



March 24, 2021



Organizers Plan Record Number of Meetings for 2021 Railroad Day on Capitol Hill

[Railroad Day on Capitol Hill](#) is only a few weeks away, and ASLRRRA, along with fellow Railroad Day organizers, is continuing to finalize meetings with federal lawmakers. To ensure you are scheduled into meetings with the requested lawmakers, please register by April 2.

Responses from Congressional offices regarding meeting requests have been very positive. So far, there are expected to be over 300 meetings, with more meetings scheduled with senators' offices than ever before. Additionally, many Congress members have confirmed plans to attend certain meetings, all of which will be held on April 13 and 14 via Zoom.

Interested participants still have time to [register](#) for Railroad Day, which has proven to be the single most effective way for those in the railroad industry to advocate for key issues directly to legislators. Participation allows government officials to meet the real people whose lives are affected by decisions made in Washington. And, this year, there are no registration fees or travel costs for attendees.

Those who have already registered should plan to attend one of two informational Zoom calls before the event, one on April 6 and one on April 8. The calls will help attendees test their Zoom capabilities, learn how meetings will run and review key industry messaging. Those who cannot attend either meeting can access a recording that will be available after April 6.

ASLRRRA thanks all the companies sponsoring this event. Their contributions help ensure dozens of meetings with many participants can take place simultaneously online. Contact ASLRRRA's [Amy Westerman](#) for sponsorship opportunities.

TSA Approves Deadline Extension for Security Training Program Submission

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has issued a preliminary approval of a deadline extension for the submission of surface security training programs.

The change requires a rulemaking to be published in the *Federal Register*. In the meantime, TSA will not consider owner/operators to be out of compliance if a training program is not submitted by March 22.

The administration will continue accepting any security training programs turned in between now and the new deadline.


In-Person Regional Meetings to Feature Top-Notch Speakers, Engaging Content, and Golf

March 24, 2021

A return to in-person regional meetings means a return of the compelling sessions and insightful interactive discussions typical of an ASLRRRA event. And, this year, the Association is bringing back a popular networking and social opportunity to both meetings: golf.

This year's [regional meetings](#) are scheduled for June. The Central & Pacific Region Meeting will take place June 7-9 at the [Kansas City Marriott Downtown](#) in Kansas City, Mo. The Eastern & Southern Region Meeting, Finance & Administration and General Counsel Symposium will take place June 21- 23 at the [Galt House Hotel](#) in Louisville, Ky,

Registration and hotel blocks for these meetings will be open in the near future. Sponsorships are also available for the regional meetings. Please contact ASLRRRA's [Amy Westerman](#) for more information.



**MAINTENANCE OF WAY
DONE RIGHT.**

Serving The Rail Industry For Over 30 Years

Contact us for
Rental
Used Equipment
Lease Options

VANCER
vancer.com | 844.334.0181



DOT Updates FAQs Concerning Mask Wearing Mandate

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has updated the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section of its website concerning a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) order requiring the wearing of face masks during conveyance and in transportation hubs.

The questions are divided according to government agency. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) section includes information about wearing masks in certain areas, such as in railroad yard offices and rail facilities, and situations, such as when a railroad employee is the sole occupant of a vehicle, locomotive cab or hi-rail truck.

Two AAR RAN Cybersecurity Notices Available on ASLRRRA's Website

ASLRRRA has made the most recent Association of American Railroads (AAR) Rail Alert Network (RAN) Cybersecurity Information Bulletin available to members on its [website](#). The notice discusses the recent Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) [joint advisory](#) concerning Microsoft Exchange Server vulnerabilities.

A notice from CISA discussing the joint advisory and other issues can also be found on ASLRRRA's website. As mentioned in the March 10 issue of Views and News, ASLRRRA strongly urges all members to check with their IT staff or managed services providers to confirm whether they are operating any on-premises versions of Microsoft Exchange Server, including cases where these servers are backing up other cloud email service. If your organization is operating such a server it is critical to quickly assess whether those systems have been compromised, and take action to [mitigate](#) any breaches.

March 24, 2021

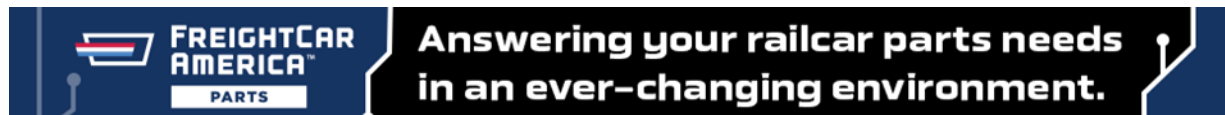
A second RAN notice is a Cybersecurity Awareness Message discussing the SolarWinds Orion supply chain compromise. It can also be found on ASLRRA's website.

CISA CHIRP Tool Helps Companies Identify Compromised Networks

To help network defenders identify indicators of compromise (IOCs) associated with recent cybersecurity threats, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has developed the [CISA Hunt and Incident Response Program \(CHIRP\) tool](#).

CHIRP is a forensics collection tool scanning networks for IOCs specifically associated with activity detailed in two recent CISA alerts, [AA20-352A](#): Advanced Persistent Threat Compromise of Government Agencies, Critical Infrastructure, and Private Sector Organizations; and [AA21-008A](#): Detecting Post-Compromise Threat Activity in Microsoft Cloud Environments.

Follow the CHIRP tool link above for more information, including technical details such as how CHIRP works and other frequently asked questions.



ASLRRA New Members

Know a company that would benefit from joining and participating in ASLRRA? Please contact ASLRRA's Vice President of Membership and Business Development [Kathy Keeney](#) via email or on (202) 585-3439.

Four Companies Become ASLRRA Members

ASLRRA is pleased to welcome to our membership rolls this week four companies - two new Associate Railroad members, one Associate Business member and one returning Railroad member.



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®

[American Rocky Mountaineer LLC](#), a U.S.-based affiliate of a western Canada tour company, will operate its first U.S. route this summer between Denver and Moab, Utah. Moab is a destination that includes Arches and Canyonlands national parks. Its parent, The Rocky Mountaineer, is known for its scenic excursions by rail through Western Canada. Our primary contact is [Carl Atencio](#), Superintendent, Operations & Mechanical USA, who can be reached on (719) 580-0801. Many thanks to the FRA's Michael Ramsey for suggesting that they join ASLRRA as an Associate Railroad member.



[Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum](#), based in Lenox, Mass., operates a rail history museum in Lenox (open since 1985) and a tourist train ride in Adams, Mass. Named by *Yankee Magazine* as one of the "Top 10 foliage train rides in New England," the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum's mission is to preserve the history of railroading in the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts. Our primary contact is President & CMO [Thomas G. Delasco](#).



[Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad Co.](#), based in Russellville, Ark., operates over five miles of track and carries food & fuel, forest products, plastics, steel & scrap and other commodities. The D&R, which connects with Union Pacific, has warehousing available as well as industrial development sites. Our primary contact is Vice President Danny Robbins, who can be reached on (479) 968-6455. Many thanks to Genesee & Wyoming's Joe Arbona for the assist with this return membership.

Jacobs

geotechnical engineering design and vehicle engineering and procurement. [Christopher DiFatta](#), FRA Program Manager, is our primary contact and can be reached on (443) 377-9345. Many thanks to our friends at the FRA for recommending they join ASLRRRA.

[Jacobs Engineering](#), with world headquarters in Dallas, Texas, delivers comprehensive and innovative solutions to differentiate itself in the transit and rail market. It focuses on operations-led design, which delivers proven savings to its clients. In addition to program and construction management, Jacobs takes its expertise a step further into highly specialized tunnel and

ASLRRA Announcements

Travero President Burke Retires After 40-Year Career in Rail, Logistics



Burke



Coffey

Kevin Burke is [retiring](#) from his role as president of Travero, the parent company of ASLRRA-member CRANDIC Rail. ASLRRA congratulates Burke and thanks him for his decades of service, and joins Travero in welcoming new president Lisha Coffey, whose previous role was Travero's chief operating officer.

Burke first joined CRANDIC in 1981 as a clerk. He held several leadership positions, including that of chief operating officer, before being named president in 2007. He has also been active with ASLRRA and has served on the Association's Legislative Policy Committee for about 15 years.

"I offer my congratulations to Kevin on his well-deserved retirement, and a sincere thanks for his decades of service in the short line industry," said ASLRRA President Chuck Baker. "Throughout his career at CRANDIC/Alliant/Travero, Kevin has always ensured that his railroad was an active, engaged, and highly respected member of the short line association. Whether in his operating roles or his participation in the Legislative Policy Committee, Kevin was a steady, expert voice always committed to doing the right thing for the railroad, the industry, and the country."

ASLRRA and FHWA/FRA Resources Help Members Pursue Funding as Grant Application Deadlines Near

ASLRRA's [Member Discount Program](#) features grant writing preferred providers who can help members prepare and submit grant applications for a variety of state and federal programs.

Several states are currently soliciting grant applications for various rail projects. They include:

- The North Carolina Department of Transportation's [Short Line Infrastructure Assistance Program](#). Applications are due March 26.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation's [Minnesota Rail Service Improvement Program \(MRSI\)](#). Applications must be submitted electronically, and are due March 31.
- The New York State Department of Transportation's [Passenger and Freight Rail Assistance Program and Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Program](#). Applications are due April 22.

Another resource to help railroads understand funding opportunities is the next Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) joint webinar, which will be held June 23.

The FHWA/FRA joint webinar will focus on exploring federal funding sources and resources for rail programs. [Registration](#) for the webinar is free, but required, in order to attend.

Join us VIA ZOOM April 13 and 14 for
2021 RAILROAD DAY
Click here to learn more and register!



ASLRRR Webinars – Live or On-Demand

Upcoming Webinars

[ASLRRR & SmartWay: Introduction & Opportunities](#) - March 25, 2021

Representatives from ASLRRR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's SmartWay program will give an introductory presentation about both organizations and a discussion about opportunities for collaboration. This webinar is free for both ASLRRR members and

non-members.

On-Demand Webinars Help Short Lines Grow Business and Adapt to Change

Building business is not always simple or easy for short line railroads. To help, ASLRRR has offered business development webinars featuring ideas and examples from fellow railroad members and other experts.

Recordings of these webinars can be found in ASLRRR's [On-Demand Webinar library](#). Look for these titles:

- Short Line Business Development, Growth, and Marketing Panel
- How Short Lines are Adapting Workplaces & Serving Customers (During the Pandemic)
- Using Social Media as a Business Development Tool

In addition, ASLRRR offers more than 100 recordings covering a variety of railroad topics. Recordings are free to members and available by subscription to non-members. Follow the link above to learn more.

[Click here](#) for more ASLRRR events.

Industry Events and Announcements

Operation Lifesaver Conference to be Held Virtually in July

Operation Lifesaver has moved its Leadership Conference to a virtual format due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19. The event will take place July 14-15.

March 24, 2021

The theme for this year's conference is "Safety Partnerships: Together Towards Tomorrow." Due to the virtual format, registration will be free for all participants. Registration for the event will open soon.

Second Unmanned Aircraft Systems Webinar Scheduled for April 27

Due to significant demand, a second Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CUAS) webinar has been scheduled by New Mexico Tech and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). CISA invites first responders, law enforcement officials and security directors and managers to participate in the course.

The day-long webinar will be held via Zoom and is scheduled for [April 20](#) and [April 27](#). Find more information on ASLRRA's [Industry Events](#) page, or register using the links above. Registration is free, but participants must have a [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Student Identification \(SID\)](#).

IRPT Releases Dates for 2021 Annual Conference

Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals (IRPT) will hold its [2021 Annual Conference](#) in person Oct. 18-20 in Biloxi, Miss.

The conference will focus on logistics and transportation issues. It will also include exhibition space. IRPT members will receive discounted registration.

[Click here](#) for more industry events.

Views & News is published by American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Please contact [Amy Krouse](#), editor, with questions or comments.