

THE RSSI Communicator

FALL 2021

RSSI Board of Directors Bids Farewell to Three Longtime Members

The RSSI Board of Directors lost three of its senior members in 2021 as George Rudge and Patti jon Goff both retired from the industry and Phil Hess passed away after a long battle with prostate cancer. They each had served on the RSSI board for over twenty years and brought a wealth of industry experience and knowledge to the board.

Many improvements to RSSI were made under their watch. The approval of a social policy that gives all member companies the opportunity to network with customers at the RSSI social events and the adoption of rules during the C&S Exhibition that prevent companies from taking customers off the exhibit floor for private meetings are just two examples.

During the twenty plus years that these individuals dedicated their time and effort to RSSI our association became a leader in the rail supply industry and a financially solid association.

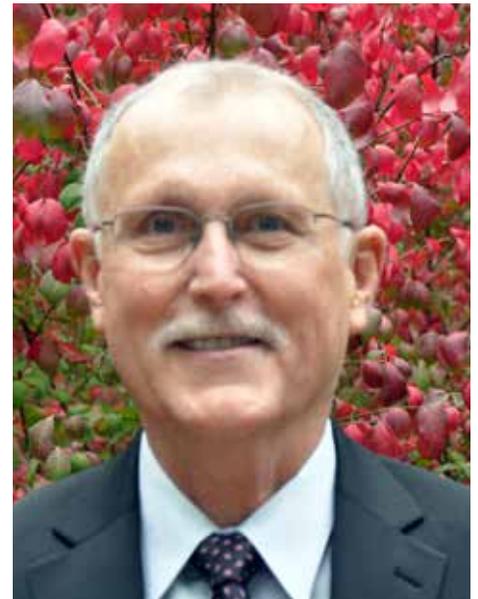
We hope Patti and George both enjoy long and healthy retirements and we join the entire C&S industry in offering our thoughts and prayers to the family of Phil Hess. Phil had battled prostate cancer for over ten years but during that time he never missed an RSSI board meeting or an RSSI C&S Annual Exhibition. He will be missed by all of us at RSSI and everyone who had the pleasure of working with him.



George W. Rudge
Ansaldo STS USA



Patti jon Goff
PTMW, Inc.



Phil Hess
Rails Company



A Letter from the President

It is my honor and privilege to represent and serve all of you as RSSI President this year, one of the most challenging in modern times, not only for the Railroad and Transit Communications & Signaling Industry, but for the world. RSSI has been steadfast in representing our members and their companies with pride and professionalism – a commitment that RSSI as an organization and I, as President, consider an honor as well as a duty.

For the global railway industry, Communications & Signaling is arguably the most technologically complex and challenging. Technology is advancing at an exponential rate, driven by game-changers like artificial intelligence, Big Data, remote health monitoring, adoption of commercial-off-the-shelf components, new safety regulations, and massive increases in computing power that only a few short years ago may not have seemed realistic or cost-effective. At the same time, the C&S industry remains solidly grounded in its core purpose since its 19th century emergence, indeed, the very reason for its existence: safety. We work closely with numerous stakeholders – railroads and rail transit agencies, regulators, legislators, engineering consultants, and yes, our supplier peers – to provide a safe, efficient and cost-effective railway operating environment.

This is why the C&S industry requires a specialized organization, one committed to advocacy and guidance. The RSSI and its Board of Directors have guided our member companies through numerous changes, helping you exceed your customers' expectations as you develop and deploy innovative products, systems and services. We will continue to do so.

I'm pleased to report that the RSSI 2021 C&S Exhibition in Indianapolis this past September was a great success. We had 120 exhibitors and close to 950 attendees. For 2022, the RSSI C&S Exhibition travels to Kansas City, Missouri. Be sure to save the dates: May 17 and 18.

We welcome our two newest Board of Directors members, Jason White, Hitachi Rail STS, and Jim Hanlon, Herzog Technologies Inc., elected at the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting. As well the RSSI Board of Directors has nominated Ashley Bettis, PTMW, and Matt Bolte, Railway Equipment Inc., to fill two vacant seats. While their nominations will require a formal vote at the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting, Ashley and Matt have joined the Board and are ready to go to work. Please join me in extending a warm welcome.

The RSSI website (www.RSSI.org) is there for you, 24/7, providing up-to-date information and resources: About RSSI, Membership, Scholarships, Future Exhibits, Newsletter (THE RSSI COMMUNICATOR), Member Directory, C&S Buyer's Guide, Gallery, Contact Us, and more. The 2022 C&S Exhibition Portal will be open for business very soon.

The RSSI Board of Directors and the Staff sincerely thank you for your membership and participation in this organization. Together, we will continue to serve the railway industry, as the 21st century continues to bring new challenges and opportunities. Clear track ahead!

RSSI Welcomes New Board Members

The RSSI membership elected two new board members in 2021 to fill vacancies from recent retirements and the passing of long-time board member Phil Hess.

Jason White, President Hitachi-Rail, and Jim Hanlon, Vice President Herzog, were elected to three-year terms at the RSSI Annual Membership Meeting in Indianapolis on September 24, 2021.

Both Jason and Jim have been in the rail transportation industry for over twenty years and work for companies that supply key components and systems to rail communications and signal networks.

Jason entered the transportation industry in April 2003 as a project manager with GE Transportation before joining Hitachi Rail as Vice President of Business Development in August 2010.

Jim began his railroad signal career with CSX in 1998. He left CSX and became a construction manager with Southwest Signals in 2006 and joined HAX Technologies as a signal project manager in 2009. HAX was acquired by Herzog Technologies in 2011.

Both of these individuals bring strong C&S experience and knowledge to the RSSI board of directors.

The RSSI board also temporarily filled two other vacant board seats with the appointments of Ashley Bettis, President PTMW, and Matt Bolte, VP Sales Railway Equipment Company. Both of these candidates will appear on the 2022 ballot for permanent board seats and will be voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting which will be held on Wednesday May 18, 2022, at the 61st Annual RSSI C&S Exhibition in Kansas City.

RSSI Officers, Board of Directors, and Staff

RSSI OFFICERS



President
Arthur J. McGinnis
Simmons-Boardman
Publishing Company



Executive VP
Stephen Bolte
Danella Rental
Systems



First VP
Sid Bakker
TPSC



Second VP
Jeffrey Baker
Alstom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ashley Bettis
PTMW



Matthew Bolte
Railway Equipment
Company



Franklin Brown
Dixie Precast, Inc.



Jim Hanlon
Herzog



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



Mike Nolan
Siemens Mobility



Tim Orlandi
Railworks
Cporation



Thomas Ulrich
Arthur N. Ulrich
Company



Harry Waters
The Okonite
Company



Jason White
Hitachi Rail

RSSI STAFF



Michael A. Drudy
Executive Director



Dot Frenette
Executive
Assistant

RSSI Hosts AREMA Signal Committees

On September 20 – 22, 2021 the AREMA Signal Committees 36, 37, 38 & 39 met in Indianapolis for their first face to face in over a year. RSSI hosted the meetings which were well attended by over 70 committee members.

The committee meetings were held in conjunction with the RSSI 60th Annual C&S Exhibition which was held in the Indiana Convention Center on September 23rd and 24th.

Members of the AREMA committees include the manufacturers who develop the components and systems that help to ensure the safe movement of trains, the regulators who write the regulations for inspecting and testing the systems and the rail signal engineers who are the end users of these systems. These committees play a vital role in ensuring that the systems that control the safe movement of trains are developed, installed, tested and replaced in accordance with accepted safety critical procedures.



900+ Attend RSSI C&S Exhibition in Indy!

First Major Face to Face Meeting Since COVID in Rail Industry is Huge Success

After it was decided to cancel Railway Interchange 2021 due to the uncertainty of the COVID Virus the RSSI Board of Directors, at its April 2021 board meeting decided to move forward with planning a 2021 RSSI only C&S exhibition in place of Railway Interchange for its members and customers.

The 2020 RSSI Annual C&S Exhibition had been cancelled due to the virus and with RI 2021 being cancelled it would result in a two-and-a-half-year span between the 2019 Railway Interchange event and the next scheduled exhibition in 2022. The availability and success of the COVID vaccinations gave the RSSI Board confidence that by September 2021 a face-to-face exhibition could be safely achieved.

A survey of RSSI membership and customers found that the majority were in favor of a face-to-face exhibition if all appropriate COVID safety guidelines could be met.

The RSSI staff reached out to the Indiana Convention Center and the Indianapolis hotels and plans began taking shape for the 60th Annual RSSI C&S Exhibition to be held in September 2021.

The COVID Delta Variance which appeared mainly in the Southern US in the spring of 2021 caused some anxious moments, but steps taken by the Convention Center and the hotels to meet and exceed the state and federal guidelines for COVID prevention were encouraging and on Thursday September 23rd the exhibition opened with over 1000 registered guests and 120 exhibitors.

The week of September 20, 2021 became a C&S rail industry week for the City of Indianapolis as AREMA signal and communications committees 36, 37, 38 and 39 met on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with over 70 attendees and the FRA held training classes for over 40 field specialists on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Attendance at the RSSI social events held on Wednesday and Thursday exceeded all expectations. The social events included interactive games, a sports zone, food, and a quiet area where friends and business associates who had not seen one another for two years could socialize. At the opening ceremony for the exhibits Tim Orlandi, RSSI Board President, commented that “the fellowship felt at the social events was shared by all who attended”.

The 2021 RSSI exhibition, industry, corporate and regulatory meetings, and social events had no reported COVID related issues.

The 61st RSSI Annual C&S Exhibition will be held in Kansas City in May 2022. Booth sales will open in January 2022 and registration and hotel reservations will begin on February 2, 2022.



A Plan for Railway Lightning Protection

By Dan Whiteley. Dan Whiteley is the Global Marketing Manager, Railway Systems Solutions for nVent ERICO.

Railways' signaling systems operate in complex electrical environments consisting of electromechanical equipment installed on track (such as switch machines, track circuits and relays), as well as electronics (such as radio and data transmission equipment) contained in bungalows, cabinets, signal masts, and communication towers along the wayside. Railway networks face unavoidable exposure to lightning strikes, which can produce energy surges that penetrate enclosures and damage critical signaling electronics contained within.

Damage to communication and signaling (C&S) infrastructure is costly and may be severe enough to bring service to a halt until it can be repaired, disrupting both passenger and freight service, which is ultimately estimated to cost railways around the world as much as \$100 million per year. That is why companies employ electrical protection equipment throughout the network to prevent or mitigate potential damage – but deciding what equipment is necessary to keep systems in working order can be complicated.

In this article, we will explore how to construct a comprehensive electrical protection system using a six-step process designed to help engineers determine what protection equipment will be best for their specific situation.

What Needs To Be Protected

The typical locations railways need to protect are signal bungalows and communication towers that sit along the wayside or next to the main line of track. Hump yards, which are used to break up and sort rail cars and route them to their next destination, require electrical protection to prevent damage to the mechanized switches and braking systems used to guide railcars through sorting. Hump yards, characterized by large open areas, also contain communication towers and other C&S equipment that is vulnerable to lightning strikes.

It is important to work with partners who offer a comprehensive electrical protection solution (including direct strike lightning protection, surge protection devices as well as grounding and bonding systems) and have the technical expertise to advise on system design and placement.

Here are the key areas to which you need to pay attention when considering how to best protect your equipment. You will want to:

1. Capture the lightning strike.
2. Convey the energy to the group.
3. Dissipate the energy into the grounding system.
4. Bond all points together.
5. Protect incoming AC power feeders.
6. Protect low-voltage wayside signaling equipment as well as data/telecommunication circuits.

Essential Elements of a Protection System

Each core product line (Direct Strike Lightning Protection, Grounding and Bonding Systems, and Surge Protection Devices) contains a wide range of products and components, giving engineers the ability to select from different types of systems, various technologies, or standards of compliance. In other words, engineers can construct custom-built solutions that fit their specific applications:

- Direct Strike Lightning Protection
- Surge Protection Devices (SPDs):
 - Equipment Power-Supply Protection (Primary and Secondary)
 - Equipment Signals (Inputs and Outputs)
 - Communications, Network Interface and RF Systems

As you begin to build your wayside protection systems, it's important to be systematic.

We thank nVent ERICO for submitting this article. The nVent ERICO Six-Point Plan of Protection for Rail is an approach that provides comprehensive electrical protection for railway infrastructure and assets by integrating solutions for lightning protection, grounding and bonding, and surge protection. Each solution contains a custom combination of products to meet the unique electrical protection requirements of each site.

There are several member companies of RSSI that supply lightning protection components and systems including:

Alstom 641 Lexington Avenue 28th Floor New York, NY 10022	PC TEL 471 Brighton Drive Bloomington, IL 60108
Comet Electronics LLC 2401 Nicholson Ave Kansas City, MO 64120	Primus Electronics Corp. 4180 E. Sand Ridge Road Morris, IL 60450
Harger Lightning & Grounding 301 Ziegler Drive Grayslake, IL 60030	Siemens Industry, Inc. 700 East Waterfront Drive Munhall, PA 15120
Henkels & McCoy, Inc. 985 Jolly Road Blue Bell, PA 19422	Site-Specific Solutions, Inc. 447 Clokey Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Hitachi Rail STS USA, Inc 1000 Technology Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15219	Summit Signal, Inc. 260 Margie Drive Willits, CA 95490
Huber+Suhner, Inc. 8530 Steele Creek Place Suite H Charlotte, NC 28273	Times Microwave Systems 358 Hall Avenue Wallingford, CT 06492
nVent 34600 Solon Road Solon, OH 44139	Transtector Systems Inc. 10701 Airport Drive Hayden, ID 83835

Going to Kansas City in 2022!



Following a successful albeit streamlined exhibition in Indianapolis in September 2021 the RSSI C&S membership and guests will be rolling into Kansas City, MO in May 2022 for the 61st Annual RSSI C&S Exhibition.

The exhibits will be open at 10:00am on Tuesday May 17th and will close at 3:00pm on Wednesday May 18th in Halls C&D at the Kansas City Convention Center.

AREMA will be joining RSSI in KC by hosting a C&S Symposium on Sunday May 15th, Monday May 16th and half a day on Tuesday May 17th.

RSSI will host a dinner for all AREMA symposium attendees, RSSI exhibitors and guests at the Imperial Ballroom located in the Muelebach tower of the Marriott hotel on Monday night.

RSSI will also host a social event for all exhibition attendees on Tuesday evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Kansas City Convention Center.

All supply companies, rail and transit company customers, and government regulators will be attending in what should be the first fully attended C&S exhibition since 2018. Although the Indianapolis exhibition in 2021 was well attended there were some supply companies and rail companies who were unable to attend due to COVID concerns.

Booth sales will open in January 2022 and exhibit registration and hotel reservations are scheduled to open on February 2, 2022.

Kansas City is a strong railroad town with a lot of rail history.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in May 2022.

Save the Date!

61st C&S Exhibition Kansas City, MO

May 16-18, 2022

Booth Sales Open in January 2022

Exhibit Registration and Hotel Reservations Will Open on February 2, 2022

2021 Scholarship Winners

RSSI Awards Additional Scholarship in 2021

At the April 2021 board meeting the RSSI board of directors approved the motion of the nomination committee to award the W. Ed Rowland Scholarship to Jade Harlow and the James R. Higginbottom Scholarship to Ariel Ratner.

The board also approved the awarding of a third scholarship in 2021 to Julia Esen. This scholarship was awarded in honor of the twenty-five years of service Patti jon Goff has given to RSSI. Patti who was the owner and President of PTMW joined the RSSI board in April 1996. She announced her retirement at the April 2021 board meeting. Fittingly, Patti served as Chairman of the Scholarship committee in 2021.



The 2021 RSSI W. Ed Rowland Memorial Scholarship

Jade Harlow

Jade is the daughter of Timothy Harlow who is employed by Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, Inc. and lives in Normal, IL. She has been accepted to Appalachian State University where she will study Actuarial Science.



The 2021 RSSI James R. Higginbottom Scholarship

Ariel Ratner

Ariel is the daughter of Vladimir Ratner who is employed by Alstom Signaling, Inc. and lives in Fairport, NY. She has been accepted to the University of Buffalo where she will study Pharmaceutical Sciences.



The 2021 RSSI Patti jon Goff Scholarship

Julia Esen

Julia is the daughter of Susan Esen who is employed by Alstom Signaling, Inc and lives in Webster, NY. She has been accepted to the University of Rochester where she will study Geomechanical Engineering.

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

Hannah Alnemer – iNemsoft/University of Texas

Erika Howery – Progress Rail/University of Missouri

Andrew Gillespie – Gannett Fleming/University of Michigan

Gianna Forte – Alstom Transportation/University of Florida

Amasha Jayarante – Siemens/University of Pennsylvania

Sam Steen – Princeton Consultants Inc./Calvin College



Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc. is a trade association serving the communication, signal, and IT segments of the rail transportation industry.

What We Offer

- **Annual Exhibit:** Largest exhibit in the North American communications and signal industry
- **Annual Scholarship Program:** For member company employees' children and grandchildren
- **Legislative:** We support the initiatives of RSI, GoRail, NRC, CABT, and ASLRRRA dealing with federal legislative issues that impact the rail industry
- **Active supporters** of AREMA Technical Committees, IRSE, and other rail and transit associations

RSSI Objectives

- Provide a world class exhibition that allows our member companies to showcase their products and services to their rail and transit customers in the most efficient manner possible
- Work to maintain the stature of the communications and signal supply companies in the railroad industry and business community
- Encourage and provide for the development of the next generation of America's rail, transit and supply leaders
- Provide effective communications to our members about happenings in the rail industry

Join the over **1500** customers, suppliers, and regulators who will be attending the **2022 RSSI C&S Exhibition** at the Kansas City Convention Center **May 16-18, 2022.** Over 160 communication and signal companies will be exhibiting with RSSI.

For more information visit the RSSI website at **www.rssi.org**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022
May 16-18
RSSI C&S Exhibition
Kansas City, MO

2023
Sept. 30-Oct. 3
RSSI/Railway Interchange
Indianapolis, IN

2024
July 8-10
RSSI C&S Exhibition
Louisville, KY

2025
September 14-17
RSSI/Railway Interchange
Indianapolis, IN



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