

## Rail conferences – past, present and future



Congratulations to the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) for 100 years of service to their members and the railroad industry. The Centennial Convention in Atlanta in late April was a huge success and a record setter for attendance and number of exhibitors. The Marriott Marquis host hotel was in great shape, it was an excellent crowd and I enjoyed seeing many familiar faces. As always, the conference was well organized – in my opinion, it's the second best conference of the year in our industry. Hint, hint, see you in January at the NRC Conference.

A special highlight was the tribute dinner for retiring ASLRRA president Rich Timmons, which also doubled as a successful fundraiser for the worthy ASLRRA Political Action Committee. Keith Hartwell of rail government affairs firm Chambers, Conlon, & Hartwell, LLC, provided the entertainment and speeches by him, his colleague Adam Nordstrom and Association of American Railroads (AAR) President and CEO Ed Hamberger helped provide Gen. Timmons with a fitting send-off. AAR Chairman of the Board and Union Pacific President and CEO Jack Koraleski and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Joe Szabo were also in attendance. Gen. Timmons has served the ASLRRA and the rail industry well and he will be missed.

While we're on the subject of rail industry conferences, there are four more good ones to put on your calendar before you start 2014 with the NRC in California.

The American Public Transportation Association Rail Conference is in Philadelphia, Pa., from June 2 - 5; it's the year's best gathering of top rail transit professionals.

The American Railway Development Association (ARDA) has their Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Calif., also on June 2-5. ARDA is the premier professional association for railroaders interested in issues related to freight rail economic and industrial development, environmental factors, law, real estate and technology.

The huge joint AREMA/REMSA/RSI/RSSI Railway Interchange event will be September 29-October 2 in Indianapolis, Ind. If you're reading this magazine, you really have to be at this event.

And the Railway Tie Association (RTA) will hold their 95th Annual Symposium and Technical Conference in Lake Tahoe, Nev., from October 9-11. The RTA Conference is always a classy event

in a wonderful location, full of high-level attendees and informative speakers.

And 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 eventually be posted on [www.nrcma.org/go/conference](http://www.nrcma.org/go/conference).

The NRC was pleased to recently make contributions to support rail education programs to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Center for Transportation Research and Michigan State University's Certificate Course in Railway Management.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Center for Transportation Research seeks to conduct a program of research in transportation that is recognized for its excellence, comprehensiveness, innovation, productivity and national leadership; develop and sustain the technical expertise of high-quality transportation research and to serve the transportation research, service and training needs of state and local government, business and industry in Tennessee, the southeast region and the nation. For more information on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Center for Transportation Research, visit: <http://ctr.utk.edu>.

Michigan State University's Certificate Course in Railway Management offers a comprehensive course for railroad employees to grow professionally and increase their management capabilities. The course was developed and evaluated by the Railway Management Program Staff, working closely with Class 1 and Class 2 railroad education and training directors, as well as the AAR, ASLRRA and FRA decision makers and other transportation industry leaders. For more information on Michigan State University's Rail Transportation Program, visit: [www.raileducation.com](http://www.raileducation.com).

With support from NRC members, the NRC will plan to continue to support rail education programs throughout the country as they train the next generation of rail industry leaders.

2012 was the safest year in railroad history. While we're all out in the field this construction season, let's remember to make 2013 an even safer year yet.

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)