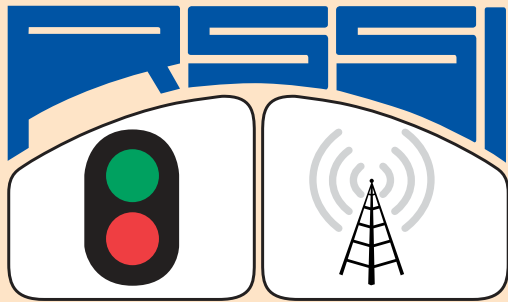


THE RSSI Communicator

FALL 2016



Railway Interchange 2017 Returning to Indianapolis

September 17 - 20, 2017

**AREMA, REMSA, RSI and RSSI Preparing For
Record Number Of Exhibitors and Attendees**



A Letter from the President



RSSI Member Companies,

I have served as your President since last October and have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. As I wind down my term as President I would like to share a couple of thoughts with you. From my perspective, while the industry is experiencing a downturn in the economy, RSSI, your trade association, has flourished both from a financial perspective as well as a membership perspective. The trade show at the Gaylord Texan was a great success and this would not have happened without the support from our member companies, all the railroads, including Class One's, Short Lines, Commuter and Transit agencies, and our government agencies.

The future is bright but, as I stated earlier, we cannot let our guard down as we are facing very strong economic headwinds in our industry as the US and Global Economies continue to slow. I would also like to give special thanks to my fellow Board of Director members, our Office Manager, Dot Frenette and our Executive Director, Mike Drudy. I will pass the torch to Walter Winzen our incoming President this October and wish him well. I am confident that I am passing the gavel to an extremely capable individual and he will serve us well. I will continue to serve the association as a Board member and look forward to both the opportunities as well as the challenges that the association will certainly face. Again, thank you for being such great member companies and all your contributions that facilitate our success.

Best regards,
Mike Choat
President, RSSI

2017 Railway Interchange Information

2017 Railway Interchange RSSI Exhibition Schedule	
Sunday, Sept. 17th:	
Exhibition Open	1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Reception	3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
RSSI Hospitality Suite (Marriott)	7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Monday, Sept. 18th:	
Exhibition Open	10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Lunch provided	
Annual Meeting	2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Reception	4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
RSSI Buffett Dinner (Marriott)	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday, Sept 19th:	
Exhibition Open	8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Breakfast & Lunch provided	

RSSI has arranged hotel accommodations for attendees and exhibitors at the **Indianapolis Marriott Downtown (RSSI Headquarters)**, and the **Westin Indianapolis Hotel**. Hotel reservations may be made through our website beginning in April 2017. As we get closer, we will contact all members with exact date for opening of hotel reservations. A direct link will be provided at www.rssi.org.





RSSI AGAIN JOINS AREMA, REMSA AND RSI

FOR THE FOURTH RAILWAY INTERCHANGE EVENT IN 2017

Railway Interchange 2017 will be returning to the Indianapolis Convention Center from September 17 – 20, 2017.

Following Interchange events in 2011, 2013 and 2015 the executive committee and working group of AREMA, REMSA, RSI and RSSI are working hard to ensure that the success of Railway Interchange continues in 2017.

The spacious Indianapolis Convention Center and easily accessible hotels located in a thriving downtown area helped to make RI 2017 an enjoyable event for all attendees.

These Indianapolis features plus a location that is easy to get to for many of our members and customers helped seal the deal for 2017 as well as for RI2023.

Booth sales will open on Tuesday October 17, 2016 and registration and hotel reservations will open on Thursday April 27, 2017.

In 2015 Railway Interchange was held at the Minneapolis Convention Center and booth space was sold out. With the larger exhibit halls in the Indianapolis Convention Center we will be able to accommodate more exhibitors.

AREMA will again be holding its conference and seminars in conjunction with the REMSA, RSI and RSSI sponsored exhibits.

The headquarters hotel for RSSI will be the Downtown Marriott and the Westin will serve as our backup hotel. Both of these hotels are located across the street from the convention center and are connected to the ICC via skywalks.

Remember to mark October 17, 2016 on your calendar if you plan to exhibit with RSSI. Exhibit space will be reserved via phone at 904-379-3366.

RSSI SELECTS FERN EXPOSITION & SERVICES COMPANY FOR 2017 RSSI EXHIBITION



Expositions
Events
Experiences

In June 2016 RSSI issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to multiple exhibitor service companies to provide the exhibitor and decorator services for the RSSI exhibitors at the 2017 Railway Interchange Conference and Exhibition in Indianapolis, IN.

All three of the exhibition service companies responding to the RFP are regarded in the industry as high quality companies with customer service being their keystone characteristic.

FERN is no stranger to RSSI as they were our exhibition service provider for Railway Interchange 2011 and 2013 and for the RSSI 2012 exhibition in Cincinnati.

The FERN team, which will be servicing RSSI in 2017, is headquartered in Louisville, KY. and has a warehouse and marshalling yard in close proximity to the Indianapolis Convention Center.

RSSI exhibitors in 2017 should see a significant reduction in the cost of drayage and booth furnishings as the RFP resulted in very competitive pricing among all three service providers.

Booth sales for the 2017 Railway Interchange Exhibition will begin October 17, 2016. Please check the RSSI website at www.rssi.org or call the RSSI office at 904-379-3366 for additional information.

THE 56TH ANNUAL C&S EXHIBITION AT GAYLORD TEXAN RESORT

On June 29th and 30th the suppliers, customers, government regulators, and guests of the North American communications and signal industry came together at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, TX. The event was the 56th Annual RSSI C&S Exhibition.

The RSSI exhibition is always the premier C&S event in the rail industry and 2016 proved to be no exception. Over 1300 suppliers and 300 rail and passenger managers and employees attended the two days of exhibits.

New technology which enhances safety, lowers costs and keeps rail operators better informed, was apparent in the more than 190 exhibit booths.

Once the exhibits opened at 10:00am on Wednesday June 29th through closing at 4:00pm Thursday June 30th, all meals and refreshments were available in the four food courts located in the exhibit halls. By providing meals and refreshments in the exhibit hall there is no reason for attendees to leave the exhibit floor which maximizes the time the customers and suppliers can interact. This has been a trademark of the RSSI exhibition since 2001.

The RSSI sponsored event started on Tuesday June 28th with FHWA Transportation Specialist, Bruce Friedman, and FRA Inspector, Jerry Martin, conducting a seminar on the revisions to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and their affect on the installation, maintenance and testing of Rail/Highway Protection. There were 80 attendees at the seminar which also provided insight on how revisions to the MUTCD are proposed and adopted.

Following the MUTCD seminar Dave Thurston, President of the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE) North American chapter, and Bill Scheerer, retired Chief Signal Engineer CSX, hosted the IRSE's annual North American meeting. (See accompanying article)

On Tuesday evening RSSI sponsored a reception and dinner for all registered guests followed by a Casino event hosted by Bob Barranco of BPI, Inc. The Casino event is always an enjoyable and fun event where players can try their luck at table and interactive games to win raffle tickets. The more raffle tickets you win the better the chances of your going home with one of the raffle prizes given out at the end of the evening.

The Gaylord Texan lived up to its billing as a five star resort as the hotel, restaurants and amenities were first class in every way. The variety of food offered at the breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets was a special treat for everyone.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2017 Railway Interchange Conference and Exhibition being held from September 17 – 20 at the Indianapolis Convention Center.



Pics from The 2016 Exhibition





IRSE
INSTITUTION OF
RAILWAY SIGNAL
ENGINEERS
MINOR RAILWAYS SECTION

RSSI HOLDS ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN MEETING AT 56TH RSSI EXHIBITION

The Institution of Railway Signal Engineers held its 2016 North American Chapter meeting in conjunction with the RSSI Exhibition. Over sixty rail signal managers and suppliers met at the Gaylord Texan Resort on Tuesday June 28th.

Presentations were made by:

Dave Thurston, Parsons Brinckerhoff – Standards and Their Organizational Impact on the Rail Industry
Patrick Sullivan, Federal Railroad Administration – Highway Rail Grade Crossing Activation Failures
Andrew Crouch, BNSF – Slide Fence Research
Bill Scheerer, Retired CSX – An Introduction to IRSE

What is IRSE

IRSE is an international professional institution for all those engaged in or associated with railway signaling and telecommunications, train control, traffic management and allied professions.

The Institution has its headquarters in London, UK. IRSE and its members, are active worldwide, with 50% of its membership outside the UK. The Chief Executive is Francis How, and they elect a President annually each April.

The Institution aims to advance the science and practice of train control and communications engineering within the industry and to maintain high standards of knowledge and competence within the profession. The overriding purpose in doing this is for the public benefit, to help ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and freight by rail.

Objectives of the Institution

The advancement for the public benefit of the science and practice of signaling by the promotion of research, the collection and publication of educational material and the holding of conferences, seminars and meetings.

The maintenance of high standards of practice and professional care amongst those working within the industry and the promotion of improved safety standards for the protection of the general public. For more information about IRSE contact Bill Scheerer at WJScheer@ieee.org

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH RSSI

With annual dues of \$450 RSSI is an outstanding value to its 290 plus members. Besides sponsoring the premier rail industry exhibition for communications and signal suppliers RSSI members also enjoy these additional benefits:

- Scholarship program – Two eight thousand dollar scholarships are awarded annually to the children, grandchildren, step children and step grandchildren of employees of RSSI member companies in good standing. To find out more about the eligibility requirements for the scholarships visit the RSSI website at www.rssi.org.

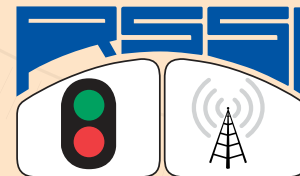
- Rail legislation and lobbying support – as a 501(c) 6 association the amount of direct lobbying RSSI can do is limited. However a significant percentage of the dues our member companies pay is spent supporting the lobbying efforts of RSI, CABT, GoRail and Rail Safety Awareness programs. RSSI is also an active participant in the American Short Line Association's Annual Railroad Day on the Hill. The funding from RSSI helps these organizations ensure that our elected officials understand how the outcome of pending legislation will affect the competitive status of the transportation industry and the jobs of the tens of thousands of employees in the rail industry. These organizations have been very successful in recent years in making sure that the North American transportation industry provides a fair competitive market to all participants.

- RSSI continues to support and hold membership in other organizations and associations that benefit the rail industry including AREMA, RSI and REMSA. By partnering with these organizations the market opportunity for our members has seen significant growth.

- The C&S Buyer's Guide located on the RSSI website, www.rssi.org, has proven to be a new customer resource for member companies. The buyer's guide allows a customer who is searching for a specific product or service to easily find the contact information for the RSSI member companies who supply that product or service.

- The RSSI website continues to be a place where members of the communications and signal industry can find the latest industry news updates as well as information on upcoming meetings and exhibitions. We are constantly working to improve the website and make it a more effective resource for our members and their customers.

These and other member benefits continue to keep RSSI as an outstanding value to its member companies. The RSSI staff is dedicated to working every day to increase this value to our members.



2016 Scholarship Winners

RSSI is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 RSSI scholarship awards. The W. Ed Rowland Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Lindsey Laurune. Lindsey's father, William Laurune, is an employee of Ansaldo STS.

The recipient of the James R. Higginbottom scholarship is Matthew Heron. Matthews's father, Robert Heron, is employed by Harsco Rail.

The scholarships are worth \$8,000 payable in eight \$1,000 payments before each semester. The recipients must be enrolled in an accredited North American institution of higher learning and maintain a 3.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale.

All children, step children, grandchildren and step grandchildren of employees of RSSI member companies in good standing are eligible to apply for the scholarship. (See the RSSI website for additional eligibility requirements).

The scholarship winners are determined based on an evaluation of all applications by three independent judges. The judge's results are then reviewed by the RSSI Scholarship Committee.

The 2016 RSSI W. Ed Rowland Memorial Scholarship

Lindsey Laurune

Lindsey is a 2016 graduate of Seneca Valley High School in Harmony, PA where she ranked 5th in her class of 572 students with an overall GPA of 5.33. She is a member of the Science Honor Society as well as a valued member of the Seneca Cross Country Team.

Lindsey will be attending University of Pittsburgh in the fall of 2016 where her major will be Engineering.



The 2016 RSSI James R. Higginbottom Scholarship

Matthew Heron

Matthew is a 2016 graduate of Dutch Fork High School in Irmo, S.C. where he ranked 4th in his class of 393 with an overall GPA of 5.166. He is an Eagle Scout, Senior Vice President of Student Council, National Honor Society as well as an AP Scholar with Distinction.

Matthew will be attending Georgetown University the fall of 2016 where his major will be Human Science.



In addition to the two new scholarships, the following are also active:

Holly K. Avins - Okonite/Purdue University

Samuel Altland - Hatch Mott MacDonald/University of Pennsylvania

Brantley ALien Butcher - Yale University

Heather R. Hourdequin - Okonite/University of California Los Angeles

Brent Henderson - GE Transportation/Truman State University

Joanne Jang - ARINC/Stanford University

Ashton Mensinger - G&B Specialties/Penn State

Elisabeth Wydotis - Siemens/USC Columbia

Zoe Tong Yu - Dartmouth College

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Railroad Controls Limited

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RSSI STAFF

Executive Director

Michael Drudy

Executive Assistant

Dot Frenette

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017

September 17-20
RSSI/Railway Interchange
Indianapolis, IN

2018

May 22-24
RSSI C&S Exhibition
Omaha, NE

2019

September 21-24
RSSI/Railway Interchange
Minneapolis, MN

2020

June 2-4
60th Annual RSSI
C&S Exhibition
Nashville, TN

2021

September 26-28
RSSI/Railway Interchange
Indianapolis, IN

DON'T FORGET!

Booth Sales Begin on Monday, October 17, 2016!

All RSSI member company voting and exhibit representatives will be contacted the week of October 11, 2016 by e-mail with their appointment timeframe.



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