MARS WINTER MEETING

JANUARY 13-15, 2026

Renaissance Schaumburg

Fast TRACK to the Future

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

3:00 PM	**MARS REGISTRATION**	**Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer**
4:00 - 6:00 PM	**MARS OPENING RECEPTION** **SPONSORED BY:** *Residco*	**Nirvana & Utopia Threshold**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

7:00 AM	**MARS REGISTRATION**	**Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer**
7:00 AM	**Breakfast Buffet & Vendor Networking** **SPONSORED BY:** *Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway*	**Nirvana & Utopia Threshold**
8:00 AM	**WELCOME TO MARS WINTER 2026** Steve Blinn, MARS 2025 President	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
8:10 AM	**MARS WINTER 2026 MEETING ORGANIZATION** Bryan Vaughan, Vice President - Sales, Marketing & Business Development, Modern Rail Capital and MARS Executive Committee and Sargent at Arms	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
8:15 AM	**MORNING KEYNOTE** **Keith Creel, President & CEO, CPKC** MARS Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
9:00 AM	**SHIPPER PRESENTATION** **Mike Barth, Vice President Transportation & Logistics, United Sugar Producers & Refiners Cooperative** **Introduction:** Luke Jones, Director of Sales, GATX and MARS 2026 President	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
9:30 AM	**UPDATE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS** **Ian Jefferies, President & CEO, The Association of American Railroads** **Introduction:** Carrie Evans, Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer - Iowa Interstate Railroad, MARS Past President & Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026 (continued)

9:45 AM	**NETWORKING & HEADSHOT LOUNGE OPENS!** **SPONSORED BY:** *BNSF Railway*	**Nirvana Ballroom**
10:00 AM	**Morning Coffee & Networking Break** **SPONSORED BY:** *American Truck & Rail Audits, Inc*	**Nirvana & Utopia Threshold**
10:30 AM	**GREENBRIER PRESENTATION** **Lorie Tekorius, President & CEO, The Greenbrier Companies** **Introduction:** Chad Hartwig, Vice President & Group Manager - Commercial Sales, The Greenbrier Companies	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
11:15 AM	**NETWORKING HOUR**	
12:30 PM	**MARS LUNCHEON** **SPONSORED BY:** *Harris Technology Services*	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
1:00 PM	**LUNCHEON KEYNOTE - *TRENDS & FORECASTS FOR THE ECONOMY*** **Dr. Christopher Kuehl, Founder/Managing Director of Armada Corporate Intelligence** **Introduction:** Monica Freeman, Director - Rail Transportation, CHS, Inc and MARS Second Vice President	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
1:45 PM	**Coffee & Networking Break** **SPONSORED BY:** *American Truck & Rail Audits, Inc*	**Nirvana & Utopia Threshold**
2:15 PM	**NETWORKING & HEADSHOT LOUNGE CLOSES** **SPONSORED BY:** *BNSF Railway*	**Nirvana Ballroom**

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026 (continued)

2:15 PM	**FIRESIDE CHAT** **Katie Farmer, President & Chief Executive Officer, BNSF Railway** **Host:** Monica Freeman, Director - Rail Transportation, CHS, Inc and MARS Second Vice President **Introduction:** Ashley Curry, Assistant Vice President, Ag & Energy, BNSF Railway and MARS Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
3:00 PM	**ALL ABOARD: AUTONOMOUS RAILCARS FOR MINE OPERATORS & SHIPPERS** **Katie Beardslee Kloentrup, Senior Digital Mine Engineer, Carmeuse & Alex Peiffer, Chief Operating Officer, Intramotev** **Introduction:** Harry Zander, Chief Commercial Officer, Intramotev and MARS Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
3:30 PM	**UPDATE FROM NARS** Ray Hufnagel, President, Plastic Express and NARS 2025-2026 President	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
3:35 PM	**MARS SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE** Jordan Goerger, Manager of Rail Transportation, Ardent Mills, MARS Scholarship Committee Chairman & MARS Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
3:40 PM	**MARS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT** Matt O'Kray, Vice President Commercial, Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway and MARS Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee Chairman	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
3:50 PM	**MARS AWARDS PRESENTATION - BILL SCHAUER INDUSTRY IMPACT AWARD** Matt O'Kray, Vice President Commercial, Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway and MARS Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee Chairman	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
4:00 PM	**Closing Remarks** Steve Blinn, MARS 2025 President	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
4:15 - 6:30 PM	**MARS RECEPTION** **SPONSORED BY:** *Residco*	**Nirvana & Utopia Threshold**

agenda is subject to change

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7:00 AM	**MARS REGISTRATION**	**Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer**
7:00 AM	**Breakfast Buffet & Vendor Networking** **SPONSORED BY:** *Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway*	**Nirvana & Utopia Threshold**
8:00 AM	**MARS WINTER 2026 - WELCOME BACK!** Steve Blinn, MARS 2025 President	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
8:05 AM	**MARS WINTER 2026 MEETING ORGANIZATION** Bryan Vaughan, Vice President - Sales, Marketing & Business Development, Modern Rail Capital and MARS Executive Committee and Sargent at Arms	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
8:15 AM	**MORNING KEYNOTE** **Jim Vena, Chief Executive Officer, Union Pacific** **Introduction:** Bess Jones, Director of Sales, Union Pacific and MARS Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
9:00 AM	**DIFFERENTIATING THROUGH PEOPLE: USING ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN TO DRIVE VALUE FOR CUSTOMERS** **Christian Rowe, Vice President - Business Development, Savage & James Pearce, Vice President, People Solutions, Savage** **Introduction:** Grant Keyser, Director of Sales, TrinityRail and MARS Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
9:30 AM	**CN** **Janet Drysdale, Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer, CN** **Introduction:** Elie Dakhoul, Senior Manager, Contracts & Compliance, CN and MARS Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
10:15 AM	**Morning Coffee & Networking Break** **SPONSORED BY:** *American Truck & Rail Audits, Inc*	**Schaumburg Ballroom Foyer**

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026 (continued)

10:30 AM	**SHORT LINE PANEL** **Moderator: Chuck Baker, President, ASLRRA** **Panelists:** **Justin Broyles, President & CEO, R.J. Corman Railroad Group** **Jon Carnes, CEO, Transtar and Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway** **Michael Miller, CEO North America, Genesee & Wyoming RR Services** **Joe Parsons, President & CEO, Iowa Interstate Railroad** **Introduction:** Matt O'Kray, Vice President Commercial, Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway and MARS Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee Chairman	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
11:15 AM	**ANALYST UPDATE** **Tony Hatch, Founder/President, abh Consulting** **Introduction:** Jordan Goerger, Manager of Rail Transportation, Ardent Mills and MARS Executive Committee	**Schaumburg Ballroom**
12:00 PM	**CLOSING REMARKS** Steve Blinn, MARS 2025 President Luke Jones, Director of Sales, GATX and MARS 2026 President	**Schaumburg Ballroom**

FUTURE MARS MEETINGS
MARS 2026 Summer Meeting - July 13-14, 2026 Lake Geneva, WI
MARS 2027 Winter Meeting - January 12-14, 2027 Schaumburg, IL