

# THE RSSI Communicator

2019

## Looking Back on RI2019

### Railway Interchange Conference and Exhibition Meets In Minneapolis for Third and Final Time

It was a bittersweet end to the Minneapolis/Railway Interchange partnership when on September 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Railway Interchange held its biennial conference and exhibition at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

It was in Minneapolis in 2011 when the first Railway Interchange event was held bringing together four rail engineering associations to host a combined conference and exhibition. No one was sure how a single event involving suppliers to the mechanical engineering, civil engineering and signal and communications engineering departments of the railroad and transit companies would work.

Would the rail and transit companies be willing to send engineering managers from all departments to a single event? Would RI be able to coordinate all of the AREMA and CMA meetings and presentations and still allow sufficient time for the attendees to visit the inside and outside yard exhibitions? Meeting space, shuttle bus schedules, registration, food and beverage, hotel rooms and other logistic issues had to be arranged and managed for an unknown amount of attendees.

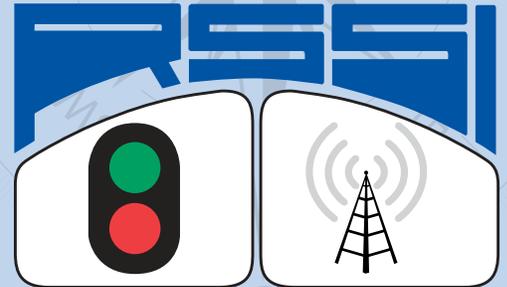
Minneapolis turned out to be an ideal location for the initial Railway Interchange. The convention center and hotel rooms were adequate for the 7000 attendees and 600 exhibiting companies that came together in September 2011.

Minneapolis is a strong railroad location with many Class One and regional rail company facilities located within a few hours travel. The BNSF North Yard was a great location for the outside exhibits and the shuttle bus service to the yard from the convention center was successful.

Railway Interchange returned to Minneapolis in 2015 and 2019 while holding its 2013 and 2017 events in Indianapolis. The success of Railway Interchange has outgrown the available exhibit space of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The 2021 and 2023 RI Conference and Exhibition will again be held in Indianapolis which has a large convention center that will allow for the continued growth of Railway Interchange.

We bid a fond adieu to Minneapolis and our thanks to the convention center, hotel and restaurant personnel who made us feel welcome and helped to make Railway Interchange the largest rail industry conference and exhibition in North America.





## A Letter from the President

It is my great privilege to once again represent RSSI as President for the 2019-2020 term. We have just completed a successful Railway Interchange exhibition in Minneapolis. The location of the 2021 and 2023 Railway Interchange will be Indianapolis. Change is upon us all.

The RSSI Board of Directors is also going through some changes. We have three Board members that have retired their seats this year. We wish to thank Bob Ryan, John Paljug, and Dave Fox for the many years of service to the board and organization. We will miss their leadership and vision.

I would like to welcome Jeff Baker as a new member to the RSSI Board of Directors. Jeff was appointed to the board in October 2019.

Although the makeup of the board will be going through changes in 2020 there remains a strong core of experienced board members to ensure continued success throughout the coming years.

As the saying goes change is the only constant. The rail industry and our customers are going through tremendous change with Precision Scheduled Railroading (PSR) and Positive Train Control (PTC).

The Freight railroads have seen declining car loadings every month this year. We must be able to adapt to the changes they will be making as they adjust to this decline in volume.

Our 60<sup>th</sup> RSSI exhibit will be held in Nashville on June 1-3, 2020. We are working to make this the best exhibit ever.

RSSI has scheduled a seminar for Monday June 1st, the day before the exhibits open. The subject of the seminar will be "Emerging Technologies for Rail Highway Grade Crossings". This will be an opportunity to hear about new vehicle to infrastructure (v2i) technology that is being tested in "Smart Cities" around the country. This is very exciting. Grade crossing protection is going through technological changes that will increase safety. New opportunities will grow from this change. Will you be a part of it?

I look forward to seeing each of you at Nashville. Have a wonderful holiday season. Take the time to spend the Holidays with family.

George Rudge  
President RSSI

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## From the Executive Director – Closing of Exhibit Halls

On Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the second day of the exhibits, the exhibit halls were closed from 11:30am to 1:00pm to allow exhibitors, customers and guests to attend the Railway Interchange General Session and Keynote Speaker presentation.

In previous years the General Session and Keynote address had been held at 7:30am on Monday morning and attendance had not been good. It was thought that by moving the sessions to later in the morning more people would have an opportunity to attend.

This idea was discussed by the four associations that make up Railway Interchange (REMSA, RSI, RSSI and AREMA) at the planning meetings for 2019 Railway Interchange. As Executive Director of RSSI I was not initially in favor of closing the exhibit halls. After discussion I agreed to the closing of the halls on a one time trial basis to see how it worked. I also informed the other associations that RSSI security staff would not force anyone to leave the exhibit hall but would encourage everyone in the hall to attend the General Session and Keynote Speaker presentation.

When I returned from the General Session I found out that security staff members from the convention center entered the RSSI exhibit hall and demanded that our exhibitors and in some cases rail customers leave the exhibit hall. Many of our exhibitors did vacate the hall although some did not.

Several of our exhibitors and RSSI board members have informed me that the closing of the halls once they are open and customers are in the hall is not acceptable. I agree and

I have informed the other associations that RSSI will not be closing their exhibit hall at future events.

I apologize for the disruption many exhibitors experienced and the poor manner that this was handled.

RSSI understands that the Annual Exhibition whether it be the Railway Interchange Event or the RSSI C&S Exhibition in the even numbered years is the primary opportunity many of our exhibitors have to exhibit their products and services to a large number of rail and transit customers. We also understand that our exhibitors spend a significant amount of money to attend the exhibitions and to lease exhibit space.

We are always looking for ways to enhance the exhibition experience for our member companies and especially our exhibitors. By sponsoring seminars on setup day that are of interest to the rail and transit customers we increase the number of customers who attend our exhibits. By not allowing customer meetings that take customers off the floor during exhibit hours and not allowing suppliers to have private dinners and social events with customers during RSSI sponsored events we maximize the amount of time our exhibitors and members can network with customers and associates at our exhibition.

The closing of the halls was done on a one time trial basis and it did not work.

Michael Drudy,  
Executive Director  
RSSI

# RAILWAY INTERCHANGE

AREMA | RSI | REMSA | RSSI



## Nashville in 2020!

### RSSI 60<sup>th</sup> Annual C&S Exhibition Returning to Gaylord Opryland Resort in 2020

In 2020 RSSI will be returning to Nashville, TN and the Gaylord Resort for the first time since 2014. The exhibits will be open from 9:00am to 5:00pm on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and from 8:00am to 4:00pm on Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. (see schedule on opposite page)

Booth sales will open on January 28, 2020. Member companies will be notified of their time slot to call the RSSI office and reserve a booth. The links for registration and hotel reservations will be available on February 11, 2020. We have negotiated a room rate with the Gaylord Resort of \$212 (inclusive of resort fee) for single and double guest rooms.

The Gaylord Opryland Resort is always a popular location for our exhibitors, customers and guests. With the hotel rooms and convention center in the same facility it makes it easier for booth setup and attending the exhibits and social events hosted by RSSI.

There will be a reception and buffet dinner on Tuesday evening followed by a Casino event sponsored by RSSI.

RSSI will sponsor a seminar on "Emerging Technologies for Highway Rail Grade Crossings" (see accompanying article) on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> which is setup day for the exhibits. The seminar is open to all attendees and guests at no additional costs. Lunch will be provided to all seminar attendees.



## Important Exhibit Hall Booth Configuration Update!

### Changes to Exhibit Hall & Booth Configuration to Improve Safety and Visibility for All Exhibitors Effective June 2020

During booth tear down on Wednesday September 25, 2019 following the Minneapolis Railway Interchange exhibition one of the RSSI exhibitors had a fifteen foot wall collapse into the booths across the aisle. Fortunately the booths across the aisle had already been vacated and no one was injured.

Our investigation learned that this same exhibitor experienced a similar incident while exhibiting with another association in 2015.

After discussions with the exhibit service providers the RSSI board has adopted the following policy for the location of booths with 12 foot or higher walls and other structures located on the perimeter of their booths. This policy will be in place for the 2020 June C&S Exhibition at Gaylord Resort in Nashville.

- Booths with walls or structures higher than 12 feet must be located on the perimeter of the exhibit hall unless the wall or structure is located no closer than 10 feet from the perimeter of the booth. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Executive Director of RSSI after it is determined that such structure does not pose a safety risk during move in, exhibition hours or tear down.
- All walls or structures that are higher than 12 feet must be tethered to the ceiling of the exhibit hall. All structures tethered to the ceiling must follow the installation policy of the convention center.
- Back walls of split island booths are limited to a maximum height of 10 feet

These rules are being adopted to enhance the safety and exhibit experience for all exhibitors and attendees who attend the RSSI C&S Exhibition. These rules will be included in the Exhibitor Service Manual (ESM) which is provided to all exhibitors and will be part of the booth contract that is signed by the exhibitor when booth space is purchased.

# 2020 Exhibition Schedule

## ON-SITE SCHEDULE All Times Are CST

### Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>:

- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Decorator - GENESIS Exposition Move-In
- 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Large Exhibit Move-In (By Permission Only)

### Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>:

- 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM Exhibition Registration Desk
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM RSSI Information Desk
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM GENESIS Exposition Service Desk Open
- 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Large Exhibit Move-In (By Permission Only)

### Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>:

- 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM Exhibition Registration Desk
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM RSSI Information Desk
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM GENESIS Exposition Service Desk Open
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM RSSI Exhibitor Move-In
- 10:00 AM – 4:00PM** “Emerging Technologies for Rail/Highway Grade Crossings” Seminar & Lunch  
Ryman Ballroom A
- 7:00 PM – 9:00PM** Beer & Wine Reception  
Ryman Ballroom A-F

### Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- 6:30 AM – 5:00 PM Exhibition Registration Desk
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM RSSI Information Desk
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM GENESIS Exposition Service Desk Open
- 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM** 2020 EXHIBITION OPEN  
Exhibitors can enter 7:00am for Final Booth Prep
- 11:30 PM – 1:00 PM Lunch in Exhibit Hall
- 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM RSSI Annual Membership Meeting – Ryman Studio D
- 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM** RSSI Sponsored Social Event  
Location TBD
- 7:00 PM – 10:00PM** RSSI CASINO Event  
Delta Ballroom

### Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>:

- 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM Exhibition Registration Desk
- 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM RSSI Information Desk
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM GENESIS Exposition Service Desk Open
- 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM** 2020 EXHIBITION OPEN
- 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
- 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Lunch in Exhibit Hall
- 4:30 PM – 10:00 PM Tear Down and Move Out

### Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>:

- 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM RSSI Exhibitor Move-Out
- 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM RSSI Board Meeting  
Ryman Studio D

# 2020 Approved Vendor List

We are excited to be in the planning stage of the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual RSSI C&S Exhibition which will be held at Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, TN on June 1-3, 2020!

There are many pieces involved in putting together a successful show. In order to give you the best experience, RSSI partners with several trusted companies to help us facilitate a seamless show from beginning to end. The following vendors and their services have been approved by RSSI for the 2020 exhibition:

## RCS Registration

Online/On-Site Registration and Lead Retrieval Services

## Gaylord Opryland Resort

Hotel Reservations

## Genesis Exposition

Official Service Contractor/Decorator

## A2Z Personify

Floor plan and mobile app/online profiles

## Temporary Technology

Audio Visual Needs

## RainProtection

General Liability Insurance

## Gaylord Hotels

Booth Services such as electric/catering, etc.

## **PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL AND CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**

No other companies have been approved and all attendees need to be aware they may be solicited by “pirate” companies trying to sell attendee lists and offering hotel discounts. RSSI does not sell lists; attendee lists are distributed to all exhibiting companies and sponsors at no charge. RSSI handles all hotel reservations through Gaylord Opryland and we have negotiated a group rate for all RSSI attendees. We provide a hotel link on our website to make the process seamless and strongly recommend you use that link.

The vendors listed above should be the only vendors that would reach out to you regarding the exhibition. Any other solicitor is not approved. You may contact our office at (904)379-3366 or email us at [rsi@rsi.org](mailto:rsi@rsi.org) for confirmation, questions, or concerns.

**Looking forward to seeing you in NASHVILLE!!**



## More Nashville Info

### Social Events at RSSI Exhibition Offer Opportunity for Networking and Socializing

The RSSI Social Policy ensures that all exhibitor and member personnel have an opportunity to interact with customers, other suppliers and invited guests. By not allowing member companies to host private customer functions at the exhibition the RSSI social events have become the place to spend the evening with friends, business associates and customers.

On Monday night after move in, it is RSSI's custom to host a beer and wine reception where the exhibitors and invited guests can come and relax after a day in the exhibit hall building their booths.

On Tuesday night of the exhibition there will be an RSSI Sponsored Social Event and a Casino event open to all members and their guests. This event always includes a sports zone where multiple HDTVs will show the top sporting events for the season.

These events always attract a large number of attendees and RSSI tries to make sure there is something for everyone. If you have ideas on how we can improve these events please let us know via email at [rssi@rssi.org](mailto:rssi@rssi.org).

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### Member Profile Provides Important Information to RSSI

In November of 2019 new member profile forms were sent to all 294 RSSI member companies. These profile forms provide information to RSSI that enables us to stay in contact with the voting and exhibit representatives of our member companies.

Information regarding upcoming exhibitions, industry legislative updates, dues invoices, rail and transit customer information and other important information can only be received by you when we have your proper contact information on file.

If you received the request to update the member profile form please take a few minutes to insure that your information is correct. If not correct, update the information and return the form to [rssi@rssi.org](mailto:rssi@rssi.org).

2020 dues invoices will be emailed to all member company voting representatives on December 1, 2019. The 2020 annual dues amount has remained at \$450 and is due by January 1, 2020. You must be a member in good standing to reserve a booth space for the June 2020 C&S Exhibition at Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, TN.

### RSSI Sponsoring Emerging Technologies for Rail/Highway Grade Crossings

RSSI is proud to sponsor a seminar on "Emerging Technologies for Rail/Highway Grade Crossings" held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, TN on Monday, June 1, 2020 in conjunction with the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual RSSI C&S Exhibition.

Sid Bakker - President of TPSC and Frank Frey – Gen. Engineer-HSR of the Federal Railroad Administration will moderate three sessions featuring emerging technology presentations and subject matter expert panels. You will learn about technology pilots from freight and commuter railroads, manufacturers, advocacy groups, law enforcement, as well as Local/State and Federal agencies.

You will hear from Kiel Ova – Chief Marketing Officer of TTS about their V2I (Vehicle to Infrastructure) projects with Audi at traffic intersections. TTS V2I technology is installed on over 20,000 intersections which has parallel V2I applications for Rail/Highway crossings. Dr. Garreth Rempel – CEO of TRAINFO will present V2I and IVI (In-vehicle Infotainment) projects at Rail/Highway grade crossings. These are just 2 examples of industry experts that will be presenting.

The FRA will report on the "Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Safety Symposium" recently held in Washington DC. This symposium is the result of a series of 6 listening sessions throughout the past year. These sessions generated 7 technology ideas that are readily implementable and 9 emerging technology ideas requiring further study and piloting. The FRA will also address how they are revising regulatory change for new technology.

Stay tuned for additional information, but in the meantime, Save the Date.

#### Seminar Schedule (All times are CST)

##### Monday, June 1, 2020

10:00am to 11:30am	SESSION 1 - Manufacturers will present Emerging Technologies including domestic and global pilots ending in a Panel Q&A
11:30am to 12:30pm	Lunch (provided)
12:30pm to 2:00pm	SESSION 2 - FRA, FHWA, and state agencies will present Symposium highlights & pilots ending in a Panel Q&A.
2:00pm to 2:30pm	Break
2:30pm to 4:00pm	SESSION 3 - Railroads and manufacturers will present technology pilots and provide perspective on the challenges and adoption of new technologies for crossings.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual RSSI C&S Exhibition will open at 9:00am on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. There is no charge to attend the seminar but you must register for the seminar when you register for the exhibition so we will be sure to have enough seating and lunches. Registration for the exhibition and seminar will open on February 11, 2020. Visit [www.rssi.org](http://www.rssi.org) for more information and to register.

# 2019 Scholarship Winners

RSSI is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 scholarship awards.

The W. Ed Rowland Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Nick Gillespie. Nick's father Andrew J. Gillespie works for Gannett Fleming in Audubon, PA.

The James R. Higginbottom scholarship award winner is Gianna Forte. Gianna's father Charles Forte is employed by Alstom in Jacksonville, FL.

The scholarships are worth \$12,000 payable in eight \$1,500 payments before each semester. The recipients must be enrolled in an accredited North American institution of higher learning and maintain a 3.0 GPA base on a 4.0 scale. There were 39 qualified applications received this year and all were outstanding students deserving of the scholarship award. The applications are judged by three independent judges in ten categories including: academics, leadership, goals, essay and letters of recommendation.

The judges scores are tabulated and the overall top scoring applicants are reviewed and approved by the RSSI Scholarship Committee.

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## The 2019 RSSI W. Ed Rowland Memorial Scholarship

### Nick Gillespie



Nick graduated from Central Bucks High School West in Doylestown, PA with a 4.48 GPA. He scored 1580 on the SAT and 34 on the ACT.

Nick is very active in the Boy Scouts where he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and is a patrol leader and troop guide. As a senior Nick captained the Central Bucks Cross Country team and both the indoor and outdoor track teams. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Key Club, the Central Bucks Student Government and an officer with the Future Business Leaders of America.

Nick considers climate change to be one of the most serious issues facing society and would like to help prevent further climate issues by helping to make the internal combustion engine and the burning of fossil fuels obsolete. He will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall of 2019 where he will major in Electrical Engineering.

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## The 2019 RSSI James R. Higginbottom Scholarship

### Gianna Forte



Gianna graduated from Bishop Snyder High School in Jacksonville, FL with a 4.37 GPA. She was President and Chaplain of the National Honor Society, Chaplain and community outreach representative of the Rho Kappa History Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society and a Peer Leader in the National English Honor Society. She also captained the Bishop Snyder Girls Cross Country and Track & Field teams and played soccer.

She was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Gianna plans to continue her education at the University of Florida where she will major in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology. Her goal is to run for the UF cross country team and after graduation attend medical school to become a Sports Medicine Physician. She wants to help athletes through injury prevention.

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

**Brantley Allen Butcher** - Progress Rail/Yale University  
**Matthew Heron** - Harsco Rail/Georgetown University  
**Lindsey Laurune** - Ansaldo STS/University of Pittsburg  
**Ashton Mensinger** - G&B Specialties/Penn State  
**Elisabeth Wydotis** - Siemens/USC Columbia  
**Zoe Tong Yu** - Gannett Fleming, Inc./Dartmouth College

## RSSI OFFICERS



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Ansaldo STS USA



**Executive VP**  
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PTMW, Inc.



Phil Hess  
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Thomas Ulrich  
Arthur N. Ulrich  
Company

## RSSI STAFF

**Executive Director**  
Michael Drudy

**Executive Assistant**  
Dot Frenette

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2020**  
June 1-3  
60th Annual RSSI  
C&S Exhibition  
Nashville, TN

**2021**  
September 25-28  
RSSI/Railway Interchange  
Indianapolis, IN

**2022**  
May 23-25  
RSSI C&S Exhibition  
Kansas City, MO

**2023**  
September 30-October 3  
RSSI/Railway Interchange  
Indianapolis, IN

**2024**  
July 7-9  
RSSI C&S Exhibition  
Louisville, KY



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