

Elections, conference and a new year



The elections have come and gone and now the work of the NRC and its member companies accelerates. The House of Representatives will have 80-plus new members and even the slow-changing Senate will have 12 freshmen members in 2013. It is our responsibility to help educate these new congressmen on the importance of the rail industry and the crucial role played by rail construction and maintenance contractors and suppliers. Railroad Day on the Hill in the spring will be of the utmost importance in getting to know the new players and sharing our knowledge of the industry.

Before that, the NRC's Annual Conference and Exhibition will be held at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in Miami, Fla., from Wednesday, January 9, through Saturday, January 12, 2013. Registration and information is available for the conference online at: www.nrcma.org/go/conference.

The exhibit hall is sold out with more than 100 exhibitors, but if your company is looking for ways to increase its visibility at the conference, sponsorships are still available by contacting the NRC office at 202-715-1247 or e-mailing abosch@nrcma.org. In total, we anticipate that more than 1,000 executives representing hundreds of key companies from the rail construction and maintenance industry will be in attendance.

Speakers will be outlining capital programs from Class 1 railroads, shortline railroads and major rail transit agencies. Speakers at this year's conference will be representing CSX, Norfolk Southern, BNSF, Union Pacific, Canadian National, Canadian Pacific, Genesee & Wyoming, Watco, Florida East Coast Railway, All Aboard Florida, Chicago Metra, New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Miami Dade Transit, the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division and more.

In addition to the "bread and butter" capital spending plan presentations, we'll have some speakers on hand to provide broader perspectives. Tony Hatch will provide a financial overview of the state of the freight rail industry and Keith Hartwell of Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell will provide a legislative analysis of the upcoming 113th session of Congress.

The conference will also feature optional seminars, covering topics ranging from Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) Train-the-Trainer to financial lessons on "How to Win with Banks or Buyers" to legal seminars guiding contractors on how to avoid FELA-related liability.

Hotel information:

www.nrcma.org/go/hotel

Travel information:

www.nrcma.org/go/travelinfo

Online registration:

www.nrcma.org/form3.cfm

Golf tournament registration:

<http://www.nrcma.org/go/golf>

Fishing tournament registration:

www.nrcma.org/go/fishing

Seminars:

www.nrcma.org/go/seminars

If you have any additional questions regarding the 2013 NRC Conference, please contact NRC Operations Manager Ashley Bosch at 202-715-1247 or abosch@nrcma.org.

I'll look forward to seeing many of you at the conference in sunny Miami in January, but until then, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Boxing Day, Happy Epiphany Day and a very Happy New Year.

Work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,
NRC Chairman



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