

Coming down the home stretch



It has been another busy year for the railroad construction and maintenance industry. With 2014 right around the corner, our employees and co-workers are working hard to complete projects before the 2013 calendar year ends or winter weather shuts them down (for those of us not smart enough to live in the Sun Belt).

Speaking of shutdown, the government has re-opened and our work continues on Capitol Hill. The NRC and our member contractors continue to work with the shortline railroads to round up congressional co-sponsors of the 45G Short Line Railroad Rehabilitation Tax Credit. This program has produced proven results - it has allowed railroads to complete infrastructure work that otherwise would not have been done. This infrastructure provides quality, economical transportation services to industries and it's a job-creating machine. These jobs include the construction work done by the railroads and NRC member contractors and suppliers and the jobs at the industries served by the shortlines. The current tax credit is set to expire on December 31, 2013, and we need to get a huge number of co-sponsors to have our best chance of re-authorizing the credit for 2014 and beyond. Please contact your members of Congress to thank them if they have already signed on, or ask them to become co-sponsors of the bill (H.R.721/S.411). You can find all the information you need on this issue at www.nrcma.org/ps.news.cfm?ID=1658.

In addition, I'd like to remind you all of the upcoming NRC Conference and NRC-REMSA Exhibition in Palm Desert, Calif. The speakers and events are lining up to make this conference the best one yet. The conference venue is the J.W. Marriott Desert Springs in Palm Desert, Calif. For the most up-to-date information on lodging for the 2014 NRC Conference, visit www.nrcma.org/go/hotel. The conference begins with an opening session in the exhibit hall on Sunday, January 5, 2014, and will conclude with a closing reception on Wednesday evening, January 8. Registration is available at www.nrcma.org/form3.cfm and you can visit www.nrcma.org/go/conference for more information.

This year's conference will feature more than 1,000 executives from the rail construction

yet. There is still booth space available. Visit www.nrcma.org/go/exhibition2014 to view pricing and reserve your booth.

The speaker lineup includes top engineering executives from Class 1 and shortline railroads, including CSX, Norfolk Southern, BNSF, Union Pacific, Canadian National, Canadian Pacific, Genesee & Wyoming, Watco, OmniTRAX and Florida East Coast Railway, as well as presentations from major light rail, commuter rail and passenger rail agencies, such as New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles Metrolink, North County Transit District and the California High-Speed Rail Authority. You will be updated with the latest D.C. news affecting our industry from Keith Hartwell and a Wall Street perspective from Tony Hatch. To view a draft conference program, visit: www.nrcma.org/go/conferenceprogram. All of our speakers will provide ample time to field questions from inquiring minds.

Don't be overwhelmed by the busy conference schedule though, we'll still find time for plenty of networking activities, such as the golf outing on Tuesday afternoon, January 7. Register for the 2014 NRC Golf Tournament at www.nrcma.org/form1.cfm.

Also, if your company is interested in a unique marketing opportunity, become a sponsor of the 2014 NRC Conference by going to www.nrcma.org/go/sponsor. Sessions, receptions, golf and general sponsorships are still available.

At the conference in January, we will proudly release NRC Safety DVDs 15 and 16, "How to Build a Turnout and Special Trackwork" and "Handling CWR." John Zuspan of Track Guy Consultants continues to do an extraordinary job of leading this effort with key support from NRC Safety Committee members and hundreds of contractors and railroaders have told us that these safety DVDs are making a difference in the safety and productivity of their workforce.

Please contact NRC Operations Manager Ashley Bosch at 202-715-1247 or abosch@nrcma.org with questions regarding the NRC Conference or see www.nrcma.org/go/conference for more information.

Until next time, work safe and keep those around you working safe.



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