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Newsletter

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Donald F. Remaley, Executive Director Summer, 2003



2003

“Where All Railroads Came Together”

Focusing On The Future – Where All Railroads Come Together was the theme of the 43rd annual RSSI C&S Exhibition held at The Navy Pier in Chicago, Illinois July 9th and 10th. The “all together” format introduced in Kansas City in 2001 continues to be our guideline. Our co-hosts in Chicago included leaders from the railroad communications and signal segments from all major railroads as well as Amtrak. Included in this elite group were:

Amtrak: Mike Franke
BNSF Railroad: Dennis Boll
BNSF Railroad: Fred Gratke
Canadian National: Alvan Tom
Canadian Pacific Railway: Bob Nash
CSX Transportation: Tom Blady

CSX Transportation: Rick Kadlick
Kansas City Southern Railway: Buck Jones
Norfolk Southern Corp: Gerry Sniffen
Union Pacific Railroad: Phil Abaray
Union Pacific Railroad: Lynn Andrews

The 43rd annual exhibition spurred comments such as “great show” and “another good show” from both railroad and supplier attendees. Several records were broken at the 2003 Exhibition including: overall attendance at a new high of 1573 and a total of 133 RSSI member companies occupying 306 booth spaces. The RSSI Exhibitors responded to the railroad’s suggestion by having technical people available in their exhibits. A supplier technical person in conversation with customer “hands on people” is a win/win situation. The supplier to customer ratio of 1.4 to 1 (although not quite equal to the record setting 1.08 to 1 set at the 2002 show in Louisville) is certainly something the RSSI membership can take great pride in.

The panel discussion sponsored by RSSI on Tuesday, July 8th titled “Passengers & Freight: The Winning Debate!” complemented the theme of the Exhibition. The panel discussion featured four industry leaders who are directly involved with this massive effort - Matthew Rose, BNSF; Robert Anestis, Florida East Coast; Joseph McHugh, Amtrak; and Phillip Pagano, Metra. These experts from the public, private and government sectors answered questions posed by members of the industry press including Bill Vantuono, Railway Age; Pat Foran, Progressive Railroading; and Don Phillips, Washington Post.

Comments From RSSI President Patti Jon Christensen



Chicago was truly a celebration for all Railroads. It was also a location in which RSSI could highlight and recognize those key individuals in the Communication and Signal Industry in which we serve.

As the 2003 President of RSSI, I want to personally thank each sponsor for their dedication to the industry and to Railway Systems Suppliers. It is with your endless support and guidance through some recent uncertain years that the RSSI organization and its Exhibition have emerged stronger and better than ever. RSSI is excited about continuing the platform that allows for users on all levels to spend quality time with suppliers and their wares.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed people can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*The strength of the team is each individual member...
the strength of each member is the team.
Coach Phil Jackson - Chicago Bulls*



Plans Announced for 2004

President-elect Bob DeMarco announced the plans for the 44th Annual RSSI Exhibition during the Annual Membership Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The 2004 RSSI C&S Exhibition will be held on May 19th and 20th in Nashville, Tennessee at the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center.

The Opryland Hotel and Convention Center promises to be a superb venue for the RSSI Exhibition. Mr. DeMarco announced that the C&S segments of AREMA will be conducting their Technical Conference on May 17th and 18th with RSSI hosting the Opening Reception and Dinner for the 44th Annual Exhibition on Tuesday evening, May 18th.

Both RSSI and AREMA are diligently working to provide a convenient and cost-effective experience for the communication and signal representatives.



Patti Jon Christensen



2003: Where All Railroads Came Together

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The panel discussion attendees learned of plans to spend tens of millions of dollars of private, local, state and federal funds to enhance passenger transportation on freight railroad facilities. The panelists discussed some of the problems and obstacles encountered in this massive undertaking. The cooperative attitude and determination to work through the obstacles was evident throughout the discussion.

The "Chicago Project" was briefly discussed and its tie-in with the passenger/freight undertaking. The Chicago Project, a \$1.5 billion project will be funded by local, state and federal as well as significant expenditures from the six railroads involved.

The continued high quality of the 133 exhibits was evidenced by the activity and interest of the attendees. The popularity of the show format continues to grow and should serve as an incentive for the 2004 exhibition in Nashville.

EDITORS NOTE: One of the panelists after having two commercial airline flights cancelled, chartered a private jet in order to participate on the panel - a vivid indication of the importance and determination he places on this undertaking.



Newest Board Member



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Richard M. Campbell as the newest member of the RSSI Board of Directors. Rich is President and Founder of Railroad Controls Limited. Previous to founding RCL, Rich held positions with North Texas Rail Signals, Inc. and the Intersection Development Corporation.

RSSI BOARD ELECTION

The Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting was held July 8, 2003 in Chicago, Illinois prior to the opening of the 2003 C&S Exhibition. Five Directors whose terms were expiring and one new Board member were elected to the RSSI Board of Directors.

For a One Year Term Expiring in 2004:

Richard M. Campbell – Railroad Controls, Ltd.

For Three Year Terms Expiring in 2006:

Stephen W. Bolte – Progressive Railroading

Franklin Brown – Dixie PreCast, Inc.

David K. Fox – Railway Equipment Co.

George L. Kline – Safetran Systems Corp.

George W. Rudge - Union Switch & Signal, Inc.

Other members of the RSSI Board of Directors include:

Patti jon Christensen - PTMW, Inc.

Robert P. DeMarco - Railway Age

Phil Hess - Rails Company

James A. Huntley - Erico, Inc.

James R. Higginbottom - The Okonite Company

Ronald L. McDaniel - Western-Cullen-Hayes, Inc.



2003 RSSI Scholarship Winners

RSSI is proud to announce the winners of the 2003 RSSI Scholarship Contest. The two winners were chosen from the sixty-five qualified applications received. Each will receive \$1,000 per semester for the next eight semesters (beginning with the Fall 2003 semester). In addition to the two new scholarships, the following are also currently active:

Heather E. Boyle / Unions Switch & Signal, Inc. / Wheaton College

Candace T. Foxworth / GETS Global Signaling / Trinity University

Justin G. Hagan / Safetran Systems Corp. / University of Louisville

Michael P. Hart / Alstom Signaling / Saint Lawrence University

Mark J. McElroy / Union Switch & Signal, Inc. / Pennsylvania State University

Vlad I. Morariu / Union Switch & Signal, Inc. / Pennsylvania State University

Parker E. Terril / Union Switch & Signal, Inc. / Bucknell University

Anthony Vydrin / Union Switch & Signal, Inc. / Carnegie Mellon University



Vitaly Chibisov

Sponsor: Mother, Alla Yanko employed by Union Switch & Signal, Inc.

Attending: Duke University

Major: Engineering



Hanhan Wang

Sponsor: Mother, Zhengrong Zuo employed by Union Switch & Signal, Inc.

Attending: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Major: Engineering

NEW RSSI MEMBERS

We would like to extend a welcome to the thirty-two new members who have joined RSSI since October, 2002. The new members who exhibited at the 2003 RSSI C&S Exhibition held in Chicago are shown in italics.

Advanced Signal Technologies LLC

Air & Hydraulic Equipment Inc.

ASC-ESCO

AT&T Wireless

C&S Signaling LLC

C3 Trans Systems LLC

DPS Electronics

Enerdyne Technologies, Inc.

Hanning & Kahl LP

Hayden Tower Service Inc.

Honeywell Repelsysteme RmbH

Indra Sistemas

John Thomas Inc.

Lat-Lon, LLC

Meteor Communications Corp.

Microwave Data Systems

MJ Electric Inc.

National Trackwork, Inc.

Phoenix Contact Inc.

Premier Custom Trough

Quantum Engineering, Inc.

Rail Systems Solutions, Inc.

Railcon Inc.

RailTech, LLC

Ritron, Inc.

Shel-Bar Electronic Industries Ltd.

ThermoWeld

Trainyard Tech, LLC

Transcore

Transtector Systems, Inc.

VAE Nortrak Ltd.

VANU Inc.

Welsbach Electric Corp.

Upcoming Industry Events

2003

Oct. 5-8 AREMA 2003 Annual Conference & Exposition
Chicago, IL (Palmer House Hilton)
AREMA - (301) 459-3200 Ext. 705

2004

Jan. 2-6 NRC Conference & Exhibition
Lake Buena Vista, FL (Walt Disney World)
NRC - (202) 638-7790

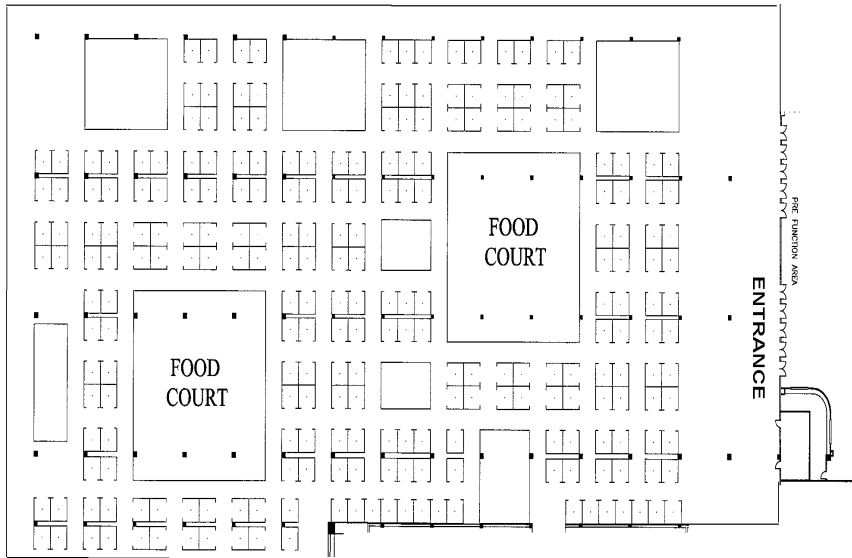
Apr 22-24 ASLRRA Annual Meeting & Exhibition
St. Louis, MO (Renaissance Grand Hotel)
ASLRRA - (202) 628-4500

May 17-18 AREMA 2004 C&S Technical Conference
Nashville, TN (Opryland Hotel)
AREMA - (301) 459-3200 Ext. 705

May 18-20 RSSI C&S Exhibition (Exhibition Dates 5/19 & 5/20)
Nashville, TN (Opryland Hotel)
RSSI - (502) 327-7774

PRELIMINARY FLOORPLAN OPRYLAND HOTEL

Nashville, Tennessee



This is the preliminary floorplan for the 2004 RSSI C&S Exhibition being held May 19th and 20th in Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. As you can see, there truly isn't a bad booth location on the floor. Mark your calendar now to watch for your 2004 Exhibit Kit. Booth reservations for 2003 Exhibitors will be accepted as of December 1st (Exhibit Kits mailed November 25th) all other RSSI members can reserve a booth space as of December 8th (Exhibit Kits mailed December 3rd).



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