

KEEPIN' IT



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ISSUE TWO | NOV. 2022

Advocating Against Romance Scammers

WE HAVE A "NEW" BOARD MEMBER!

Help Us Welcome Back Jan Hart



When we started Advocating Against Romance Scammers, we asked Jan Hart, whose boss's photos had been stolen and used in romance scams, if she would consider being a part of AARS's Board of Directors. Jan delightedly accepted the invite as Secretary. Covid brought tough times, but for the company Jan worked for, their services were needed in a greater capacity; therefore, Jan took a step back from the board with hopes of returning.

A little over a year later and a well-deserved promotion at her job, Jan is ready to return to the AARS Board and fight the good fight! Jan had continued to work with scam survivors during her absence with AARS, showing how much her heart and dedication are to this advocacy. Marketing, advocating, and leadership is only a few of the many skills Jan brings to the table, and we could not be happier to have her back!

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EIN: 85-0518427

GIVING TUESDAY

AARS THEME IS : Be Aware! We Care! Let's Share

On November 29th, 2022, the world will celebrate Giving Tuesday, and we hope we are on your list of nonprofits to support! The idea came from Black Friday, encouraging people to embrace the time of giving further and giving back to their favorite nonprofits and charities. Over the past year, thousands of scammed survivors, their families, and identity theft victims reached out to AARS looking for help and guidance. We have put in an unimaginable number of hours assisting those contacts, creating public service announcements, reaching out to those who can bring more voices to the subject meeting with congressional offices, presenting for InfraGard

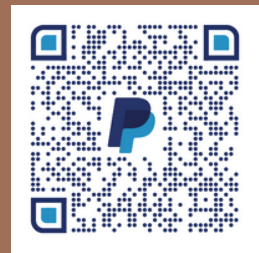
beside the FBI and IC3, and much more. Why do we do this? The real question is, why wouldn't we? The countless amount of people affected, the lives lost due to suicide over the scams, hearing the family's heartache as they watch the manipulation take over their loved ones. The victims are the reason we advocate! Educating and bringing awareness is the key to helping stop online romance scams, and we are honored to provide our services globally. We ask that you make AARS your nonprofit of choice on Giving Tuesday, or why wait? [Donate now!](#)

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

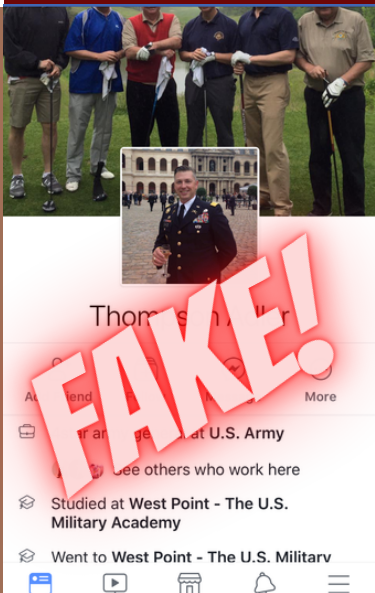
Tap Here!

DONATE TO AARS!

or
Scan Here



FOUNDERS STORY



Ret. Col. Bryan Denny and Kathy Waters are co-founders of this dedicated nonprofit. Bryan retired from the Army after 26 years of service in 2016 and, just months after, was notified of his photos being stolen and used in online romance scams. Bryan's photos have been used over 4,000 times on every imaginable platform. Kathy's mother's friend was a victim who was drawn in by a scammer using Bryan's photos. Kathy found Bryan after a quick Google search. She learned about the trials Bryan had been experiencing due to the scams. The two conducted hours of research and presented reports, findings, and remedies to not just Facebook but lawmakers. They knew that along with trying to make the platforms safer for all, they needed to include ongoing awareness and education on the subject matter. AARS has existed for six years, and each year their voices are heard by the masses. The number of victims globally is unknown due to the shame and embarrassment of admitting to law enforcement that they were scammed, not to mention those who took their own lives because of these same reasons and will never knowingly receive their justice. Bryan and Kathy are determined to make a change, help show the need for safer platforms, and prove to those affected that they are not alone in this fight!



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INFRAGARD WEBINAR



Protecting Yourself Against Romance Scams A Case Study & Resources

On September 23, 2022 InfraGard hosted a webinar on romance scams providing a case study from an FBI special agent, an IC3 representative reporting data and reporting facts, following with us (AARS) sharing information on our advocacy and how we are able to assist romance scam and identity theft victims.

The webinar lasted approximately one and a half hours and included some great questions once the forum was open.

The webinar was not recorded due to privacy requests by the SA; however, we took great notes and will share several informational items in the upcoming days.

Some key subjects were the importance of reporting, how to report, the depth of romance scams, and what we (AARS) can do to help.

We at AARS felt it was a tremendous honor when asked to participate in the webinar, including our top law enforcement divisions, and we would like to thank all who were involved.

DID YOU GET YOUR COPY?

On September 23, 2022 AARS introduced a one-page Anti-Scam Guide during the InfraGard webinar. This tool is great for every online user. Download the form, save it, and share it to all you know. Links to report the crime, where to find emotional support, informational articles, podcasts, books, everything you need in one place and at your fingertips! You can find this wonderful tool on our [website!](#)



MEET OUR BOARD MEMBER !



APRIL HELM

Founding Board Member-Medi/Marketing

April Helm can be found on the radio, at live public events, and on her podcast Scammer Stories! After dedicating much of her time to educating her mother on romance scams (a victim of cybercrime), April knew she wanted to try and help others understand the fraud and keep people safe online. Having a prestigious history in media, April chose to take the bull by the horn and start her own podcast!

A few years later, with many listeners and incredible interviews to attest to, April has helped countless people resulting in a beautiful tribute to her mother in the name of online romance scams.

April continues to work full-time, dedicates a significant amount of time to fighting scammers, and enjoying her life with her husband, three step children and her rescued Brussels Griffon, Teeny . She is nothing less than a go-getter, and we are so blessed to have her as part of the AARS family.

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