

Biggest and the best auction yet



The NRC's 2013 Rail Construction and Maintenance Equipment Auction was Tuesday, April 16, at the Blackmon Auctions Yard in Little Rock, Ark., and it was our biggest one ever. I would like to thank Thomas Blackmon, Jr., for doing an outstanding job once again as host and auctioneer. The auction committee deserves a big "thank you," as well, which was led by Danny Brown of RailWorks Corporation, Mark Gaffney of Stacy & Witbeck, Paul Laurello of Delta Railroad Construction, Inc., Greg Spilker of Progress Rail Equipment Leasing and Dan Samford of Herzog Contracting Corp. For the first time this year, we did the auction in conjunction with Union Pacific's annual spring auction that it does with Blackmon and we believe this worked out well. In total, there were more than 300 pieces of equipment bought and sold for approximately \$1.5 million.

In addition to the dozens of contractors and railroads that consigned equipment to the auction, Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc., Railway Equipment Services, Delta Railroad Construction, Inc., and Cahaba Truck and Equipment all donated equipment to the NRC Auction this year. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale of that donated equipment goes into the NRC Safety, Training and Education Fund, which is used to fund all of the NRC's safety activities, including the Safety Training DVDs, the *pocket safety manual*, tool box talks, RWP training materials and the safety award contest.

To Mark Snailham and R.T. Swindall at Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc., Eddie and Barbara Stokes at Railway Equipment Services, Paul and Larry Laurello at Delta Railroad Construction, Inc., Paxton Estes and Kevin Barber at Cahaba and all of the other good people working behind the scenes at those companies, your donations to the auction and support of the NRC and the rail industry are truly appreciated.

The Safety Training DVDs and other

safety materials are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to benefits of membership in the NRC. Our website, www.nrcma.org, houses multiple resources to benefit members, including a "Bid Notifications" page with various links and information on new projects, a membership directory, legislative information and an industry calendar. Membership also includes inclusion on the NRC bulletin distribution list, access to the NRC library of safety reference material and other industry resources and, of course, a discount for registration to the annual NRC conference held every January in either southern California or south Florida.

Another resource to NRC members is Tabitha Layman. Tabitha is our grassroots coordinator and is available to help NRC members coordinate visits from congressmen, governors and other elected officials to members' headquarters, construction sites and manufacturing facilities to demonstrate the importance of rail construction to the national economy. I encourage you to get in touch with Tabitha in the NRC office by calling 202-715-1245 or e-mailing tlayman@nrcma.org.

In addition to getting on the NRC e-mail list and reading about the NRC right here in *RT&S*, you can also follow the NRC on Twitter ("@theNRC") and join our group on LinkedIn.

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, January 5, 2014, through Wednesday, January 8, 2014. Updated information will be posted on www.nrcma.org/go/conference.

2012 was the safest year in railroad history. Let's make 2013 a better year yet. Work safe and keep those around you working safe.

by Terry Benton,
NRC Chairman



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