

Make your plans now



It was great seeing everyone at the AREMA/REMSA/RSI/RSSI Railway Interchange Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., earlier this month. It was an excellent conference with informative speakers. The exhibit hall was packed with a huge number of companies demonstrating their latest products and services. The corridors were teeming with old friends and new contacts. What a great place for networking.

But now you're wondering, "what's next?" Don't worry, the NRC is here for you.

The 2014 NRC Conference will be held at J.W. Marriott in Palm Desert, Calif., from Sunday, January 5, through Wednesday, January 8, 2014. We will hear about planned capital investments and opportunities for contractors and suppliers from the major Class I railroads, shortline railroad holding companies and rail transit agencies. We will hear about the legislative outlooks for the rail industry and what we can all do about it. We will hear cutting edge financial analysis of the industry and gain an understanding of how that affects all of us. And, of course, we'll hear about safety concerns, what initiatives we can take to improve our safety and we'll honor those contractors who are doing their jobs as safely as humanly possible.

The conference will also feature a 100-plus booth exhibit hall, political events, seminars on finance and safety, golf tournaments, spouse activities, networking receptions galore and, of course, the Palm Springs climate in early January.

We are pleased to note that many other related groups in the rail industry are choosing to hold meetings in conjunction with our conference, which will allow for increased networking among folks who might not otherwise get to meet each other. These groups will include the Railway Tie Association Executive Committee, AREMA Committee 10 - Structures, Maintenance & Construction, the REMSA Board of Directors and the American Short Line and

Regional Railroad Association's Legislative Policy Committee.

Registration for the conference is now available online at www.nrcma.org/form3.cfm and you can book your hotel room at the J.W. Marriott Desert Springs by calling the resort at 877-622-3140 and mentioning that you are with the NRC Conference or going online to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/nrcma2014>.

We also do still have a few exhibit booths and sponsorship opportunities available.

Updated conference information is always available at www.nrcma.org/go/conference and the staff in the NRC's Washington, D.C., office is also always available to answer any of your questions.

I also wanted to call your attention to the latest successful NRC grassroots event, arranged by the NRC's grassroots coordinator, Tabitha Layman. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), who is known to the world primarily as the Republican vice presidential candidate of 2012 and to our staff in D.C. primarily as the House Budget Committee chairman, visited NRC member Nordco's facility in Oak Creek, Wis., in mid-September. Rep. Ryan had the opportunity to meet with Nordco executives and some other rail industry guests, tour the factory floor, do a Q&A session with the factory workers and even get a few pictures in the operator seat of a tamper. These types of events are a win-win-win for everybody: good publicity for the host company, they help the NRC develop strong relationships with key decision makers and the politicians like getting their picture in the paper. I encourage you to get in touch with Tabitha in the NRC office by calling 202-715-1245 or e-mailing tlayman@nrcma.org to arrange one of these event for your company – she'll even do most of the work.

Until next time, 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
info@nrcma.org