

## Recapping the conference, looking forward to the year



Once again, the NRC conference was a record-setting event at a wonderful location. The Loews Hotel in South Beach provided a great setting on the beach in one of this country's most unique neighborhoods and the staff was always helpful. A record-setting number of attendees, more than 1,000, enjoyed the packed exhibit hall, the extremely informational presentations, the golf, the fishing and the weather. I would like to thank all of our exhibitors, more than 100 and also a new record, for their presence. We have a great event that continues to grow. We had more than 55 member companies sign up as sponsors for this event and I would like to thank each and every one of the sponsors. Our thanks to Chuck Baker, Matt Ginsberg, Ashley Bosch, Tabitha Layman, Alice Post and the rest of the staff from Chambers, Conlon and Hartwell, LLC, for all their hard work behind the scenes orchestrating a world-class event.

John Zuspan of Track Guy Consultants introduced our newest two safety DVDs at the conference. John has devoted a great deal of time and thought into putting this series of DVDs together during the past seven years. The 13th and 14th DVDs, "Safety Around Flash Butt Welding" and "Fall Protection in the Rail Industry," were available at the conference. If you didn't get your copies, contact the NRC office and they will be happy to send you one.

The NRC "Safe Contractor of the Year Award" was sponsored by Commercial Insurance Associates and RT&S and presentations were made by David Armstrong. The top overall winners were Sharp & Fellows, Mass Electric Construction Company, Herzog Services, Inc., and Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc.; and dozens more companies scored highly enough to earn gold, silver and bronze level recognition. The NRC wishes to thank our judges and those who participated this year. A record number of entries were received and competition is getting tougher. This is another sign that while NRC membership is growing and getting stronger, we all recognize that safety comes first, every day.

Our presenters this year from the freight railroads and various rail transit agencies did a fine job of giving us an indication of the

strength of the railroad industry as a whole and invited us contractors and suppliers to aggressively pursue available opportunities created by their capital spending.

A reception for Congressman Bill Shuster, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, was held Thursday night and was well attended. Chairman Shuster also gave a well-received presentation to the general session of the conference.

Moving beyond the conference, there are three upcoming events that you should get on your calendar:

1. Railroad Day on Capitol Hill is Thursday, March 14, 2013, in Washington, D.C. Go to [www.aslrra.org/meetings\\_\\_\\_seminars/Railroad\\_Day\\_on\\_Capitol\\_Hill](http://www.aslrra.org/meetings___seminars/Railroad_Day_on_Capitol_Hill) for event registration information. We are looking for a big turnout on March 14 to deliver our message of political support for the freight railroad industry.
2. The NRC 2013 Rail Construction and Maintenance Equipment Auction is Tuesday, April 16, 2013, at the Blackmon Auctions Yard in Little Rock, Ark. Equipment inspection will be available on Monday, April 15. If you have equipment you would like to consign or donate to the auction, contact the NRC staff at [abosch@nrcma.org](mailto:abosch@nrcma.org), 202-715-1247 or Danny Brown of RailWorks Corporation at [dbrown@railworks.com](mailto:dbrown@railworks.com), 810-397-3533. A small portion of the proceeds of consigned equipment and 100 percent of the value of the donated equipment, will go the NRC Safety, Training and Education Fund. Your company will receive the tax deduction benefits. Go to [www.nrcma.org/go/auction](http://www.nrcma.org/go/auction) for more information.
3. The 2014 NRC conference will be held at J.W. Marriott in Palm Desert, Calif., from Sunday, January 5, 2014, through Wednesday, January 8, 2014. Updated information will be posted on [www.nrcma.org/go/conference](http://www.nrcma.org/go/conference).

Work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,  
NRC Chairman



The National Railroad  
Construction & Maintenance  
Association, Inc.  
500 New Jersey Ave., N. W.  
Suite 400  
Washington D. C. 20009

Tel: 202-715-2920  
Fax: 202-318-0867  
[www.nrcma.org](http://www.nrcma.org)  
[info@nrcma.org](mailto:info@nrcma.org)