

# THE RSSI Communicator

WINTER 2023

## Railway Interchange 2023 Has a Successful Return to Indianapolis

With over 7200 attendees including all North American Class 1 railroads, all major regional freight railroads and several commuter and transit companies represented, the member companies and members of AREMA, REMSA, RSI and RSSI celebrated their return to Indianapolis from September 29 through October 4, 2023.

This was the first Railway Interchange event hosted by the four member associations since 2019 due to the COVID Pandemic.

Railway Interchange continues to be the largest gathering of rail industry suppliers and customers in North America.

Over 600 exhibiting companies from REMSA, RSI and RSSI displayed their products and services to the attendees from over 48 rail and transit companies.

With meals served in the food courts and a tailgate party taking place on the exhibit floor there was strong customer and attendee traffic in the exhibit halls throughout the three-day event.

The AREMA seminars and presentations were well attended with over 2300 participants registering for the AREMA conference.

RSI held their annual Technical Conference as part of Railway Interchange 2023 and over 500 rail customers and suppliers attended the technical seminars.

Railway Interchange will return to Indianapolis in 2025 with REMSA, RSI and RSSI again hosting the exhibitions and the RSI Technical Conference.

Indianapolis has proven to be an ideal location for the Railway Interchange events as it is located near the center of the country, has ample exhibition halls, has hotels located a short distance from the convention center, and downtown Indianapolis has several restaurants for hosting lunches and dinners.







## A Letter from the President

It is my honor to serve as President of RSSI for the 2023-2024 term which began October 4th following the closing of the 2023 RSSI exhibition. We congratulate Steve Bolte, the outgoing President, for his outstanding service. That same day, Tom Ulrich announced his retirement from the RSSI Board. We thank Tom for his many years of dedicated service and wish him all the best. We welcomed 3 new board members: Miles Metschke – Hitachi Rail, Paul Rieger – Modern Railway Systems, and Bill Crain – Western Cullen Hayes.

historic setting promises to be a spectacular event attracting an estimated 3,000 attendees. Kentucky is best known for horse racing, bourbon, baseball bats, bluegrass music, and southern cuisine. RSSI and REMSA are weaving these elements into the Louisville experience, including a joint social event Tuesday evening July 9 at Churchill Downs - Home of the Kentucky Derby. Great booth locations are still available but going fast. Reply to your emailed invitation to this event or email [rssi@rssi.org](mailto:rssi@rssi.org) to request a booth contract and exhibiting information.

The Railway Interchange (RI) 2023 Conference and Exhibition held October 1-4, 2023 in Indianapolis is comprised of RSSI, REMSA, RSI and AREMA. Over 7,200 attendees visited North America's largest rail show. We received many positive comments and success stories from RSSI exhibitors. We thank you for constructive feedback for future shows and plan to implement several ideas in 2024.

I look forward to working closely with fellow board members and RSSI staff. This group of professionals is committed to connecting you with the North American Rail Industry's Communication & Signal (C&S) customers through annual exhibitions, C&S Buyers guide, RSSI member company listing, and special events. All information can be found at [www.RSSI.org](http://www.RSSI.org).

And They're Off! Booth sales opened November 13th for the RSSI - REMSA joint exhibition to be held July 8-10, 2024, in Louisville, KY. This

Sid Bakker  
President RSSI Board of Directors

## RSSI Membership Benefits

RSSI's main purpose is to sponsor an annual exhibition where our member companies can exhibit their products and services to their rail customers.

Our goal is to provide this exhibition to our exhibitors in as affordable a venue as possible. Our association's annual dues have not increased in over ten years and remain the lowest in the industry. These dues not only support the association's administrative cost but also support the legislative initiatives of GORAIL, CABT, AAR, ASLRRRA, NRC and REMSA.

RSSI is also a financial supporter of AREMA and IRSE.

Other benefits of membership include:

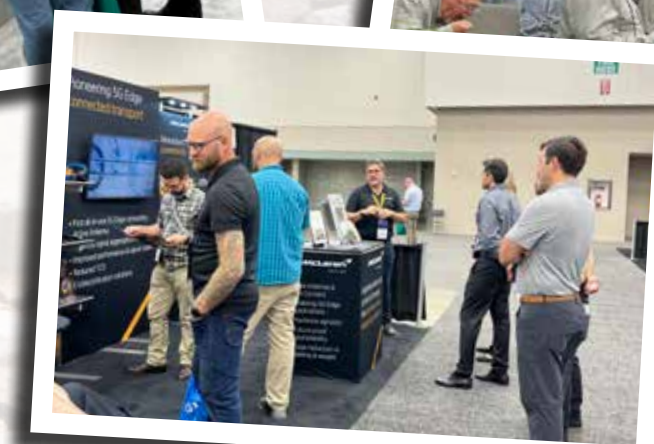
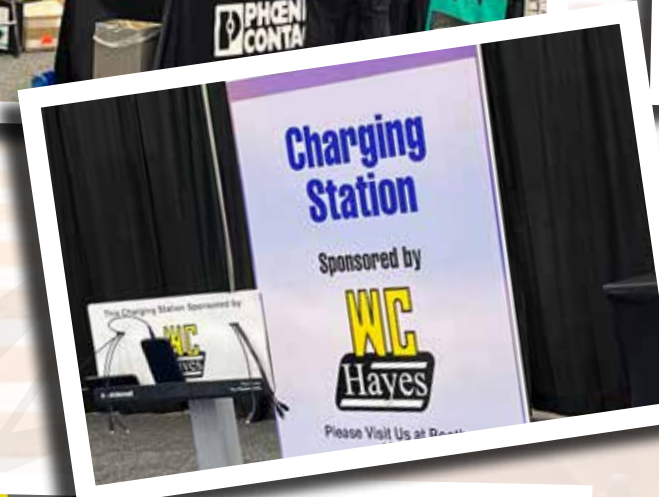
- Annual Scholarship Program where children and grandchildren of our member company's employees can apply for two \$12,000 scholarships.
- C&S Buyer's Guide where customers can research member companies who supply the communications and signal systems and components.

- Monthly newsletter that details legislation before congress that may benefit or reduce the competitive ability of the rail industry and keeps our members current on the status of available federal funding for rail and crossing projects.

RSSI works to maintain the stature of the C&S companies in the rail industry and encourages the development of the next generation of rail supply company leaders.



## 2023 Exhibition Pics





## The Future of Railway Interchange

The first Railway Interchange (RI) event took place in Minneapolis in 2011. Since that time there have been a total of six RI events hosted by AREMA, REMSA, RSI and RSSI. This Joint conference and exhibition was formed in response to the rail companies suggesting that there were too many conferences and exhibitions taking place. At the time each of the associations were having their own annual event with REMSA member companies participating in the annual NRC conference. The four associations decided to do a joint conference and exhibition every odd numbered year starting in 2011. They continued to host their own exhibitions and conferences in even-numbered years.

The RI joint conference and exhibition has been a success with attendance and number of exhibitors increasing each year the event has been held. Railway Interchange has become the largest gathering of rail customers and suppliers in North America.

In June of 2022 AREMA notified REMSA, RSI and RSSI that they would prefer to do their own conference and exhibition every year and that they were planning on leaving Railway Interchange after the 2023 joint event.

AREMA is a professional organization with their primary functions to be managing committees that build the Manual

Parts for the track, communications, signal and IT systems and components that are used in the railroad engineering industry and to provide continuing education opportunities for their attendees.

AREMA is not a trade association and does not represent the member companies of REMSA, RSI and RSSI that supply products and services to the rail industry. They do not contribute to the cost of the exhibit space, F&B, or any costs associated with the RI exhibit booths. All attendees who registered for the AREMA conference and seminars are allowed free access to the exhibition halls.

AREMA does not share their registration revenue with the three trade associations and REMSA, RSI and RSSI do not share their booth or registration revenue with AREMA. There are common costs associated with Railway Interchange that all four organizations share.

Moving forward Railway Interchange will continue with the three trade associations hosting a joint exhibition in Indianapolis in May of 2025.

Please read the article in this Newsletter detailing the REMSA and RSSI joint exhibition in Louisville, KY in 2024.

## RSSI and REMSA Planning Joint 2024 Exhibition in Louisville, KY

RSSI and REMSA have always shared a common interest with the rail customers. They are both involved with the critical right of way structures and systems that move trains across North America.

The member companies of RSSI supply the switches, signals, communications networks, and highway grade crossing devices along the right of way.

The member companies of REMSA supply the rail, ballast, ties, bridges and structures that are necessary to provide the tracks for the trains to travel on.

Several of the engineering and purchasing managers of the freight railroads and commuter and transit companies have responsibilities that deal with the products and services that the supply companies of both RSSI and REMSA furnish. Several supply companies are members of both RSSI and REMSA as they have customer bases with both associations. With RSI having its own exhibition in Chicago in the fall of 2024, RSSI and REMSA have agreed to hold a joint exhibition in July of 2024 in Louisville, KY. The dates of the exhibition will be July 8-10, 2024.

We are making arrangements for a joint social event to be held at the Churchill Downs race track with mock racing, open bars, a buffet dinner and other activities that should be enjoyable for everyone. The social event will be held on Tuesday evening July 9th from 6-9 PM.

Booth sales are now open for this exhibition with registration and housing opening February 6, 2024.

Check with the REMSA and RSSI offices and websites for more information.



## 2023 Scholarship Winners

RSSI is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 scholarship awards.

The James R. Higginbottom scholarship award winner is Hannah Wojcik. Hannah's father, Eric Wojcik, is employed by Alstom Signaling.

The Ronald L. McDaniel Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Allyson Chen. Allyson's mother, Hong Li, works for iNEMSOFT, INC.

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 based on a 4.0 scale. There were 36 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.

### The 2023 RSSI James R. Higginbottom Scholarship

#### Hannah Wojcik

The winner of the RSSI 2023 James R. Higginbottom Scholarship is Hannah Wojcik. Hannah graduated from St. Charles East High School in St. Charles, IL with a weighted GPA of 5.511 and scored 1440 on the SAT. She will be attending the University of Missouri where she will be majoring in Secondary Education Language Arts. Her goal is to become a high school English teacher.



Hannah's father Eric Wojcik is employed by Alstom.



### The 2023 RSSI Ronald L. McDaniel Scholarship

#### Allyson Chen

The winner of the RSSI 2023 Ronald McDaniel Memorial Scholarship is Allyson Chen. Allyson attended Allen High School in Allen, TX where she achieved a GPA of 4.7 and an SAT score of 1540. She will be attending Brown University where she will major in International Relations. She has always been involved in music participating in several choirs and plays the cello in the varsity orchestra.

Her mother Hong Li is employed by iNEMSOFT, INC.

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

**Julia Esen** – Alstom Signaling/University of Rochester

**Ella Grace Fries** – Alstom/Maryville University

**Jade Harlow** – voestalpine Railway Systems/Appalachian State University

**Amasha Jayarante** – Siemens/University of Pennsylvania

**Reese Scot Myers** – The Okonite Company/Clemson University

**Ariel Ratner** – Alstom Signaling/University of Buffalo

**Sam Steen** – Princeton Consultants Inc./Calvin College

**Jaden Vandenburg** – RAILWORKS/Tarleton State University



# Booth Sales for 2024 Louisville Start Strong

RSSI does not normally open booth sales for exhibitions held in the even numbered years until January of that year. REMSA, who will be joining us for the first time in 2024, employs a different booth reservation process that requires additional time. They open their booth sales in the fall of the previous year.

We agreed to a mutual booth sales opening the week of November 13, 2023. A joint event with REMSA and an

exhibition held in July are new ventures for both associations but the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

As of November 21, 2023 114 RSSI member companies have reserved booth space for the July 8-10, 2024 exhibition. If you would like to reserve a booth space for 2024 contact the RSSI office at 904-379-3366. When you reserve your booth a 25% deposit will be required by January 31, 2024 with the remaining amount due by April 1, 2024.

REMSA HALL

RSSI HALL



# RSSI Officers, Board of Directors, and Staff

## RSSI OFFICERS



**President**  
Sid Bakker  
TPSC  
Chairman, Convention Committee



**Executive VP**  
Jeffrey Baker  
Alstom  
Co-Chairman, Finance Committee



**First VP**  
Mike Nolan  
Siemens Mobility  
Chairman, Membership Committee



**Second VP**  
Harry Waters  
The Okonite Company  
Chairman, Technical Committee

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ashley Bettis  
PTMW  
Nominating Committee



Matthew Bolte  
Railway Equipment Company  
Technical Committee



Stephen Bolte  
Danella Rental Systems  
Chairman, Nominating Committee



Franklin Brown  
Dixie Precast, Inc.  
Convention Committee & Scholarship Committee



Bill Crain  
Western Cullen Hayes  
Technical Committee



Jim Hanlon  
Herzog  
Membership Committee



Arthur J. McGinnis  
Simmons-Boardman Publishing Company  
Nominating Committee & Membership Committee



Miles Metschke  
Hitachi Rail  
Finance Committee



Tim Orlandi  
Railworks Coporation  
Co-Chairman Finance Committee



Paul Rieger  
Modern Railway Systems  
Chairman Scholarship Committee

## RSSI STAFF



Michael A. Drudy  
Executive Director



Theresa Wilder  
Executive Assistant



Alison Garcia  
RSSI Accountant

# RSSI Member List

3Z Automation  
 40 Services LLC  
 Advanced Rail Systems, LLC  
 Advanced Transit Solutions, Inc.  
 AerosUSA, Inc.  
 AIA Technologies  
 Aircraft & Commercial Enterprises, Inc.  
 Airflow Sciences Corporation  
 Aldon Compnay, Inc.  
 Alfred Benesch & Company  
 Allstate Tower  
 Alstom  
 ALTPRO  
 Ameresco Solar  
 American Battery Charging, DuraComm, Newmar, & Power Products  
 American Concrete Products Inc.  
 AMG Metals Inc.  
 Apex Rail Automation  
 ARMS, Inc.  
 Arthur N. Ulrich Company  
 Astronics Test Systems  
 Automated Rail  
 B & C Transit  
 Belden, Inc.  
 Benchmark Electronics Inc.  
 Bison Rail Systems  
 BlackBerry Limited  
 Bosch-Telex Radio Dispatch  
 Cambium Networks  
 C-Can Power Systems, Inc.  
 Cembre Inc.  
 CENTRALP  
 Cervello Ltd.  
 CF Equipamentors EIRELI  
 Cisco  
 ClearBlade  
 CLEARSY  
 Comet Electronics LLC  
 Condor Signal & Communications Inc.  
 Control Chief Corporation  
 Controlled Products Systems Group  
 CorrSolve  
 CRX Software (Railcube)  
 CSB Energy Technology (Americas)  
 CURRENT  
 Custom Truck One Source  
 D.A.S. Rail Enterprises (Switchrite)  
 Dairyland Electrical Industries, Inc.  
 Danella Rental Systems, Inc.  
 Daniels Manufacturing Corporation  
 Dayton T. Brown Inc.  
 Denso Wave  
 Deuta America Corporation  
 Deutzer Technische Kohle GmbH  
 Dixie PreCast, Inc.  
 DPS Electronics  
 Dragonfly Energy Corp  
 Drawbar LLC  
 Duos Technologies  
 Eastern Connector Specialty Corp.  
 EDCO USA  
 Edge Autonomy Energy Systems, LLC  
 Edna A. Rice Executive Recruiter  
 Electro Mechanical Industries, Inc. - EMI  
 Electro-Techno Inc.  
 EML Calibration  
 Enduron/Custom Inc.  
 Esri  
 Essential Trading Systems Corp.  
 Expleo  
 Fiberglass Specialties  
 Fox Ridge, LLC  
 Franklin Electric  
 Frauscher Sensor Technology  
 Gannett Fleming Transit & Rail Systems  
 GE Industrial Communications  
 General Signals, Inc.  
 Genesis Technologies, Inc.  
 Genuine Cable Group  
 Geoforce  
 Global Power Supply  
 GSS, Inc.  
 Hanning & Kahl LP  
 Harger Lightning & Grounding

Harsco Rail (Protran Technology)  
 Harting Inc.  
 Hascall-Denke  
 Hatch  
 Herzog Technologies, Inc.  
 Hitachi Rail STS USA, Inc.  
 Hoppecke Batteries, Inc.  
 Hot Switch Heating Systems  
 Hubbell  
 HUBER+SUHNER, Inc.  
 ICOM America  
 Ignitrium  
 Industrial Networks  
 INEMSOFT  
 Innovative Operations Technology  
 INCORE, LLC  
 Interrail Signal, Inc.  
 Island Radar  
 J & A Industries  
 J. Lanfranco Fastener Systems Inc.  
 Jaychris Indus-Rail Supply Inc.  
 JEM Communications, Inc.  
 JVCKENWOOD USA Corporation  
 L&W Industries, LLC  
 L.K. Comstock National Transit Inc.  
 LaMarche Manufacturing Co.  
 LEOTEK  
 LEROY AUTOMATION  
 Lilee Systems  
 Lindsay Transportation Solutions, LLC  
 Liveview Technologies  
 Loram  
 MAC Products, Inc.  
 Marmon Industrial Energy & Infrastructure  
 MARRE GmbH  
 Matric Group  
 McLaren Applied Inc.  
 Meade Electric Co., Inc.  
 MEN Micro Inc. (duagon)  
 Metalphoto of Cincinnati  
 Meteor Communications Corp.  
 Michels Corporation  
 Midvale Signal, Inc.  
 Midwest Transport Specialists Inc.  
 M.J.G. Inc.  
 Modern Railway Systems  
 Moltec International  
 Morningstar Corporation  
 MRD Rail Technologies Pty Ltd  
 Multi-Tech Systems, Inc.  
 National Electric Gate Co.  
 National Railway Supply, LLC.  
 National Telephone Supply  
 NIBE Element Railway Solutions  
 NICHE Solutions Inc  
 Nokia  
 North American Signal Systems LLC  
 nVent (ERICO/PENTAIR)  
 Okonite Company, The  
 Oldcastle Infrastructure  
 Onyx Rail Safety Solutions  
 OSI Batteries  
 Pacific Railway Enterprises, Inc.  
 Patco Industries, Inc.  
 PBE Group  
 PC TEL  
 P-DUKE Technology, Inc.  
 Pearce Services, LLC  
 Penta Corporation  
 Phoenix Contact USA, Inc.  
 Pintsch North America Inc.  
 Piper Networks  
 Pocket List of Railroad Officials  
 PowerTrunk, Inc.  
 Precision Rail and Mfg., Inc.  
 Pledge AB  
 Primus Electronics Corp.  
 Princeton Consultants, Inc.  
 Progress Rail, A Caterpillar Company  
 Progressive Railroadng (TradePress)  
 Prover Technology  
 Prysman Group  
 PTMW Inc.  
 QuEST Rail  
 RAD Data Comm.

Railhead Corporation  
 RailPros Field Services, Inc.  
 Railroad Software  
 Rails Company  
 Railway Age/RTS/IRJ  
 Railway Equipment Company  
 RailWorks  
 RCL Wiring, LP  
 Rebel Railway Supply Co., LLC  
 RedHawk Energy Systems, LLC  
 Reflective Apparel Factory  
 Regional Transportation District (RTD)  
 Retlif Testing Laboratories  
 Richcom Power LLC  
 Ridgetop Group Inc.  
 RIOTECH, Rio Grande Pacific Technology  
 Ritron, Inc.  
 RJ Corman Signaling, LLC  
 RNS Tower Company  
 Rosendin  
 RYCOM Instruments, Inc.  
 S & C Distribution Company  
 SAFT America, Inc.  
 Schaefer, Inc.  
 Semaphore Software LLC (Signal Scout)  
 Senceive  
 SERRMI PRODUCTS LLC  
 Shel-Bar Electronic Ind. Ltd.  
 Shenzhen Y&D Electronics Information CO., LTD  
 Siemens Mobility, Inc.  
 Signal South, LLC  
 Signal Training Solutions  
 Signal-Tech  
 Sinclair Technologies  
 Site-Specific Solutions, Inc.  
 SNC  
 Snake Tray  
 Solarcraft, Inc  
 Solers-PI Inc.  
 Southern Technologies Corp.  
 Spectrum, A Division of ASPEQ Heating Group  
 SPX AtoN  
 Stanley Infrastructure  
 STI-CO Industries, Inc.  
 Strukton Power B.V.  
 Stryten Energy  
 TAG Inc.  
 Tatsoft Ilc  
 TCR Rail Systems, LLC  
 TE Connectivity  
 Tek Tracking LLC  
 Tesso Technologies  
 Thermal-Flex Systems, Inc.  
 Thermon Heating Systems Inc USA  
 Times Microwave Systems  
 Trackside Services Inc.  
 Tracsis US  
 Traincraft  
 Trainyard Tech, LLC  
 Transcore  
 TransLight Corp.  
 Transportation Products Sales Co., Inc.  
 Transtector Systems  
 Trilogical Technologies Ltd.  
 Tunnel Radio of America, Inc.  
 TUV Rheinland of North America, Inc  
 Twinco Mfg. Company, Inc.  
 Ultra-Tech Enterprises, Inc.  
 Unipart Rail  
 Uplink  
 Valmont Site Pro 1  
 VELCORP/GEMS  
 Vital-Sim Inc.  
 voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak LLC  
 Wabtec  
 Wabtec Components LLC dba G & B Specialties  
 WAGO  
 Warsaw Tool Company, LLC  
 Westermo Data Communications  
 Western Towers  
 Western-Cullen-Hayes, Inc.  
 Wilmore Electronics Co., Inc.  
 Winchester Interconnect Ruggedized  
 Worldwide Structural Fabrication  
 X-Rail Inc.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2024**  
**July 8-10**  
**REMSA/RSSI Exhibition**  
**Louisville, KY**

**2025**  
**May 19-22**  
**RSSI/Railway Interchange**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

**2026**  
**June 1-4**  
**RSSI C&S Exhibition**  
**Omaha, NE**



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