It has been a pleasure serving as Chair of the ASME Rail Transportation Division this year. We have certainly had a year of ups and downs together. We have lost friends and loved ones, and have also made new friends, started new jobs and launched new initiatives in our respective workplaces. As we draw closer to our 100th Anniversary as a Division in 2020, we have much to reflect on and to be proud of.

Most recently, we are glad to report a very successful Joint Rail Conference in Pittsburgh, PA this past April. Participants enjoyed a wide variety of excellent technical presentations, workshops, seminars, and technical tours to the Monongahela Incline and the McConway and Torley Facility. We also hosted our 2nd Annual Grand Challenge Competition and offered best paper awards and several student scholarships. Finally, the reception and banquet at beautiful PNC Park (Home of the Pirates) was a perfect way to cap off the conference. We hosted over 130 participants, and the conference resulted in a surplus of $11,000, which will be used towards future conferences.

We are now working with partner organizations to prepare for the Joint Rail Conference 2019 in Snowbird, UT. Dr. Deb Mishra from ASCE will be the Conference Chair. He and the Conference Organizing Committee have been hard at work to prepare for the conference that will coincide with the 150th Anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The conference venue will be just over 100 miles south of Promontory Summit, UT with the theme of “150 Years of Innovation Continues.” The Technical Program Committee, led by Dave Schlesinger, is off to a great start in their planning for the Conference Program. We encourage you to stay in touch via the ASME RTD website and to spread the word about the 2019 JRC. The team also plans to bring back the Grand Challenge for the 3rd Annual Competition. We are looking forward to an outstanding and historic event and invite you to join us in Utah, April 9-12, 2018.

Stay tuned for additional details from the Division as we prepare for our 100-year Anniversary, to be celebrated in St. Louis for the 2020 JRC. What an honor to be part of an industry with such a rich heritage, and an ever bright future.

Regards,

Bryan Schlake
ASME-RTD Chair 2018-2019
The golden spike (also known as The Last Spike) is the ceremonial 17.6-karat gold final spike driven by Leland Stanford to join the rails of the First Transcontinental Railroad across the United States connecting the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads on May 10, 1869, at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory. The spike is now displayed in the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.

Completing the last link in the transcontinental railroad with a spike of gold was the brainchild of David Hewes, a San Francisco financier and contractor. The spike had been manufactured earlier that year especially for the event by the William T. Garratt Foundry in San Francisco. Two of the sides were engraved with the names of the railroad officers and directors. A special tie of polished California laurel was chosen to complete the line where the spike would be driven. The ceremony was originally to be held on May 8, 1869 (the date actually engraved on the spike), but it was postponed two days because of bad weather and a labor dispute that delayed the arrival of the Union Pacific side of the rail line.

On May 10, in anticipation of the ceremony, Union Pacific No. 119 and Central Pacific No. 60 (better known as the Jupiter) locomotives were drawn up face-to-face on Promontory Summit. It is unknown how many people attended the event; estimates run from as low as 500 to as many as 3,000; government and railroad officials and track workers were present to witness the event.
Preliminary Conference Schedule:

Tuesday April 9
2:00pm - 6:00pm  Conference Registration Open

Wednesday April 10
8:00am – 9:30am  ASME RTD Committee Meeting
9:45am – 11:15am  JRC Organizing Committee Meeting
10:00am – 4:00pm  Conference Registration Open
11:30am – 12:15pm  Lunch
12:30pm – 1:15pm  Plenary Session
1:30pm – 4:00pm  Exhibits Open
1:30pm – 3:30pm  Concurrent Technical Session #1
3:30pm – 3:45pm  Afternoon break
3:45pm – 5:45pm  Concurrent Technical Session #2
6:15pm – 8:30pm  JRC Organizing Committee Dinner

Thursday April 11
6:30am – 7:15am  Continental Breakfast
7:00am – 5:00pm  Conference Registration Open
7:30am – 9:30am  Concurrent Technical Session #3
9:30am – 9:45am  Morning break
9:45am – 11:45pm  Concurrent Technical Session #4
12:00pm – 1:00pm  Lunch & Grand Challenge
1:15pm – 3:15pm  Concurrent Technical Session #5
3:15pm – 3:30pm  Afternoon break
3:30pm – 5:30pm  Concurrent Technical Session #6
6:00pm – 8:00pm  Conference Reception, Banquet & Program

Friday April 12
7:00am – 8:00am  Continental Breakfast
7:00am – 4:00pm  Conference Registration
7:00am – 4:00pm  Exhibits
8:15am – 12:15pm  Technical Tour
12:30pm – 1:30pm  Lunch
1:45pm – 2:45pm  Workshop
3:00pm – 4:00pm  Seminar

To register for the 2019 Joint Rail conference, go to https://event.asme.org/Joint-Rail-Conference/Register.
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.

SAVE THESE DATES
JOINT RAIL CONFERENCES

**2019 JRC: April 9-12, 2019.** Snowbird, UT. Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. [http://www.tcrr.com/](http://www.tcrr.com/) (Golden Spike was May 10, 1869, at Promontory Point, Utah)

**2020 JRC: - April 15-17, 2020.** St Louis Mo. St. Louis Union Station Double Tree by Hilton Hotels. 100th Anniversary of RTD The first ASME-IEEE JRC was in St. Louis in 1920

**2021 JRC: Dates TBD.** Considering a location near BWI airport, accessible by air and rail.
Leonard A. McLean, 90, passed away September 6, 2018. Leonard was a long-time member of ASME and a supporter of RTD, serving as RTD Chair 1979-80. His career included the position of Chief Equipment Engineer at the Seaboard Coastline Railroad that later became part of CSX.

At Seaboard Coastline Leonard obtained a patent for an "Uncoupling Device for Rotary Couplers on Freight Cars." At CSX he obtained a patent for an "Adjustable Grab Iron."

Leonard was an avid promoter of the Electronically Controlled Pneumatic Brakes (ECP brakes) on freight cars.