



April 13, 2022

## ASLRRRA Announces 2022 Annual Conference Keynote Speakers: Illinois Representative Rodney Davis and FRA's Jennifer Mitchell



*Rep. Rodney Davis*

ASLRRRA is excited to announce Representative Rodney Davis (R-Ill.) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Deputy Administrator Jennifer Mitchell will be keynote speakers at the Association's [2022 Conference and Exhibition](#) in St. Louis. [Register today!](#)

Davis is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. He is also on the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. Davis is serving his fifth term as representative of Illinois' 13th District, which covers 14 counties in central and southwestern Illinois. Decatur Junction Railway Company and Illinois and Midland Railroad are two of the ASLRRRA-member short lines running through Davis's district.



*Jennifer Mitchell*

At the FRA, Mitchell will play a significant role in implementing programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Prior to taking on the role as deputy administrator, Mitchell was director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Davis and Mitchell will each speak during the conference's [General Session and Awards Presentation](#) on May 2. After their talks, ASLRRRA will recognize several of this year's honorees, including the winner of the Thomas L. Schlosser Distinguished Service Award, the Safety Person of the Year and Safety Professional of the Year and three winners of the Business Development Awards. This year, ASLRRRA will also induct two individuals into the Short Line Railroad Industry Hall of Fame.

Click [here](#) to register for the conference or view the conference section below to read about the highlights of this year's event.

### Space is Running Out – Sign Up Now for Hotel Block, Golf and Train Excursion

Attendees hoping to participate in the [golf tournament](#) and "[Round the World Loop](#)" train excursion will soon find themselves on a waiting list if they do not register today for the ASLRRRA 2022 Annual Conference and Exhibition, May 1 to 3 in St. Louis, Missouri. Space is *very limited* for both events, with less than 20 spots available for golf and less than 10 for the train excursion.

The Hyatt Regency St. Louis is also the only hotel still offering special [hotel block registration rates](#) for the ASLRRRA room block. The Hyatt is within walking distance of the [America's Center Convention Complex](#), where the conference will be held, and shuttles will run continuously between the hotel and convention center while events are taking place.

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[Register](#) now for the conference! Be sure to add the golf tournament or train excursion when completing the registration form.

Remember, individuals **must** be logged in to their ASLRRR accounts prior to attempting to register. Those without an ASLRRR user account should email [aslrra@aslrra.org](mailto:aslrra@aslrra.org) to create one, while



organizations needing to register five or more employees at one time should send a list with employee names, titles and email addresses to ASLRRR's Danialle Richards at [drichards@aslrra.org](mailto:d Richards@aslrra.org).

ASLRRR chair Doc Claussen has thrown down the gauntlet with his annual golf challenge video. Do not miss this opportunity to take on Claussen on the links in this friendly competition. View Claussen's video [here](#), and then click [here](#) to register for the conference, making sure to add the [golf tournament](#).

*In his annual challenge video, ASLRRR Chair Doc Claussen points out his favorite golf aphorisms before calling on conference attendees to take up their clubs and meet him at the Courses at Forest Park on May 3.*

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The advertisement features several images of mechanical components: a black and orange engine, a yellow cylindrical motor, a blue traction motor, and a set of metal wheels. On the right side, there is a photograph of a blue and white freight train.

The logo for the ASLRRR 2022 Annual Conference & Exhibition. It features the year "2022" in large red numbers. The "0" is replaced by a stylized graphic of the Gateway Arch and a staircase leading up to it. Below the year, the text "ASLRRR Annual Conference & Exhibition" is written in blue, followed by "May 1-3 | St. Louis, MO" in a smaller font with a small American flag icon.

## Conference Expo Hall Will Have Attendees Seeing Green

For the second year in a row, ASLRRR will feature a Green Zone in its [Expo Hall](#), showcasing companies that provide products and services meant to be environmentally friendly and more sustainable.

This year's Green Zone is larger than ever, and features companies providing power conversion products, geotechnical products, rail yard management software, rail fastening systems and more. To learn more about some of the companies exhibiting in ASLRRR's Green Zone, follow the links below.

<a href="#">American Traction System</a>	<a href="#">Aspen Equipment</a>	<a href="#">Automated Rail Solutions</a>	<a href="#">Bentley Systems</a>
<a href="#">Brookville Equipment Corp.</a>	<a href="#">Control Chief Corp.</a>	<a href="#">Cummins</a>	<a href="#">Dymax Rail</a>
<a href="#">Edwin Bohr / Electronics</a>	<a href="#">Electro-Techno</a>	<a href="#">Envirosave Enterprises LLC</a>	<a href="#">HalenHardy</a>
<a href="#">IAT International/Ekoslide</a>	<a href="#">Industrial Fabrics</a>	<a href="#">International Name Plate Supplies Ltd.</a>	<a href="#">Knox Kershaw</a>
<a href="#">L&amp;S Electric</a>	<a href="#">LB Foster</a>	<a href="#">Musco Lighting</a>	<a href="#">NRE</a>
<a href="#">Oil-Chem Research Corp. / zMAX</a>	<a href="#">Pandrol</a>	<a href="#">Pintsch North America, Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Railroad Software</a>
<a href="#">RCE Equipment Solutions</a>	<a href="#">RELAM Inc.</a>	<a href="#">Siemens Mobility</a>	<a href="#">Stryten Energy</a>
<a href="#">TMV Control Systems</a>	<a href="#">Wabtec Corp.</a>	<a href="#">Wi-Tronix LLC</a>	<a href="#">Wright Tree Service</a>
<a href="#">ZTR</a>			

In the Expo Hall as a whole, representatives from over 150 companies will be on hand to speak with conference attendees. Several networking events are scheduled to take place in the Expo Hall, including Sunday and Monday night receptions and a breakfast and lunch on Monday.

Very limited space is still available for companies interested in purchasing a booth in ASLRRA's Expo Hall. Only one booth is open in the Green Zone. There are also some [sponsorship opportunities](#) still available. Contact ASLRRA's Kathy Keeney at [kkeeney@aslrra.org](mailto:kkeeney@aslrra.org) for information about both expo booths and sponsorships.



### Updated Program and Training Matrix Available Online

ASLRRA, with the assistance of the Safety and Training Committee, has updated its program and training matrix, which can be utilized as a quick reference for required programs, program submissions and training requirements.

Members accessing the document will find a list of various parts of 49 CFR, with a breakdown of individual regulatory requirements and Part 243 training requirements for each.

Find the updated matrix in the Program and Record Keeping Requirements section under Compliance Templates on the [Safety and Compliance home page](#). Please contact [JR Gelnar](#) with any questions.

### Federal Railroad Administration Releases Calendar of Publications for Remainder of 2022

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has published a [timeline](#) of anticipated agency publications to help stakeholders plan for the release of program information, funding opportunities and award announcements. ASLRRA urges its members to use the calendar to prepare for these events.

The list spans April to December 2022, detailing when to expect information such as fiscal year (FY) 2021 CRISI awards announcement in May/June, rail crossing elimination program funding availability announcement in June, and FY 2022 CRISI funding availability announcement in August.

April's information release includes rail crossing elimination program listening sessions. The FRA recently [published its presentation](#) from the listening session online. The presentation gives an overview of the new program and identifies eligible applicants, eligible projects and program conditions.

The FRA's list is similar to a recent publication from the U.S. Department of Transportation announcing [expected release dates](#) for all NOFOs related to programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).



### **Biden Administration Unveils Rural Playbook**

As the Biden administration implements the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), its focus this week is on rural outreach and rural opportunities presented by the new law.

To that end, the administration unveiled the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook](#), intended to help rural communities know what infrastructure funding is available to them through the BIL and other sources. The playbook identifies programs that include specific set-

asides for rural communities, as well as waivers for matching requirements and other key flexibilities provided under the law.

In conjunction with the playbook release, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a [DOT-specific Fact Sheet](#) identifying transportation programs beneficial to rural communities. The programs highlighted, such as CRISI, grade crossing elimination, RAISE, and INFRA, all have some rural or small project set aside.

### **Lawmakers Begin Preparing Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Bills**

With the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations measure now law and with the president's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023 now made public, House and Senate appropriators are looking to craft next year's spending bills.

The next fiscal year doesn't begin until Oct. 1, but as these measures can take many months to develop and negotiate, House and Senate members are considering what policy and funding levels should guide the bills.

ASLRRA staff have begun weighing in with key offices seeking support for programs critical to the short line freight rail industry, such as the CRISI program and important research programs at the U.S.

Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy, as well as ensuring that these spending measures are free of language allowing longer, heavier trucks.

## House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Hears Testimony from NTSB Chair

Last week the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee heard testimony from National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chair Jennifer Homendy on the NTSB's formal proposal for reauthorizing the agency, as well as recent NTSB activities.

The NTSB was last reauthorized by Congress in 2018, and the NTSB would like Congress to increase the agency's staff levels and provide more resources to improve training and development of its workforce, increase speed of investigations, improve internal processes and procure more advanced equipment as its investigations and oversight increasingly focus on more complicated areas of technology.

In addition, the hearing highlighted NTSB's work on recent high-profile matters, such as the crash of a China Eastern Airlines 737-800 in March. Representative Rick Crawford (R-Ark.), who is also ranking member of the rail subcommittee, raised the importance of grade crossing safety and inquired generally into NTSB's investigations work related to Amtrak, freight rail and FRA's involvement in the investigatory process. Representative Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.) raised the importance of rail quiet zones. View Homendy's prepared testimony [here](#) and a video of the hearing [here](#).



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## ASLRRRA New Members

### Meet ASLRRRA's Five New Associate Business Members – Here and in Our Conference Expo Hall

ASLRRRA is pleased to welcome five Associate Business Members (suppliers) to our membership rolls. All will be exhibiting at our May annual conference & exhibition in St. Louis. Know a company that would benefit from joining and participating in ASLRRRA? Please contact ASLRRRA's Senior Vice President of Membership and Business Development Kathy Keeney via [email](#) or on (202) 585-3439.



[Cushman & Wakefield](#), the third-largest global real estate services company, creates smart real estate solutions for the complex challenges faced by multiple industries including short line railroads and rail-related industries. Their Rail Advisory Group comprises some of the most knowledgeable and seasoned experts in real

estate with an acute knowledge of rail properties, sites, easements, and right-of-ways, and its professionals can help monetize undervalued rail properties and provide rail-served site selection. Our primary contact is Senior Advisor [Beth Donnelly](#), based in Cincinnati, Ohio, who can be reached on (513) 361-8513. Look for C&W in Booth #318 in the expo hall at next month's annual conference.



[Industrial Fabrics, Inc.](#), based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, manufactures the BaseLok® line of geosynthetic products. BaseLok® products are used in numerous applications from base stabilization to retaining walls to erosion control. IFI has over 40 years' experience providing expertise in the geosynthetics markets. Sales Manager [David Bullock](#)

is our primary contact and can be reached on (225) 273-9600. Learn more about them in Booth #229 in the expo hall at next month's annual conference.



[JMC Products, Inc.](#), based in St. Louis, Missouri, is a stocking distribution center located in the center of the U.S. with many of the items needed to support your locomotive needs. It stocks brushes/holders, bulbs, fuses, contactors, Exane wire, lugs, blowers, water pumps, rust inhibitor and many other common items used to maintain locomotives. President [Patrick Gund](#) is our primary contact and can be reached on (314) 429-6691. Learn more about them in Booth #639 in the expo hall at next month's annual conference.



[Musco Lighting](#), based in Oskaloosa, Iowa, has been pioneering new lighting solutions for over 45 years. Musco's TLC for LED technology is the system of choice at international airports, rail yards, industrial sites, container terminals, and some of the largest ports worldwide, delivering unmatched light control and uniformity, and backed by a long-term parts and labor warranty. Our primary contact is Sales Specialist [Trey Rowland](#), who can be reached on (641) 673-0411. Learn more about them in Booth #329 at next month's annual conference.



[Poseidon Systems](#), based in Victor, New York, is a leader in machinery condition monitoring, with tens of thousands of deployments around the globe monitoring the health state of lubricating fluids. Building upon its smart sensor technologies, Poseidon has developed an end-to-end IIoT solution for assets in a number of verticals, including rail. Our primary contact is Sales & Marketing Specialist [Jennifer Catone](#). Learn more about the company in Booth #638 of the expo hall during our annual conference next month.

## ASLRRRA Announcements

### Save Money on Essential PPE with Preferred Provider ORR Safety

ORR Safety is an ISO 9001-registered distributor of personal protective equipment (PPE) and related services to the industrial market. For over 70 years, ORR Safety has provided products and services to over 20,000 companies, helping to protect hundreds of thousands of workers.

With more than 40 years of railroad experience, ORR Safety has worked with customers and suppliers to provide innovative solutions to many of the unique challenges inherent in this complex and demanding industry. ASLRRRA members benefit from exceptional, personalized service and discounted pricing on a huge assortment of products and equipment needed to implement an effective and efficient safety program. ORR Safety's offerings include foot and leg protection, signs, ergonomic products, hearing protection, clothing protection, eye protection, lighting and electrical products, hand protection, respiratory protection, storage containment and environmental spill cleanup, traffic control, head protection and much more.

Visit ASLRRRA's [Member Discount Program](#) page to view ORR Safety's online e-catalog and start saving today!

### Register to Secure a Spot in ASLRRRA's Summer Training Seminars

Spots are filling quickly for the first two of ASLRRRA's [summer training seminars](#). Individuals can now sign up to attend the [FRA Engineer/Conductor \(Part 240-242\) and Railroad Operating Rules \(Part 217\)](#) course and the [FRA Drug and Alcohol Training \(Part 219\)](#) course.

The engineer and conductor and operating rules course will be held May 17 to 18 while the drug and alcohol training course will be held June 7 to 8. Both will take place at the Aloft Nashville West End in Nashville, Tennessee. Space for each course is limited, so participants are encouraged to register early.

Two other courses, the [Comprehensive General Code of Operating Rules \(GCOR\) Training Seminar](#) and the [Advanced Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineers \(DSL E\) Training Seminar](#) will take place July 26 to 28 and August 9 and 10, respectively, both in Cedar Falls, Iowa. ASLRRRA has partnered with Iowa Northern Railway to offer these courses.

More information about two additional seminars, ASLRRRA's Leadership Development Training, Regulatory Module and FRA Roadway Worker/Bridge Worker Safety (214) Training is coming soon.

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## ASLRRRA Out and About

### Baker, Others Offer CEO Perspective in *Railway Age* Magazine

*Railway Age* magazine recently featured thoughts from railroad-industry executives in its CEO Perspectives series. The magazine published ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker's [thoughts](#) on April 10.

Baker discussed what he calls the "four parallel paths" to industry growth, focusing on living the short line ethos, making the most of public investment dollars, and advocating for regulatory balance and moderation and modal equity.

The series also included an article by [Anacostia Rail Holdings President and CEO Peter Gilbertson and COO Eric Jakubowski](#), as well as one by [Watco CEO Dan Smith](#). Both articles discussed the importance of customer service and relationships with individuals as keys to a stronger railroad industry. Anacostia and Watco are ASLRRRA member parent companies.

**2022 ASLRRRA TRAINING SEMINARS** click to learn more

May 17-18	FRA Engineer/Conductor (240/242) and Railroad Operating Rules (217) Training	July 26-28	General Code of Operating Rules (GCOR) Training
June 7-8	FRA Drug & Alcohol (219) Training	August 9-10	Advanced Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineers (DSLE) Training
Coming soon	ASLRRRA Leadership Development Training, Regulatory Module	Coming soon	FRA Roadway Worker/Bridge Worker Safety Training



## ASLRRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

### Review Railcar Health and Repair Topics with On-Demand Webinars

CarLogix sponsored and presented several ASLRRRA webinars discussing safety issues related to railcar health and railcar repair. Recordings of these webinars and copies of presentation materials are available in ASLRRRA's [On-Demand Webinar Library](#). Look for the following titles in the Operations & Safety category:

- Common CRB Data Exchange Errors and How to Avoid Them
- Alerts, Early Warnings and Maintenance Advisories
- Repair Reporting for Cars with Alerts and Early Warnings

These webinars are just a few of the over 170 recordings available to ASLRRRA members. Non-members can access on-demand webinars by purchasing a subscription. View our [webinar page](#) and click on the On-Demand Webinar button to log in and access recordings.

## Upcoming Webinars

### [Part 243 Railroad Obligations with Contractors](#) – June 1, 2022

Join FRA Staff Director Rob Castiglione to understand what your obligations are as a railroad when engaging with contractors under Part 243, including Roadway Worker Protection (RWP). Attendees



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will have an opportunity to participate in Q&A at the end of the presentation. Presenters include Castiglione and ASLRRA's Jo Strang and JR Gelnar.

This webinar is free for both ASLRRA members and non-members.

Click [here](#) to learn more about ASLRRA's education offerings.

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## Industry Events and Announcements

Click [here](#) for a calendar of industry events.

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