



February 9, 2022



Booth Sales Off to Strong Start for Annual Conference in St. Louis

More than 120 booths have been reserved for the Expo portion of our [2022 Annual Conference and Exhibition](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, May 1-3. For the last few weeks selection priority was given to members that had booths at last year's conference.

Booth sales to all ASLRRRA supplier members open this week. Sponsorship sales for St. Louis are also open, with right of first refusal to those companies that sponsored specific events or items at last year's conference. For more details on either booth or sponsorship sales, please contact ASLRRRA's Senior Vice President of Membership and Business Development [Kathy Keeney](#).

The annual conference returns this year to its traditional spring time slot and Sunday-Tuesday day pattern. The event officially starts Sunday, May 1 with some committee meetings and the Welcome Reception in the expo hall. Monday will feature a morning general session (including honoring the new Hall of Fame class and Safety Person and Professional of the Year, Distinguished Service award winners), lunch in the bustling expo hall, and an afternoon of breakout track workshops with an evening reception. After morning breakout tracks, a golf outing is planned for Tuesday afternoon, followed by an after-dinner closing reception with a DJ and a beautiful view of St. Louis.

Hotel room block and attendee registration will open the week of March 1. The ASLRRRA team is excited about the location and the events organized, and hopes you'll make plans to meet us in St. Louis.

Join the Conversation – Register to Participate in Virtual Railroad Days in March

[Registration](#) is now open for 2022 [Virtual Railroad Days](#) on March 9 and 10. This event allows participants to connect with federal lawmakers and their offices through Zoom meetings at no cost, to communicate the crucial role freight railroads play in local, national and international economies.

Last year's virtual event was a resounding success with more than 260 congressional offices meeting with 475 participants. The virtual format enabled more constituents to participate than ever before, with the elimination of the travel component of an in-person Railroad Day.

Organizers will schedule meetings for participants specific to the congressional offices where the participants do business. Class I, II and III railroad personnel, shippers, rail labor representatives, state and local government representatives, and members from the supplier community are all invited to participate. Training in advance of the event will be provided via Zoom.

February 9, 2022

Organizations interested in sponsoring the 2022 Virtual Railroad Days can contact ASLRRA's [Amy Westerman](#) for information. ASLRRA thanks its many partner organizations for their support in planning and holding the event.



BLANKROME
Government Relations LLC

Federal Funding | **Grant Writing** | **Lobbying & Law**

www.blankrome.gr.com





ASLRRA Members Asked to Review Hazmat Safety Manual

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued [safety recommendation R-20-27](#) to ASLRRA, the Association of American Railroads and the Renewable Fuels Association as a result of the NTSB report "Placement of DOT-111 Tank Cars in High Hazard Flammable Trains and the Use of Buffer Cars for the Protection of Train Crews."

ASLRRA asks its railroad members to please review a manual produced by the [Alternative Fuels Association](#) titled [Best Practices for Rail Transport of Ethanol](#). This manual is a comprehensive guide to tank cars moving hazardous materials and is a good review for railroads that move such materials.

ASLRRA supports continued education on moving hazardous materials safely. An additional source for hazardous materials training for short line railroads is the [Short Line Safety Institute](#). Please contact ASLRRA's Jo Strang at jstrang@aslr.org with any questions.

TSA Document Answers Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Cybersecurity Directives

In order to offer clarification regarding Security Directives (SDs) 1580-21-01 and 1582-21-01, the Transportation Security Administration worked with its surface transportation partners to produce a [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) document](#) for those to whom the directives apply.

The FAQs explain which freight railroad carriers are subject to the SDs and provide details regarding topics such as who can qualify as a company's cybersecurity coordinator, how to report a cybersecurity incident and how to implement a cybersecurity incident response plan. Those with specific issues or questions can contact the TSA directly at TSA-Surface-Cyber@tsa.dhs.gov.



Congress Passes Another Funding Stopgap Bill

Funding for government operations expires on Feb. 18, and this week the House passed a continuing resolution that will ensure government operations continue through March 11. The legislation will be the third extension of federal funding Congress has passed, this latest one coming more than four months into the 2022 fiscal year.

The Senate is also likely to pass the measure in the coming days. Some lead congressional negotiators suggest with tepid optimism that the short-term spending measure could provide enough time for a spending deal to be worked out for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends in September.

To achieve that, Congress will still need to overcome significant hurdles, including setting a topline level for the overall spending package and resolving differences on a number of thorny social policy matters. Many stakeholders are eager to see a long-term measure become law, as it will help ensure that the benefits of the new infrastructure law, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), are fully realized.

AAR Letter Calls for DOT to Ensure Grade Crossing Grants Program Is Streamlined, Efficient

As the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) begins implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), one of the key new funding opportunities for freight rail will be the new grade crossing elimination program. The bill provides \$600 million annually in guaranteed spending for the new program over the next five years.

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) wrote a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) last week urging the FRA to ensure the application review process – which has yet to begin – is minimally burdensome and ensures flexibility. View their letter [here](#).

ASLRRA agrees that streamlining the application process for all the grants established or backed with increased funding in the IIJA will improve the supply chain and enable small business railroads to compete successfully for discretionary funding.



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!

Nominations Due in March for ASLRRRA Annual Awards

ASLRRRA is accepting nominations for its annual industry awards. Follow the links below to learn more about each award and its criteria, and to find nomination forms. Submissions are due March 15. ASLRRRA will recognize the winners at the [2022 Annual Conference and Exhibition](#), which will be held May 1-3 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The [Business Development Awards](#) recognize railroads that have designed and enacted the most innovative and successful business-building initiatives in the small railroad industry. Award criteria can be found [here](#), and railroads can submit nominations or questions to ASLRRRA's [Amy Krouse](#).

The [Veterans Engagement Award](#) honors industry employers who demonstrate positive policies toward U.S. veterans and who implement unique programs and practices to hire, recognize, support, and engage with veterans in the workplace and the broader community. Review award criteria [here](#), and access the application form [here](#). Please send any questions to ASLRRRA's [Sabrina Waiss](#).

The [Safety Person of the Year](#) award recognizes a non-management employee of a member railroad who works with management on effective safety programs, exhibits a high degree of safety

awareness and contributes off-duty time to activities promoting safety awareness in the community. Find award criteria [here](#), and fill out a nomination form [here](#).

The [Safety Professional of the Year](#) recognizes a railroad management employee of an ASLRRRA member railroad who is responsible for safety programs, training and the overall management of safe behavior and actions on their railroad(s) and demonstrates these [criteria](#). Find a nomination form [here](#). Contact ASLRRRA's [Crystal Gitchell](#) with any questions regarding either safety award.

ASLRRRA Out and About

New Orleans Public Belt Hosts ASLRRRA Safety and Training Committee

The New Orleans Public Belt Railroad hosted the ASLRRRA's Safety and Training Committee during the week of Jan. 31. ASLRRRA's Jo Strang and JR Gelnar joined committee members in discussing multiple template programs and regulatory items.

The committee revised the Part 240/242 Prior Service Report and the Program Matrix. Safety and Training Committee Chairman Mitch Harris and ASLRRRA would like to thank Mike Stolzman and his staff for the time and efforts in providing a great venue.

Staff Attends Chamber of Commerce Meeting In Person and Online

On Feb. 2, ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker and Vice President of Government Affairs Tom Lynch attended the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Transportation Infrastructure and Logistics Committee meeting at the Chamber of Commerce headquarters in Washington, D.C. Two other members of ASLRRRA's congressional affairs team, Zach Radford and Crystal Gitchell, attended the meeting virtually.

Among guests to present and attend were Polly Trottenberg, the deputy secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation, who is a pivotal player in the rollout of the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Trottenberg discussed the Biden administration's priorities in implementing the new law. Other guests to present included top Democratic and Republican staffers from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

ASLRRRA pressed the case with U.S. Department of Transportation and congressional representatives for making sure the IIJA is implemented swiftly and that key discretionary grant programs of importance to short line freight rail are funded to the maximum extent. Administration and congressional personnel and chamber staff also discussed a number of supply chain issues in-depth, and ASLRRRA staff were eager to share how short line freight rail can be critical in alleviating congestion and bringing new efficiencies to the freight network.



As an ASLRRRA Preferred Provider, ORR Safety offers Discounts on Personal Protective Equipment and Related Services to ASLRRRA Members.

Click to learn more!



ASLRRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

Railroad Retirement Webinar Recordings Available Any Time Online

The Railroad Retirement Board partnered with ASLRRRA to present webinars on retirement and disability benefits, and recordings of these popular webinars can be found in ASLRRRA's [On-Demand Webinar library](#).

Titles in this series include:

- RRB General Eligibility and Employee Benefits
- RRB Spouse Benefits and Working After Retirement
- RRB Survivor Benefits and General Information

ASLRRRA members can view these and over 150 other webinars covering diverse topics like communications, legal issues, business development and environmental sustainability. Access is free and available at any time for members, while non-members can purchase subscriptions.

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

Industry Events and Announcements

Magazine Accepting Nominations for Rising Stars Awards

Each year, *Progressive Railroading* magazine honors up-and-coming leaders in the North American rail industry with its Rising Stars Awards. The publication is [now accepting entries](#) for the Rising Stars 2022 competition.

February 9, 2022

The awards will honor 25 individuals under the age of 40 who are making a positive difference in their organizations. Winners will be recognized in a summertime ceremony and in the September issue of *Progressive Railroading*. Find more information at the link above, or follow [this link](#) to go directly to the nomination form. Submissions are due March 1.

[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.