

2017 Annual Meeting Summary

The 2017 Georgia Railroad Association Annual Meeting was held at the Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa in the beautiful mountains of north Georgia, Monday, May 15th – Tuesday, May 16th.

After the Board of Director's meeting on Monday afternoon, we opened the meeting with our traditional Associate Member Hosted Cocktail Reception/Dinner in the Creekside Pavilion of the Resort. Rail Members and vendors alike had plenty of time to network with old friends as well as make new connections. Thank you to our dinner hosts!

The business component of our meeting began with breakfast bright and early Tuesday morning. Christy Sammon, GoRail, provided insight about what is going on in the freight rail industry around the country. She was followed by Kristine Storm, VP, Purchasing, Genesee & Wyoming. Her presentation touched on everything from operations & infrastructure to supplier relationships. Next up was new GRA Associate Member and gold sponsor, Ryan Pidde, from Michelson & Company. Ryan delivered a very informative presentation on the State Railroad Tax Credit Concept, Funding the 45G Program in Georgia.

After a short break, Speaker David Ralston officially welcomed us to north Georgia. Nancy Cobb, GDOT, offered an Intermodal update on all areas of transportation including aviation, ports/waterways, public transit and rail. House Transportation Chairman Kevin Tanner was our keynote speaker. He gave us an update on everything transportation from the recent legislative session. Finally, a public policy panel of four fielded questions from Mark Middleton and the GRA audience. The panel consisted of Representative Christian Coomer; Senator Steve Gooch; Josh Waller, GDOT; and Craig Camuso, CSX.

Upon conclusion of the business meeting, we held our annual golf tournament. The reward for a morning's work was a glorious, sunny day for golf.

Golf Tournament Results:

First Place Team: Kevin Price, Sach Price, Matt Cooper, Bob Snyder

Second Place Team: Duane Broxterman, Dave Gerstner, Jack Smellie, Austin Broxterman

Closest to the Pin (#8): David Martin

Closest to the Pin (#14): Dave Gerstner

A big thank you to Gary Stout from STX Corporation for sponsoring the drink cart for the second year in a row!

Our feature event was held on Tuesday night at the breath-taking Sunset Pavilion overlooking the majestic north Georgia mountains. Members and guests enjoyed drinks, hors d'oeuvres and steak and chicken on the grill. The pecan pie with fresh whipped cream (or was that sour cream, Matt Williams?) was also a big hit. The relaxing atmosphere as we watched the sun set was a perfect conclusion to this year's meeting.

Thank you to our sponsors for helping make this year's meeting a resounding success! We appreciate your support!

- Koppers, Inc.
- Mickelson & Company, LLC
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Stay Tuned!

Next spring, we hope to have our meeting in Atlanta in conjunction with a Braves game.