

NRC Breaks Records

Presenters Address New Opportunities For Contractors

From Staff Reports

More than 1,000 professionals representing the railroad construction industry attended the 2013 NRC Conference Jan. 9-12 in Miami. Attendance records were broken for the ninth consecutive year, said Chuck Baker, executive director of the National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association (NRCMA). "We also had more than 100 exhibitors in a sold-out exhibit hall," he said, adding that the weather was cooperative and the golf and fishing tournaments were sellouts.

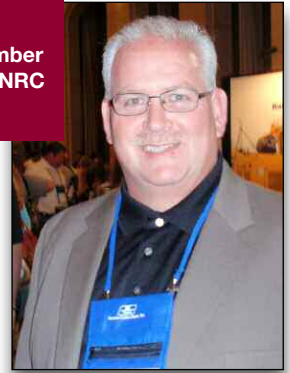
The conference drew a variety of person-

nel including Class 1, regional and short line railroad personnel; commuter rail authority personnel; rail infrastructure engineers; railroad contractors; managers and purchasers in design, construction and maintenance; rail and transit media representatives; state and federal department of transportation officials; transportation consultants; and rail industry service firms, manufacturers and suppliers.

Speakers addressed attendees on a variety of rail-related topics, with a heavy emphasis on the proposed capital programs for Class 1 railroads this year. Other speeches addressed everything from safety to opportunities for contractors and suppliers, to rail legislation issues.

Highlights included presentations from House Transportation & Infrastructure

Rick Gibson of Appalachian Timber Services at the NRC Exhibit Hall.



Committee Chairman Bill Shuster; John Cech of BNSF; Kevin Hicks of Union Pacific; Charlie Stine and Jim Carter of Norfolk Southern; Dale Ophardt of CSX; Jim McLeod of Canadian National; Brent Laing of Canadian Pacific; Dave Brown of Genesee & Wyoming; Ron Close of Watco; Ken Koff of OmniTRAX; Bob Stevens of FEC; Mike Reininger of All Aboard Florida; Anthony Fuller and Paul Worley of North Carolina Department of Transportation; Bob Bergen of NYC Transit; Albert Hernandez of Miami->



Newest RTA Executive Committee Member Tim Ries, right, and John Stahl of Koppers.



RTA members enjoy meeting with A & K Railroad Materials Inc. reps at their booth.



Pandrol also had a tabletop exhibit at NRC.



Mark Owen of Omaha Track Materials.



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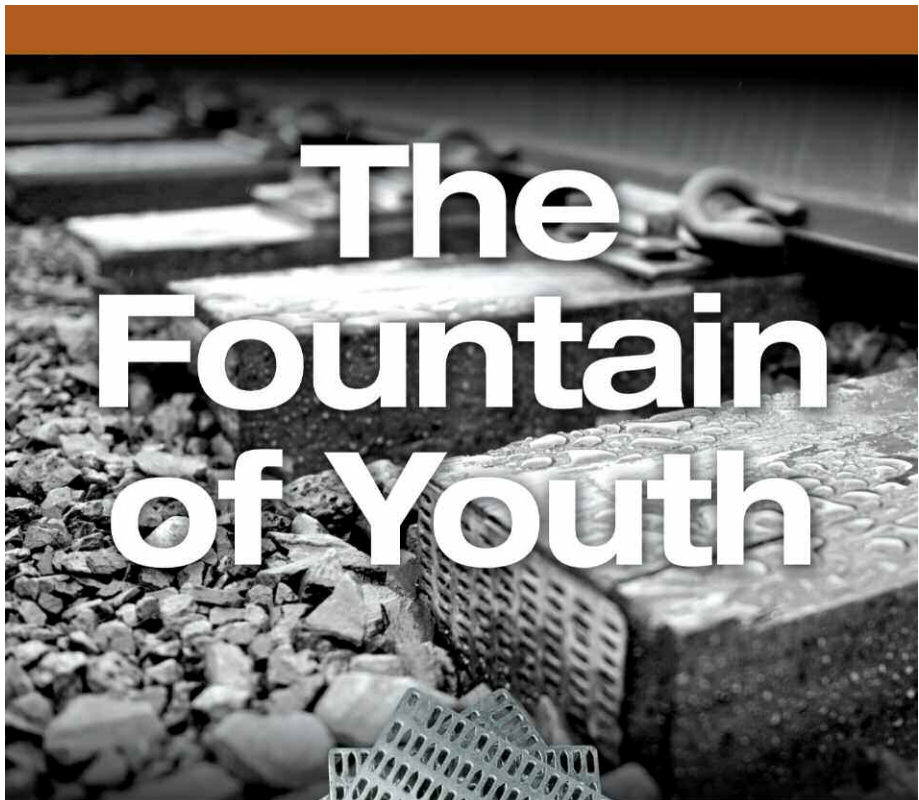
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RTA Executive Committee Member Kevin Hicks of UPRR presents at the NRC Conference.



Dade Transit; Larry Huggins and Sam Smith of Chicago Metra; Tony Hatch on the financial status of the rail industry; and Keith Hartwell on the state of rail-related legislation.

RTA members were out in full force during the conference, as was RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt. "NRC and RTA have developed significant synergies over the past few years with many RTA members participating in the NRC Exhibition and NRC members attending the RTA annual conference," Gauntt said. "We are proud of our relationship with NRC and look forward to future growth of both organizations."

Make plans to attend next year's NRC conference, scheduled for Jan. 5-8, 2014, at the JW Marriott in Palm Desert, Calif. For more info, www.nrcma.org. ■



Jeff Parrett, RTA president, left, with Tony Chambers, center, and Kevin Kirkland of Nisus.



Bob Baeppler of Lonza and Scott McNair of Nisus.