

Let's get started



As the incoming chairman of the board of the NRC, I want to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Bill Dorris, I'm a vice president with RailWorks, based in Chicago. I've been married to my wife Diana for 36 years and we have two sons, Will and Dan, both of whom work in the track construction industry, too. I attended my first NRC conference in 2003 and have been on the board since 2005. I am honored and privileged to accept this position within the NRC.

I started in the rail industry in 1977 with Railroad Construction Company of South Jersey (RCC) doing track design and quantity take-offs for private industry customers that were looking to add a new rail siding or increase their existing track layout. After a year of working on track design, I wanted to build track and work outside. I started in the field as a track laborer in 1978. I was promoted to a foreman's position, then to a superintendent's position in the late 80s. I left RCC in 1995 and went to work for Metroplex as a general superintendent, where I primarily worked on large-scale projects that had me moving around the country. In 2000, I was promoted to a project manager, a position that had me reporting directly to John Zuspan. I worked for John until shortly after MPX was purchased by Balfour Beatty Rail in 2001, at which time John left and started his current company, Track Guy Consultants.

Prior to John leaving the company, he had assigned me to a project in Joliet, Ill. I was given the "Joliet Arsenal Intermodal Project" to build for BNSF, officially called BNSF Logistics Park - Chicago. When this project started to wind down, John called me and said, "Bill, go out and bid local work, win some and start building a customer base there, we want an office in Chicago." He promised me that if I could make it work, I could stop moving my family around the country from one project to the next. I made this work and with the help of some great employees and John's guidance, we built a customer base and I remain in Chicago today. I have worked for and with some very good railroaders in my 37 years in the business, but my time spent working with John, learning from one of the best, was instrumental to me. I left Balfour and went to work for RailWorks in 2005. I have been with RailWorks since and currently oversee the day-to-day activities of our Chicago office.

As chairman over the next two years, I will continue to work closely with the talented NRC Board. We will continue to push forward with current initiatives to increase our membership, create additional safety training videos and maintain a hands-on approach to pending legislation that could affect the railroad

construction industry. The NRC will continue to be an advocate, a public voice and an educator and will continue to lobby in Washington, D.C., for our membership's best interests and the interests of the railroad construction industry as a whole.

The 2014 NRC Conference recently held in Palm Desert, Calif., was a success, setting another attendance record. Speakers provided exciting overviews of their respective companies' planned capital spending programs for the coming year - these presentations are what our members come to the conference to hear and the attendance during the three days of these sessions was outstanding. People that attended were fortunate enough to travel to a beautiful location with great weather while escaping some of the coldest temperatures that the rest of the country has ever experienced. A much deserved thank you for another great conference goes out to the NRC staff: Chuck Baker, Matt Ginsberg, Ashley Bosch and Alice Post, along with the staff of Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell. A special thank you to all our guest speakers, a great job was done by all.

I would like to thank Terry Benton, president of Colo Railroad Builders, for the terrific job he did as chairman over the past two years. The organization has made great strides under Terry's leadership and is in a strong position. I would also like to introduce everyone to the other members of the Executive Committee: Chris Daloisio, president of Railroad Construction Company of South Jersey, vice chairman and Mike Choat, president of Railroad Controls Limited, secretary-treasurer.

Finally, the NRC has two major events coming early this year, both of which are critical to what we do as an association:

1) Railroad Day on the Hill will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2014, in Washington, D.C. All NRC members are encouraged to attend and support the rail industry at this event. We will be advocating for the renewal of rail investment tax credits, arguing against increasing the size and weight of trucks allowed on our roadways, fighting potential increased economic regulation and discussing many other issues that are important to the rail industry as a whole.

2) The annual NRC Equipment Auction. This year's auction will be held on Thursday, May 1, at Quality Track Equipment, a division of Delta Railroad Construction, 2950 Industrial Park Drive Austenburg, Ohio 44010.

All of the details for these two important events can be found on www.nrcma.org.

Have a safe day.

by Bill Dorris,
NRC Chairman



The National Railroad
Construction & Maintenance
Association, Inc.
500 New Jersey Ave., N. W.
Suite 400
Washington D. C. 20009

Tel: 202-715-2920
Fax: 202-318-0867
www.nrcma.org
info@nrcma.org