O, CANADA!

RTA Members Treated To Spectacular Field Trip

Special Reports

AWPA Meets In San Francisco; Incoming President States Goals

RTA Convention Promises To Be A Very Special Edition

Convention Agenda Details The Focus On Educational Sessions

Study Explores Competitive Position Of Wood In U.S. Railroad Market

“Reflections” Looks Back At Tie Industry 30, 45 & 70 Years Ago

Tie Trends Explores Rail Industry In Mississippi
In what promises to be the most exciting convention ever conducted by the Railway Tie Association, producers and users of crossties will gather Nov. 1-3, at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C., to discuss and plan for the future. The convention carries a “VSE,” very special edition, designation to kick off the new millennium.

The idea for the special edition of this very successful business conference, in its 82nd year, comes in part from the spectacular setting. Situated near the geographic center of Eastern hardwood tie production, the Grove Park Inn offers an unmatched fall location for any gathering. That more tie producers, sawmillers and railroaders will be able to attend because of the location’s “driveability” is a solid bonus.

The special edition idea also comes from the expansion of RTA’s now famous breakout sessions. This year, each session will be longer, create greater depth to the topics of the day, and run consecutively rather than concurrently. This means every session will have maximum attendance and every participant can enjoy each session.

And, what spectacular sessions. The first session, “Railroad and Tie Economics” will feature a keynote address from Craig Rockey, senior vice-president of policy for the Association of American Railroads. Rockey’s presentation will focus on the economic health of Class I railroads in a state of the industry speech. He will be followed by Frank Turner, president of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, who will discuss the short line railroads’ financial condition. Rounding out the first panel will be an in-depth look at the dramatic nature of railroading on the Alaska Railroad by Robert Gonzales, who is in charge of material procurement and inventory management for the railroad. He will unveil Alaska Railroad’s dramatic plans for future expansion. The session will continue with Koto leading a discussion on improving business communication. Included in the session will be Wilson Wong, recently heralded in the Wall Street Journal for the creative exercises he has developed for improving team communications.

There will be great social and personal activities as well. A private “Halloween Candlelight Tour” of the famed Biltmore Estate, golf on the spectacular Donald Ross course on property, and a superb banquet event featuring “The Embers,” North Carolina’s very own original dance band.

This mega-event cannot fully be described in words; attendance is a must for anyone associated with tie manufacturing and use. And, the setting could not be more perfect. So, make plans to see the fall colors and be with your friends and associates at the 82nd annual convention of the Railway Tie Association. §

Late registration surcharges: Additional $75/person after Sept. 19.


2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

November 1-3, 2000
The Grove Park Inn - Asheville, N.C.

Caution: Fall is Grove Park Inn’s busy season. Book now to ensure your reservation.

Hotel Reservations: (800) 438-5800


2000 RTA Convention Pre-Registration Form

Note: Fees cover all meetings and functions, including President’s Reception and Annual Banquet. Golf Registration is not covered (see attached form).

Producer, Supplier, Contractor & Consulting Members
( Includes Consulting Engineers)
$295.00 Each Representative

Associate Members
(Railroads, Government and Academic)
$150.00 Each Representative

Non-Members Who Are Railroad, Government & Academic
$250.00 Per Person

Other Non-Members (Members and Non-Members)
$495.00 Per Person

Spouses (Members and Non-Members)
$150.00 Per Person

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$495.00 Per Person

Spouses (Members and Non-Members)
$150.00 Per Person

2000 RTA Convention Golf Registration Form

☐ I will play golf in the RTA tournament and have added $125 to my enclosed registration fees.

Name ____________________________
Handicap ____________________________

Return this form with your check for the full registration fee to:

The Railway Tie Association
115 Commerce Drive, Suite C, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214
(770) 460-5553 • (770) 460-5573 fax
2000 RTA CONVENTION
SCHEDULE & AGENDA

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS AGENDA IS DIFFERENT FROM PAST YEARS—
Attendees should note that all business sessions run consecutively and do not conclude until noon, Friday Nov. 3, 2000.

MONDAY, OCT. 30, 2000
AREMA Committee 30 Meeting (Time: TBA)

TUESDAY, OCT. 31, 2000
AREMA Committee 30 Meeting (Time: TBA)
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. RTA committee meetings
9 p.m.
“Halloween by Candlelight”
A special private tour of The Biltmore House
(Appropriately scary music will be played
from the new Biltmore House pipe organ)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1, 2000
9 a.m. RTA Golf Tournament – on property at the
Donald Ross-designed golf course
3 – 6 p.m. RTA guest-sponsored hospitality suites
6:15 – 7:15 p.m. President’s Reception

THURSDAY, NOV. 2, 2000
SPECIAL EDITION CONVENTION FORMAT
8 – 8:30 a.m. RTA General Business Session
8:30 – 10 a.m. INTERACTIVE FOCUS SESSION I
“Railroad & Crosstie Economics”
Keynote Address:
“Class I Railroad Financial Status – The Current Reading”
Craig Rockey, Senior Vice-President Policy, AAR
“An Examination And Interpretation Of Tie Market Data”
Fred M. Norrell, Consulting Economist
“Short Line Railroads – Economic State Of The Industry”
Frank Turner, ASLRRA President
10:30 a.m. – noon INTERACTIVE FOCUS SESSION 2
“Changes Affecting The Future Of Tie Supply”
Forest/Sawmill Structural Changes – William Luppold, USDA
Marketplace Changes – Gene Parker, Hardwood Market Report
The Sawmill View – Panel Of Sawmill Experts
Dick Buchanan – Buchanan Lumber
Jim Duncan – Monticello Hardwood
Other Experts Will Also Participate
12:15 – 1:45 p.m. RTA Business Luncheon
Keynote Address:
“Will Railroads Be Able To Avoid Regulation?”
Wayne Burkes, Surface Transportation Board Vice-Chairman
Annual RTA Awards Presentation
Comments from Byron Hawkins, AWPA President
2 – 3:30 p.m. INTERACTIVE FOCUS SESSION III
“Maintenance & Construction Plans
For North American Class I Railroads 2001-2002”
Industry Experts:
Mike Roney, Canadian Pacific Railway
Tom Schmidt, CSX Transportation
Dave Kelly, CN/IC
Gary Woods, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Mike Armstrong, Burlington Northern Santa Fe
Bill Wimmer, Union Pacific Railroad
3:30 – 5 p.m. INTERACTIVE FOCUS SESSION IV
“Purchasing Objectives For Class I Railroads 2001-2002”
Industry Experts:
Bill Roussis, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Gary Hunter, Union Pacific Railroad
Clyde Lobb, Burlington Northern Santa Fe
Doug Fox, Canadian Pacific Railway
Bruce Emberly, Canadian National
Fritz Horn, CSX Transportation
8 p.m. - RTA BANQUET, with the sounds of “The Embers”

FRIDAY, NOV. 3, 2000
9 a.m. – noon SPECIAL INTERACTIVE SESSION V
“Change And Communication –
Making It All Work By Working Harder At Both”
Keynote Address:
“The Alaska Railroad -
Changing The Face Of America’s 49th State”
Robert Gonzales, Manager Materials Management
Town Meeting
“TIEing It All Together
As ‘Suppliers’ Of Information”
Sachi Koto,
CNN Headline News, moderator
Special Presentation
“Let’s Do Lunch
Challenges Of The Task –
What Teams Learn In New Environments”
Wilson Wong,
Jackson, Wong & Associates
(Wong’s techniques have recently been reviewed in a feature article in the Wall Street Journal.)
CNN Headline News
Anchor Sachi Koto
will moderate a special Friday session.