

Holidays and then Palm Desert



As we head into 2014, I wish everyone a safe and prosperous finish to your year. With the winter months upon us, we must keep our employees focused on the unique hazards that this time of year brings. The snow, ice and wind chill factors can create challenging conditions that we may have forgotten how to deal with during the more pleasant spring, summer and fall.

I also hope everyone had a safe and successful Thanksgiving with friends and family and that everyone has a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Boxing Day, Happy Epiphany Day and a very Happy New Year's. With the holiday season upon us, please remind your employees to stay focused on their safety while at work. We want everyone at home safely for the holidays.

Safety continues to be a primary focus of the NRC. As I write this, applications for the NRC Safe Contractor of the Year contest are pouring into NRC headquarters in Washington, D.C. I applaud all of those companies which have taken the time to apply and compete for this prestigious honor.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming NRC Conference and NRC-REMSA Exhibition at the J.W. Marriott Desert Springs in Palm Desert, Calif., in January. For the most up-to-date information on lodging, 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 and maintenance industry, including 120-plus companies exhibiting at our biggest exhibition yet. Booth space is sold out, but conference sponsorships are still available by going to www.nrcma.org/go/sponsor.

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

York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 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 with 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.

The conference will also feature four optional seminars, including "Roadway Worker Protection Train-the-Trainer" by Paul Tucker of Roadway Worker Training Inc., "Estimating Track Projects & Putting Together Bid Packages" by John Zuspan of Track Guy Consultants, "Winning with Banks, Investors and Buyers" by Michael Sussman and Will Maus of Strategic Rail Finance and "Keep-a-Knockin': Surviving an OSHA Inspection" by T.H. Lyda and Jeffrey Jackson of Burns White, LLC.

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.

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.

Finally, as you begin to make plans for 2014, don't forget to save the date for Railroad Day on Capitol Hill on Thursday, March 13, 2014. The NRC participates in this annual extravaganza with the American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association and the Association of American Railroads. It is a crucial day that lays the groundwork for the rest of the year of hopefully successful government relations and advocacy that the NRC engages in on behalf of its members. Registration and hotel information will eventually be available at http://www.aslrra.org/meetings___seminars/Railroad_Day_on_Capitol_Hill.

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



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