



Headlines

ASLRRRA Introduces New Training Scholarship Opportunity

ASLRRRA is offering a [new scholarship](#) to eligible railroad member employees to help them pay for training registration fees.

Thanks to a donation from the family of the late Lowell S. "Jake" Jacobson, the Association will offer ten Jake Jacobson Memorial Scholarships of up to \$425 each to employees of small railroads for use toward ASLRRRA-hosted training in safety, compliance or leadership development. Small railroads are those defined as earning \$10 million or less in annual revenue.

Jake Jacobson was the initiator of the Jake Awards for Railroad Safety. The Jake Award program has been the most long-standing and coveted award from the ASLRRRA, honoring railroad safety performance. To find out more about Jake Jacobson and his many contributions to the railroad industry as the President of the Copper Basin Railway and his community, click [here](#), and to view the 2021 Jake Award recipients, click [here](#).

Scholarships will be awarded to qualified individuals on a rolling basis until all funds are distributed. Click [this link](#) to apply.

ASLRRRA is also offering training scholarships made possible by the Douglas Golden-Mary Cullen Charitable Fund. Eligible small-railroad employees attending industry-specific training in track, bridge and signal inspection and maintenance and/or locomotive and freight car inspection and maintenance could be awarded up to \$1,200 for training-related expenses including registration fees, airfare, and lodging. [Click here](#) to learn more or [click here](#) for an application form.

Help ASLRRRA Defend Against Minimum Crew Size Definition

On Tuesday ASLRRRA sent out a short survey to each of our railroad member primary contacts asking a few questions about how their railroad staffs trains. This information will be crucial for our industry's response to the upcoming Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) rulemaking on crew size.

Please complete the very brief survey by July 25.

The Association encourages recipients to complete the survey to best enable ASLRRRA's team to advocate on behalf of its members concerning this important issue. To avoid confusion or conflicting responses the survey was only sent to primary contacts at each railroad. Individuals who did not receive this survey and believe they are the best person at your railroad to answer questions on crew size, should reach out to [Fred Oelsner](#) to receive the survey link.



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Regulatory Update

Coalition Letter Urges Passage of TSA Application Modernization Act

ASLRRA joined a coalition of associations in a [letter to leaders](#) of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation urging Congress to pass the [Transportation Security Administration Security Threat Assessment Application Modernization Act](#).

The bill would streamline the application and renewal process for the multiple Transportation Security Administration (TSA) credentials required of certain transportation workers and establish a reduced fee structure for applicants. A version was first introduced in the [House](#) in February and a similar version was introduced in the [Senate](#) in May.

ASLRRA has expressed its support for the legislation, with Association President Chuck Baker welcoming it as a way to lessen unnecessary burdens on affected short line railroad employees, allowing them to focus on their key mission.

Legislative Update

Legislative Round Up: T-HUD Appropriations Bill, Buttigieg to Testify, STB Reauthorization on the Table

The House Appropriations Committee [passed](#) the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) bill on June 30 and the bill will now go to the full House of Representatives for consideration next week.

ASLRRA supports the bill, which among other things provides a significant increase in funding for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program, and funding for RAISE grants and Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grants above the emergency funds allotted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Next week the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hear testimony from Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, followed the next day by a committee markup of a Surface Transportation Board (STB) reauthorization bill.

The STB reauthorization bill stands to give the board more power to regulate railroad economics. ASLRRA's Government Affairs Team is closely reviewing the measure to assess how it would impact the short line freight rail industry.

Preparing for CRISI

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has signaled it will be opening the 2022 [Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements \(CRISI\) grant program](#) in August. With a historic \$1.6 billion available for projects this year – over four times the resources in 2021 – ASLRRA is eager to help its members prepare for the funding opportunity release.

The Association is providing guidance through a series of articles focused on steps members can take to position themselves to take advantage of this program.

CRISI Step One – Registering Your Railroad Prior to Grant Submission

A necessary first step towards pursuing funding through the CRISI program is for the applying entity to be properly registered in two federal systems: The [System for Award Management](#) (SAM) and [grants.gov](#). Grant applicants must first be set up in SAM to register in grants.gov and all recipients of federal funds must be registered in SAM. All application materials are submitted through grants.gov.

Sam.gov

First-time CRISI applicants should begin the SAM registration process as early as possible. The process of registering in SAM can bring to light other administrative or data needs that require resolution prior to submission. In addition, confirming a new SAM registration can take a **couple of weeks** as it may require transmittal of a notarized paper letter to verify the applicant's identity.

SAM registration requires inputting information about the organization into the online system and providing some legal representations and certifications to the federal government. Setting up an account and collecting and inputting the data usually takes a few hours. Once complete, the government assigns registrants a Unique Entity Identifier.

Grants.gov

CRISI applicants must use grants.gov to electronically submit all application materials. Setting up grants.gov is less involved than the SAM.gov registration, but still takes time. Registrants create at least two accounts: an E-biz point of contact, which is the administrator and representative for the entire entity, and at least one user account with authority to prepare and submit a grant application.

After establishing the accounts, applicants create a workspace for the open grant opportunity, which allows access to all application materials and through which the application and all attachments are uploaded. First time users of grants.gov should experiment with

CRISI Tip Sheet

- **Be aware** of copycat websites. They attempt to replicate the look and feel of sam.gov but are run by private firms trying to confuse organizations and get them to purchase their usually unnecessary services. Be sure you see the .gov suffix on the website URL.
- **Create redundancy** with accounts and passwords among staff. Regaining access to an account is a time-consuming process.
- **Leave some buffer time** around the grant application deadline. An application can be reviewed and revised up until the final minute of the deadline, but not one second after.

Important Links


The SAM.gov help desk:
<https://sam.gov/content/help>

The grants.gov help desk:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>

The most recent FRA CRISI webinar:
<https://railroads.dot.gov/rail-network-development/training-guidance/webinars-0>

creating a workspace and familiarizing themselves with the interface as early as possible. As soon as the CRISI 2022 notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is released, find it on the [NOFO page](#) in grants.gov, set up the application workspace and thoroughly review the entirety of the package and required forms.

ASLRRRA's [On-Demand Webinar Library](#) features several recordings to help members with the CRISI application process. In addition, ASLRRRA [Member Discount Program Preferred Providers](#) Bergmann, HDR and GTS offer grant-writing services.



The banner features the HUB logo on the left, which consists of a blue circle with a white center and the word "HUB" in bold black letters below it. To the right of the logo, the text reads: "Employee Health Insurance" in white, followed by "The Coalition Health Plan is available exclusively to ASLRRRA members, designed to reduce medical premiums and simplify the healthcare experience for employees. Click to learn more..." in blue.

Announcements

Last Chance to Register for July's General Code of Operating Rules (GCOR) Training Seminar

Limited space is available for those interested in attending ASLRRRA's GCOR training seminar, held July 26 to 28 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Railroads that have adopted the GCOR as their operating rules will want to attend this important training seminar.

The comprehensive three-day program may be used by railroads to meet operating rules training as required by 49 CFR Part 240, 242 and 214 Subpart C. Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in daily interactive discussions with peers and regulatory experts and registration includes an online assessment and Certificate of Completion awarded upon successful completion of the program. Attendees must bring their Eighth Edition GCOR for reference; training will cover chapters 1 - 10, 14 and 15.

Training will be held at the Holiday Inn & Suites BienVenu Event Center. A hotel airport shuttle is available (must be booked in advance) and registration includes daily breakfast and lunch.

View the complete lineup of [upcoming training seminars](#) on ASLRRRA's website and register today! Don't forget, ASLRRRA is offering a [new scholarship](#) to eligible railroad member employees to help them pay for training registration fees. Up to \$425 will be awarded to qualified individuals attending ASLRRRA-hosted training. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all funds are distributed. Click [this link](#) to apply.

ASLRRRA Members Benefit from Coalition Health Plan with HUB International

The Coalition Health Plan is specifically designed for ASLRRRA members looking for a solution to reduce their medical premiums and simplify the healthcare experience for their employees. As the fifth largest broker in the world with over 500 locations in North America, HUB International is well

equipped to provide ASLRRRA members with a vast network of benefits experts and best-in-class resources no matter where the company is located in the US.

Partnering with HUB puts ASLRRRA members at the center of a vast network of experts who provide risk services, claims management, and compliance support. Visit ASLRRRA's [Member Discount Program page](#) and select [Employee Health Insurance](#) to start saving today

Save the Date for Fall Training Seminars

ASLRRRA will offer the Regulatory Module of its Leadership Development Training Program September 13-14 and FRA Part 214 Roadway/Bridge Worker Safety Training October 4-6, in Phoenix, Arizona. Mark your calendar to save the date, registration will open soon.

Jake Safety Award Winners Can Access Certificates Online

Each of this year's [Jake Award](#) winners can now use [this link](#) to download and print their award certificate to display in the workplace.

View a list of Jake Award winners [here](#), Jake Award with Distinction winners [here](#) and President's Award winners [here](#). ASLRRRA will recognize the President's Award winners at this year's [Regional Meetings](#) in the fall.

The graphic features a central image of railroad tracks receding into the distance. Overlaid on this are six colored boxes, each representing a training seminar. The boxes are arranged in two columns. The top row has a blue box on the left and a pink box on the right. The middle row has a light blue box on the left and a red box on the right. The bottom row has a green box on the left and a light green box on the right. Each box contains the date, the seminar name, and a 'click to learn more' link.

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

ASLRRRA Webinars

Upcoming Live Webinars

[FRA Updated Part 240/242 Audit Process](#) – July 19, 2022

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has revised their approach and process in performing Part 240/242 audits of railroads, including short lines, and these revisions were implemented at the beginning of 2022. Join the FRA's Kevin Lewis to review and discuss this process and common findings.

The webinar is free for members and \$25 for non-members.

Webinars On-Demand

Online Webinar Recordings Offer Valuable Information to Communications and Marketing Professionals

ASLRRRA's [On-Demand Webinars](#) include a number of recordings helpful to marketing, communications, and public relations professionals. Look in the Association's online library for titles like:

- Government and Community Relations Fundamentals
- Media Training Basics
- Crisis Communications Fundamentals for Railroaders
- Using Social Media as a Business Development Tool

These webinars are only a few of the over 170 recordings available on a wide variety of topics including finance, human resources, communications and technology. ASLRRRA members can access the On-Demand Webinar for free while non-members can purchase a subscription. [Click here](#) to access the webinar library today.

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

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.