



# The SWARS Scroll

Join us for the  
**2023 Annual Meeting on March 29-30**  
at Grand Hyatt San Antonio River Walk Hotel!

**REGISTER TODAY**

*Hotel information is available on the SWARS website.*



## ***SPEAKING OF THOSE CONFERENCES***

Make plans to join your fellow rail shippers and carriers from across the Southwest at our annual meeting this March in San Antonio. The conference will take place March 29-30, 2023, at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio River Walk and is one of the best values in rail logistics at only \$475 if you register by March 9. We will have numerous executive-level speakers with the new Chief Executive of CSX, Joseph Hinrichs, being our morning keynote and Genesee & Wyoming President Michael Miller offering his thoughts on the short line business in the afternoon. In addition, we have Surface Transportation Board Chairman Martin Oberman on tap to update us on what the STB is working on, and FTR Chairman Eric Starks will provide an economic and freight outlook.



## ***CONFERENCE FIRSTS***

Attendees at the March meeting will be able to participate in two firsts for SWARS: a clay shoot or mezcal tasting. Each event comes with an additional charge payable at the time of registration, but these should be great additional networking experiences for those who choose to participate. These two new offerings will be in addition to our traditional golf outings and RR 101 course and will occur on Wednesday afternoon, so plan to arrive early. The mezcal offering will be added to the wine-tasting event that started with our fall meeting and takes advantage of the meeting's location in San Antonio.



## ***HELLO, GOODBYE***

The upcoming spring meeting in San Antonio will be the annual meeting of the organization. At that time, the nominating committee will present to the membership a slate of Directors for their review and approval. All the Directors elected in San Antonio will fill two-year terms. It also means this is President Ray Hufnagel's last meeting in this role. Ray has successfully led the organization through the post-pandemic period and his leadership has encouraged innovation at our meetings and new people to become involved in the organization. Be sure to stop Ray and say thanks when you see him in San Antonio!



## ***NEW YEAR, NEW FACE AT SWARS***

The new year brings a new face to the SWARS family with the addition of Debi Crow as assistant to the executive director. Debi will be assisting Executive Director Linda Turner for several months of the year, particularly around our growing conferences. Debi previously has worked with Linda, and the pair will be the face of SWARS moving forward. Former co-Executive Director Susan Cox retired from SWARS as of Jan. 1, 2023, after a distinguished career at ChevronPhillips Chemical and many decades supporting SWARS by attending conferences and working on the board. Susan is also a Past President.



## ***IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME AGAIN***

If you have a family member who is about to head off to college or know someone in your organization who does and they live in the SWARS region, encourage them to apply for the George J. Elking Jr. Scholarship. Every year, SWARS provides scholarships to deserving college students in the region. The George J. Elking Jr. Scholarship Award is dedicated to helping individuals throughout the SWARS region with financial support to achieve their education and career goals. It is SWARS' hope that recipients become active in the logistics and transportation fields, but wants to help deserving individuals studying in all fields of education and business. The competitive scholarships are awarded annually for up to four years per individual and applications along with transcripts and letters of recommendation should be submitted through our website. The application portal will open on Feb. 1 and more information will be available on the website on that date. Make plans now to get those applications in before the deadline of April 26, 2023, to be considered for this year.



## ***SPONSORSHIPS HELP FUND SCHOLARSHIPS***

SWARS is able to be generous in its scholarships and has steadily increased its scholarship commitments in part because of the generous sponsors at our meetings. Meeting and annual sponsors not only help keep meeting costs reasonable, but it's also a major reason why SWARS is able to make the level of scholarship commitments that it does on an annual basis. In 2022, SWARS issued \$100,000 worth of scholarships to 25 deserving students and hopes to raise the bar again this year. If you are interested in either becoming a sponsor or making a donation to SWARS scholarship fund, go to the SWARS website or reach out to a board member.

*Southwest Association of Rail Shippers*

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