As with previous newsletters, I am happy to report that the Rail Transportation Division is continuing to do very well. We recently completed the ASME 2016 Joint Rail Conference.

On April 12-15, the RTD and fellow organizations hosted the Joint Rail Conference in Columbia, SC. This conference had two tours scheduled for JRC attendees. First, the HASRCO Technical Tour participants walked through the manufacturing of track construction equipment. In the end, the ASME 2016 Joint Rail Conference was very well attended having over 100 technical papers and presentations (See pictures below).

Currently the RTD is working on the 2017 Joint Rail Conference with the other participating groups. The 2017 JRC is scheduled for April 4-7 in Philadelphia, PA and is planning participation from ASCE, IEEE, APTA, AREMA, INFORMS-RAS, TRB, and NURAIL. We're looking forward to another Joint Rail Conference that brings together the many facets of the industry and continue to push technology development and discussion.

As you can see, the RTD has a lot of exciting activities ahead of us. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming conferences.

Sincerely,

Robert “Bob” Irving
ASME-RTD Chairman, 2015-2016
**JRC 2017**

**Joint Rail Conference**

**April 4-7, 2017**

Doubletree by Hilton Philadelphia City Center --- Philadelphia, PA

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**“Railway Engineering and Technology Solutions for Tomorrow’s Transportation Needs”**

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**JRC 2017** is the major, multidisciplinary North American railroad conference encompassing all aspects of rail transportation and engineering research.

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**Preliminary Schedule**

**Tuesday, April 4th**
- Registration opens at 12:30pm
- Afternoon committee meetings

**Wednesday, April 5th**
- SEPTA technical tours in the morning
- Exhibition and Technical Sessions
- Grand Challenge Competition

**Thursday, April 6th**
- Technical Sessions
- Conference Exposition
- JRC conference banquet

**Friday, April 7th**
- Technical Sessions

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**Technical Tracks**

1. Railroad Infrastructure Engineering
2. Rail Equipment Engineering
3. Signal, Train Control and Comm. Engineering
4. Service Quality and Operations Research
5. Planning and Development
6. Safety and Security
7. Energy Efficiency and Sustainability
8. Urban Passenger Rail Transport
9. Electrification
10. Vehicle Track Interaction
11. National University Rail Center (NURAIL)

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**Joint Rail Conference 2017 co-sponsoring & partnering organizations:**

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**Joint Rail Conference 2017 - Grand Challenge Competition**

This year the JRC will host a Grand Challenge Competition open to all conference attendees. We invite registered participants to propose an idea to the following Grand Challenge Question and present that idea to a panel of industry experts using a 3-minute “shark tank pitch”. The goal of this competition is to spark new ideas, innovations, and approaches to solving a relevant issue affecting the railroad industry.
The 2017 JRC Grand Challenge question:

After many years of decline, the annual train accident rate for FRA reportable train accidents in the US has appeared to reach a plateau (Figure 1). How can the industry push through this plateau to achieve new levels of safety and further reduce train accidents in the US?

![Figure 1. Train Accident Rate per Million Train Miles for All Class I Railroads (Including Amtrak), from 2006-2015](source_fra_office_of_safety-safetydata.fra.dot.gov/OfficeofSafety/)

Rules of the Competition:

This competition is open to all registered participants of the 2017 Joint Rail Conference. *Participants must register for the conference in order to be admitted to the competition.

Participants may enter the competition between December 1, 2016 and March 1, 2017. To enter, please find more details on the JRC Website: [https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference](https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference)

During the competition, contestants will be allowed no more than three (3) minutes to present their idea using a single PowerPoint slide with no animations. Contestants may present as individuals or as a team of two people at most. Presentations promoting a commercial product or service will not be allowed.

The winner of the competition will be recognized at the conference banquet dinner on Thursday, April 6th and will also be recognized in the annual ASME Rail Transportation Division newsletter.

After submitting an online entry form, contestants will be contacted by a member of the JRC Organizing Committee within 1-2 weeks. Additional details will be provided at that time.

SAVE THESE DATES

**JOINT RAIL CONFERENCES**


- **2019 JRC:** [ASCE](https://www.asce.org) lead year. Venue and date TBD. (Tentatively week of April 8, 2019)

- **2020 JRC:** [ASME](https://www.asme.org) lead year. St. Louis, MO. Chair Giuseppe Sammartino. April 21-24, 2020. St. Louis Union Station DoubleTree Hotel

100th Anniversary of RTD! The first ASME-IEEE JRC was in St. Louis in 1920.
Have you filled out your profile in ASME.org? If not, you should make this a priority as it allows you access to the Rail Transportation Division Group Page as well as your Technical Committee Group page. If you have a LinkedIn account, you can quickly import information to complete your ASME.org profile. Once you complete your profile, you can then participate in an existing online group or create your own group based on a specific engineering discipline, your interests, or even your university alumni. You manage group participation, content, tools, ASME.org functionalities make it easy for you to lead and grow your own group. It's a great opportunity to network, collaborate, and showcase your leadership skills to like-minded engineers.

Charles was born in Queens, New York on April 1st, 1925 to George Francis and Elizabeth Katherine (née Baumgartner) Engelhardt. He graduated from The Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1955 with a Bachelors Degree in Science and went on to study Civil Engineering, receiving a Masters Degree in 1959 from New York University.

Charles passed the New York State examination and was awarded his civil engineering license in 1960 and began his professional career as a project engineer at Hardesty & Hanover from 1954 to 1960. He then worked at American Car & Foundry as the supervising engineer for design and drafting from 1960 to 1962 in Berwick, Pennsylvania. Returning to New York, Charles next worked for the Port of New York Authority as a rail planning engineer from 1962 to 1966.

Prompting a move to Connecticut in 1966, Charles became a marketing manager and eventually the Director of International Marketing for Sikorsky Aircraft from 1966 to 1976 which afforded him the opportunity to see the world selling helicopters throughout Asia and Central Africa.

Charles finished his professional career in Washington, DC with Amtrak as Director of Equipment Engineering & Development from 1976 until his retirement as Senior Director in 1991. Charles was instrumental in introducing high-speed rail travel to the Northeast Corridor.

Among his proudest achievements, after his father signed him up due to his young age, Charles served in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific theater during World War II from 1943 to 1945 being honorably discharged having obtained the rank of private first class. He embodied “semper fi”, attending many reunions and Marine celebrations.

Charles served as commander of Butler Johnson Post of the American Legion in Elmsford, NY. He was very active as a member for 54 years in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and was an ASME Life Member. Chuck was a founding member of the
ASME-IEEE Joint Rail Conference and served many years as chair of the IEEE-VTS National Capital Chapter. He led their program committee until last season and was instrumental in finding and arranging many speakers.


V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Graduate Fund
&
Swamidas K. Charan (John) Punwani Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Rail Transportation Division (RTD) continues to be a strong supporter of collegiate researchers, both professors and students, who play a vital role in the advancement of the rail industry. To this end, the ASME RTD offers the ASME RTD Graduate and Undergraduate Student Scholarships, which give students the opportunity to network with rail professionals, present rail research publications, and exchange ideas on rail technological innovations and solutions at the ASME Joint Rail Conference (JRC). Most importantly, the scholarships increase the awareness of the rail engineering discipline from both an academic and professional perspective.

Since 2011, the ASME RTD has received 146 graduate and undergraduate applications. Of the 146 applications received, 123 scholarships totaling $115,150.00 have been awarded to deserving students with an interest in rail.

In support of the 2016 ASME Joint Rail Conference, the ASME RTD awarded 17 graduate scholarships and 14 undergraduate scholarships.

Typically, the RTD Committee selects one undergraduate student to receive an additional award for “Best Essay” based on the quality of his or her essay. The 2016 recipient of the “Best Essay” award was Alexander Reinsmith of The Pennsylvania State University - Altoona. We would like to thank those students who did apply and encourage each of you to assist us in increasing the awareness of the conference scholarships for the 2017 ASME Joint Rail Conference.

JRC 2017 Scholarship Fund Status to date:

Currently, the Scholarship Committee is in receipt of nine graduate student scholarship applications as of October 31, 2016.

If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for the graduate or undergraduate scholarship in support of the 2017 ASME Joint Rail Conference, please visit the 2017 ASME JRC website for additional details and feel free to contact Ms. Monique Stewart, the ASME RTD Scholarship Program Chair, via email at rtdscholar@gmail.com should you have any questions.