

Auction wrap-up and introduction of NRC grassroots coordinator



The annual NRC Railroad Construction and Maintenance Equipment Auction was held April 26 at the RailWorks/E&L Paving facility in LaPorte, Ind. I would like to thank RailWorks and E&L Paving for hosting the auction. Buck Giese and Bill Dorris of RailWorks were this year's NRC Auction co-chairmen and deserve a big "thank you and job well done". Thomas Blackmon Jr. of Blackmon Auction, Inc., was the auctioneer and did another fine job.

In addition to providing an important venue for NRC member contractors and suppliers to buy and sell equipment from each other, consignment fees from the auction also go to support the NRC Safety, Training and Education Fund, specifically to fund our ongoing production of NRC Safety Training DVDs. Our two most recent DVDs are "Safety While Thermal Adjusting CWR" and "Safety Around Field Welds." Thank you to all who participated in the NRC Auction by either buying or selling equipment.

The NRC Auction immediately followed the American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) conference in Indianapolis, Ind., which was an excellent event as always. Of course, I'm partial to the NRC Conference every January as the best rail industry event of the year, but the ASLRRA Conference is definitely on the short list of the year's can't miss events. It was only a short drive from Indianapolis to LaPorte for the NRC Auction, which made for an easy

transition and a very productive week.

On a separate note, we'd also like to introduce a new NRC resource to the industry. Tabitha Layman is the new NRC grassroots coordinator. Tabitha is available to help NRC members coordinate visits from congressmen, senators, governors and other elected officials to their headquarters offices, construction work sites and manufacturing facilities.

These visits will help demonstrate to elected officials and the public the importance of the rail construction and maintenance industry to the national economy and will strengthen our relationships and influence with Congress. With Congress and with the public, "show and tell" is more effective than just "tell," so I'd encourage you to get in touch with Tabitha in the NRC office by calling 202-715-1245 or e-mailing tlayman@nrcma.org and she will work with you to set up a visit so you can show the country the importance of the work you are doing every day. The publicity from these visits can also serve to highlight the role of contractors to potential railroad and rail transit customers, reminding them that contractors are frequently the best option, for everything from small maintenance contracts to large construction projects.

Work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,
NRC Chairman



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