

The rail industry goes to Washington



I would like to thank all those who attended Railroad Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on March 14. Our attendance and interactions with our representatives and senators and their staff members is the best way to get our viewpoints across and make sure our voices are heard. Congress is more focused on rail issues than ever before and it's our responsibility to make sure they hear the right messages from those of us out in the field doing the work. We need to continue communicating the importance of the shortline railroad rehabilitation tax credit, the dangers of longer and heavier trucks and the need to preserve a balanced regulatory structure. Our trade association staffers and government affairs specialists in Washington do a great job of telling this story every day, but there's nothing like a real live voter to drive home the message.

This year's Railroad Day on the Hill featured more than 400 rail industry participants conducting more than 350 meetings on the hill. That was a record crowd and we hope to have an even stronger force next year. The NRC works closely with the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, the Association of American Railroads, the Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association, the Railway Signal Supply Institute, the Railway Supply Institute and the Railway Tie Association, to organize and sponsor the event and it is truly an industry-wide success story.

The next NRC Rail Construction

and Maintenance Equipment Auction kicks off at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at the Blackmon Auctions Yard in Little Rock, Ark. Equipment inspection will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 15 and 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. April 16. If you have equipment you would like to consign (or donate) to the auction, contact Thomas Blackmon, Jr., at 501-664-4526 or thomas@blackmonauctions.com or fill out the auction interest form at <https://www.nrcma.org/go/auction>. A portion of the proceeds from the consigned equipment and 100 percent of the proceeds of the donated equipment, will go the NRC Safety, Training and Education Fund. Among other activities, the safety fund supports the ongoing production of the series of NRC Safety DVDs. Your company will receive the tax deduction benefits.

Speaking of safety, the NRC is proud to repeat the Federal Railroad Administration's exciting report that 2012 was the safest year in the recorded history of railroading. Let's all keep up the good work and make 2013 even safer.

Finally, don't forget to save the date: The 2014 NRC conference will be held at J.W. Marriott in Palm Desert, Calif., from Sunday Jan. 5, 2014 through Wednesday Jan. 8, 2014. Updated information will eventually be posted on www.nrcma.org/go/conference.

Work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,
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