

## On to the challenges of 2013



Writing this column in mid-December, I am anticipating the upcoming NRC conference to be another great success. Based on how quickly the room block of hotel rooms sold out and our escalating registration numbers, we are certainly expecting a record crowd. By the time you read this, we hope you agree the attendees, speakers, seminars and recreational activities all added up to produce an event that will start your year off on the right foot.

The success of the NRC, both the conference and the full association, is based upon the strength of our members. Back in 2005, we had 200 member companies and conference attendance of about 500 people. This year, our membership stands at close to 350 companies, with annual retention of around 90 percent and conference attendance at more than 1,000 people. The companies that make up the NRC and the folks that attend our conference are the best and the brightest of the rail construction and maintenance industry. I look forward to the continued growth of our association going forward.

The NRC recently completed our annual process of board of directors elections. I'd like to congratulate our three new board members on their election:

- Joe Dalosio, track division manager, Railroad Construction Co. Inc.
- Scott Goehri, senior vice president and global director of freight railroads, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Daniel Stout, vice president, STX Railroad Construction Services

And also a big welcome back to our three re-elected incumbent board members:

- Danny Brown, corporate equipment manager, RailWorks Corporation
- Clayton Gilliland, senior project manager, Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.
- Dave Minor, vice president, A&K Railroad Materials, Inc.

I'd also like to congratulate the winners of the NRC's Rail Contractor Safety Awards, which will be detailed elsewhere in *RT&S*. In addition, the NRC presented two special awards at the conference:

- The NRC Field Employee of the

Year Award, designed to recognize and honor the rail contracting employee who has demonstrated the most dedication and excellence in his field, went to Dave Friehl, a track superintendent at Herzog Contracting Corp.

- The Rail Construction Project of the Year went to the Stacy and Witbeck/Herzog Contracting Corp. Joint Venture that built the FrontRunner South commuter rail project for the Utah Transit Authority.

Also, the NRC inducted our third member into the NRC Hall of Fame, Jim Dalosio of Railroad Construction Company of South Jersey. Jim is a past chairman of the NRC board, a leader in our industry and his community and is more than deserving of this honor.

As we look ahead to 2013, we know that it will present many opportunities and challenges for each of us, on both a personal and business level. We will struggle with our New Year's resolutions as we try to improve our health habits and lifestyles. We'll need to work with our legislators, new and old, to create the best environment for business growth and the success of the rail industry. We'll need to navigate the process of creating a safer workplace for our employees, while gaining new customers and keeping current ones and we need to do it all profitably. I wish each and every one of you success in your endeavors as you tackle all of your challenges.

As you build your calendar for 2013, save these two dates:

- Railroad Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., Thursday, March 14, 2013. [http://www.aslrra.org/meetings\\_\\_seminars/Railroad\\_Day\\_on\\_Capitol\\_Hill/](http://www.aslrra.org/meetings__seminars/Railroad_Day_on_Capitol_Hill/).
  - NRC Rail Construction and Maintenance Equipment Auction in Little Rock, Ark., Tuesday, April 16, 2013. <https://www.nrcma.org/go/auction>.
- Work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,  
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