

Southwest Association of Rail Shippers



Galveston Beckons In Just A Few Short Weeks

Be sure to register soon if you want to join us in Galveston, Texas, in early March. The Southwest Association of Rail Shippers Annual Meeting will take place on March 5-6. We are expecting this to be one of our largest meetings ever and it is likely to hit capacity, just like our meeting last fall in San Diego.

Register now and ensure your spot at Moody Gardens as hotel rooms in addition to conference slots will fill up fast and you won't want to be left out in the cold.

Not Just Golf Anymore

Plan to come to Galveston early and spend some extra time with your industry colleagues. There are a whole host of special events planned for Tuesday, beyond the traditional golf outing. In addition to golf, we have a bay fishing excursion planned for Tuesday morning in beautiful Galveston Bay, and an afternoon wine tasting event at the Galveston Railroad Museum. Our education series will focus on RR 201-Introduction to the Commercial Side of Railroading, also on Tuesday afternoon. The course is perfect for newer members of your staff or veterans seeking a refresher. All of these special events require an additional fee to be paid at registration, so please be aware of

Fear Not, Golf Remains A Signature Event

Our golf outings will remain at the center of our pre-conference events even as we add other options for the non-golf-playing members. We will utilize two courses for this year's golf tournament: The Moody Course, which is right on property for those staying at Moody Gardens and Magnolia Creek, which would be perfect for those driving down from Houston who want to stop and play golf with colleagues on the way. Like the other special events, golf fees for individual players or foursomes can be paid for during the meeting registration process.

that when you are booking your registration, but they are sure to be worth it.

It's (Almost) The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

Watch for scholarship registration to open up next month. The scholarship is one of the most important missions and goals of our organization, but it needs everyone's support to succeed and thrive. Over the next few months, remember to encourage your own college-age students and those of your co-workers and industry colleagues to apply. More information can be found on the SWARS website at <https://www.swrailshippers.com/scholarships>. The application deadline is April 15, and one of the byproducts of large meeting attendance has been that the amount of money available for scholarships also has grown over time.

Sponsorships Are Also Key

Another way we fund the scholarship and keep meeting registration fees low is with the generous support of our sponsors and trade show exhibitors. If your company is already a sponsor, thank you for your support. If your company has not traditionally been a sponsor of SWARS, now is a great opportunity at the start of a new year to help demonstrate that value to your organization.

Our sponsorship committee and board of directors are here to help with anything you need in those

Ch-Ch-Ch- Changes Are On The Way

You may have noticed (or will notice) some changes as you register for the upcoming meeting in Galveston. Those look-and-feel changes that you are noticing are part of a broader change to better help organize and manage our events as the organization grows. This change will help us sustain the growth we have experienced and add events to future conferences based on your feedback. You will notice further changes later this year for our Houston meeting as our

Many Hands Make Light Work

The SWARS board is always looking for new volunteers to be part of one of the many committees that make our events and conferences easier to put together than if it was solely the board and executive director. If you or your company want to get more involved, now is the perfect time to raise your hand and volunteer to be a member of one of our many committees. Reach out to any board member who will be happy to give you more information about

conversations. Reach out to us at any time.

event app migrates to a new system as well. More details will come as the year progresses, but it is definitely an exciting time to be involved with SWARS.

getting more involved in SWARS.

Sincerely,
SWARS
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