greater Houston Retailers Cooperative Association, Inc (GHRA). With more than 1,750 Houston area convenience store locations, the new trade associate will be an asset to the big united NATA family. With this news, NATA now is a 13-member alliance. For more information on GHRA, visit ghraonline.com.



Participating in NACS Show 2019

NACS is hosting NACS Show 2019 in Atlanta in October. NATA members are proud to participate in this event that draws more than 23,500 industry stakeholders from around the world. Members of NATA can attend the show for a discounted rate of \$225—more than \$500 off the standard pricing of \$795. To learn more about the conference or the expo, visit nacsshow.com.

Aga Khan Foundation USA Events

Many of our NATA members are proud supporters of the Aga Khan Foundation USA, a non-profit organization that partners with communities in some of the most remote, hard-to-reach parts of Asia and Africa to build better futures together. Upcoming fundraising events in our area include:

August

- Aug. 17: Houston Banquet
- Aug. 24: Dallas Social Action Soiree

September

- Sept. 17: Austin Golf Tournament
- Sept. 29: Atlanta Walk | Run | Concert

October

- Oct. 6: Memphis Walk | Run
- Oct. 26: Dallas Walk | Run

For more information on upcoming events, visit akfusa.org/get-involved

