

From AREMA to the NRC



Having just returned to the field from the AREMA Conference in Chicago, my belief in the value of the well-attended and well-managed conferences in the rail industry has been renewed. The AREMA Conference was full of important speakers sharing their knowledge on all aspects of the rail industry, the exhibit hall was packed with companies demonstrating their latest products and services and the corridors of the hotel were teeming with old friends and new contacts galore.

Other great conferences in our industry every year include the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association's Annual Conference in the spring, APTA's Rail Conference in the summer and the ASLRRA's series of regional meetings in the fall. I just attended the ASLRRA Central Pacific Meeting in Minneapolis a few weeks ago and it was another well-attended, informative, productive and enjoyable event.

The upcoming NRC Conference and joint NRC-REMSA Exhibition promises to be a similar experience. This year's version will be held at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in Miami, Fla., from Wednesday, January 9, through Saturday, January 12, 2013.

Registration is now available at <https://www.nrcma.org/form3.cfm> and you can go to www.nrcma.org/go/conference for more information.

The conference will include close to 1,000 executives from the rail construction and maintenance industry, including a 100-plus company exhibit hall and speakers outlining capital programs from Class 1 railroads, shortline railroads and major rail transit agencies.

Some of the speakers who are expected to be at this year's conference include Dale Ophardt from CSX, Dave Ferryman from Canadian National, Charlie Stine from Norfolk Southern, Bob Stevens from Florida East Coast Railway, the Chairman of the Board of Chicago Metra Larry Huggins, Anthony Fuller, Paul Worley and Eric Swanson from the North Carolina DOT Rail Division and the ubiquitous rail industry financial guru Tony Hatch. Other

railroads and rail transit agencies that will be represented by key senior executives include BNSF, Union Pacific, Canadian Pacific, Kansas City Southern, Genesee & Wyoming, Watco, All Aboard Florida, New York MTA and Miami Dade Transit.

The exhibit hall is now fully sold out, but we are still welcoming registrations every day and if your company aims to increase its visibility at the conference, sponsorships are available by contacting the NRC office at 202-715-1247.

To book your hotel room at Loews Hotel Miami Beach at the discounted group rate, call the resort at 877-563-9762 and mention that you are with the "NRC Conference" or reserve online here: www.nrcma.org/go/hotelreservations2013. This hotel block will sell out, so the sooner you book the better.

Hotel information:

www.nrcma.org/go/hotel

Travel information:

www.nrcma.org/go/travelinfo

Attendee registration:

www.nrcma.org/form3.cfm

Exhibit booth registration:

www.nrcma.org/go/exhibition2013

Please contact NRC Operations Manager Ashley Bosch at 202-715-1247 or abosch@nrcma.org with questions regarding the NRC Conference or see www.nrcma.org/go/conference for more information.

In addition to a full slate of capital spending program presentations, a packed exhibit hall and a series of technical seminars, the NRC staff has promised to carve out a few free moments to enjoy the Miami sunshine in mid-January. The annual golf and fishing tournaments will be held on Friday afternoon January 11, and the hotel sits a stone's throw from South Beach, so if you're looking for a productive and enjoyable experience, the NRC Conference is the way to go. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,
NRC Chairman



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