

NRC Welcomes Record Attendance At Annual Conference

By Kristen McIntosh

Railroad contractors, suppliers and others associated with the rail transit construction industry came out in force for the annual National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association annual conference and exhibition held Jan. 4-7 in San Diego.

More than 950 people participated in the conference, including more than 100 company exhibitors, breaking the association's conference record. "On behalf of the NRC's management and board of directors, I sincerely thank exhibitors for your participation in the 2012 NRC exhibition at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego," said Chuck Baker, association president. "The time and effort you put into your booth display was certainly appreciated by the attendees and helped create the crowds we saw in the ballroom and the Crown Room. The exhibition portion of the NRC conference has grown dramatically over the last five years, and it's become a hallmark of the NRC conference.

Attendees were treated to a full exhibit hall, a variety of presentations, golf, fishing and good weather, said Jim Perkins, association chairman, of Loram Maintenance of Way. "We had a great event that seems to be spiraling upward in a virtuous circle. Larger crowds



Congressman Duncan Hunter, R-CA, addresses NRC Conference attendees.



With more than 100 exhibitors, the trade show floor stayed busy during the NRC Conference.

attract more exhibitors, more exhibitors attract larger crowds, and larger crowds attract better speakers. We had more than 56 member companies sign up as sponsors for this event."

Perkins introduced Bill Dorris of RailWorks as vice chairman and Chris Daloisio of Railroad Construction Company of South Jersey as secretary-treasurer. He also announced Tammy Mathews of RailWorks as chairman of the Safety Committee.

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NRC commends all those who participated this year," Perkins said. "A record number of entries were received, and the competition was stiff. This is another sign that the NRC membership is growing and getting stronger."

RTA members and staff were also well represented at the event and in the exhibit hall. "It has become apparent that NRC is the place to be in early January every year," said RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt.

He added that RTA's Executive Committee has been meeting in conjunction with NRC for several years, and all RTA members look forward to a continuation of the growing synergies between the two organizations. ■

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