



March 2, 2022



FINAL DAY TO REGISTER FOR RAILROAD DAYS 2022!

Virtual Railroad Days will take place March 9 and 10, and there is no cost for [registration](#). To ensure placement with lawmaker's offices that pertain to your location(s), REGISTER TODAY!

We are particularly interested in representation for
Alaska
California (12th District)
Florida (26th District)
Illinois (10th District)
Wyoming

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 on March 3, at 1pm.

Sponsorships are still available for the 2022 Virtual Railroad Days. Contact ASLRRRA's [Amy Westerman](#) for information.

If Your Railroad is Known for Developing Business, Employees that Focus on Elevating Safety Every Day, or an Organization Supporting Veterans – TELL US ABOUT IT! ASLRRRA Award Applications Due March 15!

ASLRRRA Business Development Award winners have designed and enacted the most innovative and successful business-building initiatives in the small railroad industry. More information about last year's winners can be found [here](#).

Do you have a great business-building story to share? Submit it today! Criteria for ASLRRRA's Business Development Awards can be found [here](#). Submit your entries to [Amy Krouse](#).

Nominate Your Company for ASLRRRA's Veterans Engagement Award!

Does your company do right by our nation's veterans and their families? Do you prioritize veterans hiring and training, recognize veterans in the workforce, or actively support veterans' organizations in the community?

Don't miss out on being recognized for your important efforts! ASLRRRA's [Veterans Engagement Award](#) recognizes 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.

Click [here](#) to view 2021 Award winner and featured programs from the short line railroad industry.

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Winners of ASLRRRA's Veterans Engagement Award receive the following benefits:

- Recognized in awards ceremony at ASLRRRA's Annual Conference in St Louis, MO
- Showcased as an industry leader for veterans engagement efforts
- Opportunity to display Veterans Award logo in print and marketing materials
- Profiled on ASLRRRA's website and in Views and News newsletter
- Tapped by ASLRRRA for participation in industry articles such as Progressive Railroading, Railway Age, RTS and others!
- Serve as a mentor to other railroads seeking to attract, hire, and support veterans

Award submission deadline is Tuesday, March 15! View the Veterans Engagement Award criteria [here](#) and submit a nomination [here](#). Contact [Sabrina Waiss](#) with questions.

The Safety Professional of the Year Award - Do you have the best Safety Officer in the land? Tell us how your safety management personnel are keeping your employees and customers out of harm's way on your railroad. Last year's winner was Herman Crosson of Patriot Rail Company. Find out more about his career story [here](#).

Nominate someone [here](#). [Click here](#) to read about additional criteria. Contact [Crystal Gitchell](#) with questions.

The Safety Person of the Year Award - Who on your team embodies Safety on your railroad, going the extra mile to ensure that you have a great safety culture on your railroad? Nominees do not need to have "safety" in their title to meet this criteria. 2021's honoree was George Johnson, Jr., who shared some of his wisdom based on a decades-long career with Golden Triangle Railroad [here](#).

Nominate someone [here](#). [Click here](#) for award criteria. Contact [Crystal Gitchell](#) with questions.

Thank you to our 2022 Railroad Day Sponsors – Gold



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Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy Issues RFP to Repower Freight Switchers, Marine and Shore Power with Clean Engines

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announced today, a Request for Proposals (RFP) that totals \$9 million for the replacement or repowering of freight switchers, and the repowering of ferry boats and tugs. The RFP also includes the installation of shore-side power for vessels that operate within

the Great Lakes.

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Grants will range from \$100,000 to \$5 million, and funding amounts will be between 25 percent and 70 percent of the project, depending on the type of ownership and technology chosen. Projects that choose to replace or repower engines with zero emission technologies, such as electric and hydrogen fuel cell, qualify for the highest funding percentages; alternative fuel and then diesel follow in funding percentages.

The grants will be awarded through EGLE's [Fuel Transformation Program](#) (FTP), which is funded by Volkswagen settlement money allocated to Michigan. The FTP's goals are to reduce oxides of nitrogen emissions, increase adoption of zero emission and alternative fuel engines, support [Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's climate change mitigation goals](#), and increase the protection of human health and the environment. Click here for the [grant application](#).

Contact [Irene Queen](#), with questions.

As a reminder, ASLRRA members have access to preferred grant writing partners. Click [here](#) for details.



USDOT Releases the full NOFO for the Port Infrastructure Development Program

Two weeks ago, USDOT released preliminary information for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), a program that helps modernize and expand U.S. ports, remove bottlenecks and promote competitiveness, resilience and sustainability. Port-related rail projects have been successful in past funding rounds. Last week, USDOT released more information regarding the \$450 million in funding available [HERE](#). Funding was significantly bolstered by the new infrastructure law. Applications are due May 16, and we encourage short lines to apply!

White House to Host High Level Webinars on Funding Made Available in the IIJA

On Thursday, administration officials will discuss funding opportunities for major projects. This funding could indirectly impact short lines, and anyone interested in participating can register [HERE](#).

Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Railway Hosts Prominent North Carolina Elected Officials



In January the Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Railway (ACWR) hosted Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson for a visit to its shop and a train ride to discuss the importance of short line railroads to rural North Carolina as well as to the overall economic development strategy for the state. The train ride culminated in a visit to one of ACWR's important grain customer's Perdue Farms, feed mill in Candor, North Carolina. The company noted that Lt. Governor Robinson is an avid train enthusiast and was like "a kid in a candy store" during his visit.

Pictured second from left – Lt. Governor Robinson with staff members of ACWR.



On February 18, the ACWR hosted Congressman Ted Budd (NC-13), who is running for the vacated Senate seat of retiring Senator Richard Burr. Congressman Budd received a tour of the ACWR facility to better understand the importance of short line railroads to North Carolina, in particular in rural areas, as well as to the overall economic development strategy for the state.

Pictured third from left – Congressman Ted Budd with staff members of ACWR.



As an ASLRRRA Preferred Provider, Loram offers Discounts on Tie and Track Inspection Services to ASLRRRA Members.

Click to learn more!



ASLRRRA New Members

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

ASLRRRA Welcomes Two New Supplier Members



[McDonald Steel Corp.](#), based in McDonald, Ohio, offers an extensive range of railroad steel shapes, including standard joint bars, insulated joint bars, and D-Bars. Its railroad steel products are designed for the utmost efficiency, safety and reliability and meet or exceed AREMA standards. VP-Sales & Marketing [Mike Havallo](#) is our primary contact and can be reached on (330) 530-9118 (ext. 116).



[The Davey Tree Expert Company](#), based in Kent, Ohio, has been providing proven solutions for the growing world since 1880. Deploying the latest resources, tools, and technology, Davey's Rail Division experts provide comprehensive vegetation control and management services, from project planning to regulation compliance to project execution and continued maintenance. Our primary contact is [Laura A. Wimer](#), Director of Client Experience, Utility Services, who can be reached on (330) 673-9515. Learn more about them in booth #321 at our May annual expo in St. Louis. Many thanks to Indiana Rail Road's Dewayne Swindall for recommending that they join ASLRRRA.

ASLRRRA Announcements

New ASLRRRA Website Is Generating Lots of Applause

Thanks to all who have sent us congratulatory notes and texts about our newly launched website. As a reminder, in order to access all areas of the site, Members must reset their password.

1. At the top right of the Home Page, click on "Member Portal" and select "Login" from the dropdown.
2. Enter your login e-mail address, which is the same as the e-mail address that you are accessing to read this notice.
3. Click "Forgot Your Password," located below the red "Login" button.
4. A new e-mail will be sent to the login e-mail address with a password reset link.
5. Click the link.
6. Enter a new passcode following the password guidance on the screen.

We look forward to adding new capabilities such as a Member Directory, and a self-serve Member Portal in the near future.

COMPLIANCE TEMPLATES

Click here for member-exclusive templates and additional resources.



ASLRRRA Out and About

Gelnar Represents Short Line Interests at SOFA Meeting

The Switching Operations Fatality Analysis (SOFA) working group met February 16 and 17 in Phoenix, AZ. The committee reviewed two cases and placed in the SOFA data base. SOFA will start the process to develop a new report with the assistance of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). JR Gelnar, vice president, safety and compliance for ASLRRRA was in attendance.

SOFA is an established, voluntary, non-regulatory, workplace-safety partnership formed by the FRA. It was formed to look for commonalities among the fatalities that occur during switching operations and to develop findings and recommendations that will aid in preventing railroad employee deaths. The group includes representatives from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen, the United Transportation Union, the Association of American Railroads, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, and the Federal Railroad Administration.

Baker Attends BNSF Short Line Caucus Meeting

Chuck Baker, president, ASLRRRA attended the BNSF Spring Short Line Caucus meeting in Fort Worth, Texas February 28 and March 1, meeting with various BNSF leadership and senior management of short line railroads.

ASLRRRA Industry Award Nominations Open!



Nominations being accepted for 2022 Safety Person, Safety Professional, Business Development, and Veterans Engagement Awards. **Nominations due by March 15!** *Click to learn more...*



ASLRRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

Upcoming Webinars

[Part 243 Railroad Obligations with Contractors](#) – March 8, 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 will have an opportunity to participate in Q&A at the end of the presentation. Presenters include Castiglione and ASLRRRA's Jo Strang and JR Gelnar.

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

ASLRRRA Provides Education On-Demand!

Railroad safety & operations professionals will want to check out ASLRRRA's three-part webinar series on FRA Part 243, presented by Mitch Harris, Director, Safety, Training & Regulatory Compliance with Rio Grande Pacific Corporation; Katie Inouye, President of Spark Training Solutions; and ASLRRRA's JR Gelnar, Vice President of Safety & Compliance:

- *FRA Part 243: Part 1 – Initial Training Requirements*
- *FRA Part 243: Part 2 – Requirements for Compliance*
- *FRA Part 243: Part 3 – Discussion and Q&A*

Visit aslr.org/webinars and select the On-Demand Webinars button to view a complete list of all available recordings.

Industry Events and Announcements

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