

the Manifest

the official newspaper of
the ASLRRRA Annual Convention



Volume 1, Issue 1
April 26, 2009



the exhibits!

With more than 40 sessions covering the hottest topics in today's industry, ASLRRRA's Annual Convention is widely regarded as the premier educational event for employees of small railroads. But don't overlook the excellent learning opportunities housed in the only Exhibit Hall specifically geared toward the short line industry and featuring the latest and greatest products and services for your operation. Beginning Sunday, the Exhibit Hall at ASLRRRA's Annual Convention opens with about 150 companies from the U.S. and Canada taking up more than 170 booths displaying products and services from all facets of the industry. With doors opening at 4:00pm on Sunday, the sold-out Exhibit Hall presents a variety of companies displaying their products, ranging from repair services and installation equipment to greener railroad products and maintenance of internal train systems.

"This is the largest ASLRRRA trade show ever—both in terms of number of companies and total number of booths," noted Kathy Keeney, publisher of the rail group at UBM Global Trade, the ASLRRRA's show management partner. "That speaks volumes, particularly in this struggling economy, to both the relevance of the ASLRRRA meeting in general and the growing importance of this trade show as a venue for railroad buyers and sellers to conduct business and unveil new products and services."

In these tough times, this is an excellent opportunity to meet with the companies that can save you time and money and improve the efficiency and efficacy of your operation.

Don't miss your opportunity to visit the only exhibition in America dedicated to the short line and regional railroad industry. The Exhibit Hall will remain open today until 7:30pm and then re-open for breakfast at 7 and a mid-morning coffee break. The hall will be open from 12:30pm-5:00pm on Monday and you won't want to miss the lunch served among the exhibitors.

The Sunday Evening Exhibit Hall Reception is co-sponsored by Boatright Companies and RailAmerica.

Be sure to schedule appointments with the companies during hall hours, which are the following times:

Sunday Opening Reception	4:00pm – 7:30pm
Continental Breakfast	7:00am – 7:50am
Refreshment Break	10:00am – 10:45am
Exhibit Hall Luncheon	12:30pm – 2:00pm
Exhibit Hall Open	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Monday Reception	6:00pm – 7:30pm



BOATRIGHT[™]
COMPANIES



Today's Schedule

Sunday, April 26, 2009

8:00am - 7:30pm

ASLRRA REGISTRATION

8:00am - 2:00pm

EXHIBITOR SETUP

8:00am - 3:45pm

RAILROAD SECURITY OFFICER TRAINING SESSION - PART 1

8:00am - 11:00am

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

9:00am - 1:00pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND LUNCHEON

1:30pm - 3:30pm

LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00pm

EXHIBITION GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

4:00pm - 7:30pm

EXHIBITION HALL RECEPTION

Visit with over 150 Exhibitors and learn all about the newest products and services available to the rail industry.

7:30pm

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

The Life of an ASLRRA Volunteer: Judy Petry & Gary Griswell Reflect on Past Short Line Conventions

By Eileen Keane, ASLRRA Staff Assistant



With over 30 participants each year, the volunteer group at the ASLRRA Annual Convention plays an essential role in the organization and execution of the meeting's registration and events. *The Manifest* spoke with two of our most active volunteers, Judy Petry and Gary Griswell in the weeks leading up to the 2009 Annual Convention as they reflected on past meeting experiences and look forward to Las Vegas.

How long have you been volunteering for the association?

JP: Probably more years than the Association cares to remember! Seriously, I think I started volunteering in the early 1990's – maybe 1993.

GG: It's been about 12 years now.

What motivated you to get involved?

JP: Kathy Cassidy did! Have you ever tried to tell that woman *NO*? Over the years, whenever I needed assistance, I would pick up the phone and call Kathy. If she didn't know the answer, she would find someone who did. Everyone was always so helpful that I felt the need to give back to the Association and its members.

GG: RMI has been supportive of the ASLRRA for many years. I believe it is important to get involved as much as possible. It is a great way to meet people. Since we have an annual Users'

Group meeting, I appreciate the enormous amount of work it takes to have a successful meeting.

What experiences would you like to share?

JP: Oh there's a lot I could share about the volunteers, but if I did they might hurt me and I'd find myself having to stuff 1500 or so registration packets alone!

GG: As part of the planning committee I was able to sit down with the staff and other volunteers after the 2008 convention. It was very impressive to listen to the conversation about the good and the bad. The common goal always remains: to continue to make the ASLRRA Annual convention the "Don't Miss" event of the year. All comments made by members on their response forms are seriously taken into consideration.

What was your most interesting or memorable volunteer experience?

JP: Each meeting has been an interesting and memorable experience, but I always walk away with the same thought - nowhere else could I find a group of volunteers to work with who are as dedicated, loyal and fun to be with as ours are. I adore these people – they truly have a heart for this Association and the rail industry as a whole. They are priceless!

GG: A couple of years ago, Judy Petry had ridden out to the golf course with me to help deliver the golf hole sponsor signs. Well, due to a miscommunication the golf course didn't have anyone to set them out. We asked for a hammer and a spare golf cart and took off. We were quite a sight, me in a coat and tie and Judy in a dress and heels. However, she WAS a hit with the local high school golf team who was having their practice.

Do you participate in any volunteering outside of your work with ASLRRRA?

JP: Yes, I volunteer with my church's women's ministry group.

GG: I belong to West Ridge Church in Dallas, GA. I am involved with helping to set up International mission trips which so far have taken me to Russia, Egypt and Israel. We also have a motorcycle group called the West Ridge Riders that is involved in local ministry such as community makeovers. I have also volunteered as a baseball coach in the past.

When it comes to the convention, I hope I walk away with...

JP: Knowledge that I can put to use when I return to my office and a few new friends.

GG: I hope I walk away with having met many new people and discover how RMI and I can serve our customers even better.

What is your favorite Elvis song?

JP: Suspicious Minds or Polk Salad Annie.

GG: An American Trilogy.

Judy Petry is the Controller for Farmrail System in Clinton, OK
Gary Griswell is RMI's AVP for Sales Operations in Atlanta, GA

Did You Know?

One rail freight car can carry the equivalent of four truck loads.

Source: www.aslrra.org

Attendees' Bowling Skills on Display at Cosmic Bowling Networking Event

By Eileen Keane, ASLRRRA Staff Assistant

Railroaders, suppliers and other attendees of the ASLRRRA Annual Convention gathered in the Red Rock Lanes on Saturday night to participate in a bowling tournament, featuring 9 bowling lanes and three VIP suites, with three private lanes each. As a part of the Annual Convention's kick-off events, the bowling tournament brought members and non-members together in a friendly competition where attendees could network as they displayed their athleticism in the lanes. During the event, attendees commented that they appreciated the chance to interact on a more casual level with their fellow participants. Annual Convention Chair, Jalene Forbis, said, "Like past networking events hosted by ASLRRRA, Cosmic Bowling was a fantastic kick-off to the meeting. What a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new acquaintances! After such a casual and fun evening I'm charged up to get down to business and take advantage of all the education this meeting has to offer." Convention volunteer Judy Petry agreed, saying, "I really enjoyed getting to know other members in such a fun atmosphere- it was a great way to kick-off the convention!



"What a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new acquaintances!"

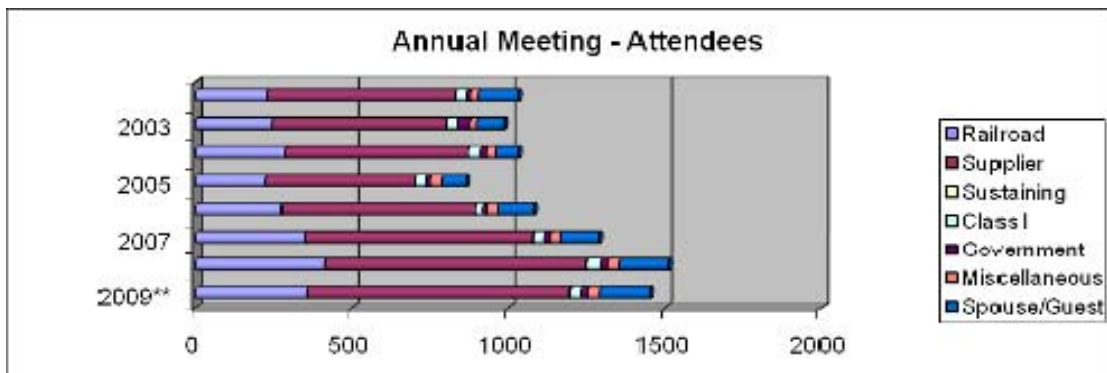
-Jalene Forbis

Having an event like the bowling night helps everyone relax and makes communication more free-flowing during the breakout sessions and throughout the convention activities.”

Although many chose to display their athletic prowess at the event, many others simply socialized and networked as they enjoyed the food and open bar provided by the Association. The evening was enhanced by the Cosmic Bowling experience offered by the Red Rock, which add popular tunes and bright lights to the bowling lanes. The event was sponsored by Industrial Railways Company and was a big hit for all in attendance.



Over the past several years, the ASLRRA watched as the Annual Convention grew in number of attendees and sessions offered at the event. Despite the current economic climate, the number of attendees remains high and the number of new members of the ASLRRA continues to grow...



Graph of attendees as of April 17, 2009

Facts from the ASLRRRA...

- Over 550 short line and regional railroads operate in 49 states and bring efficient, reliable rail service to thousands of communities that would have otherwise lost their connection to the nation's mainline railroad system.
- In 30 states short lines operate at least one quarter of the rail network.
- Short lines are a feeder system for the large Class I railroads, picking up or delivering one out of every four rail cars moving on the national rail network.
- Short lines employ nearly 20,000 people, serve over 13,000 facilities and haul over 14 million carloads per year.

www.aslrra.org

The ASLRRRA recognizes and thanks the following Platinum Sponsors of the 2009 Annual Convention:

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Red Rock Restaurant Hours

T Bones Chophouse

Open nightly from 5:30pm – 10pm
Patio open until 11pm and 2am on the weekends

Terra Rossa

Open nightly from 5:00pm – 10pm, weekends until 11pm

Hachi

Open nightly from 5:00pm – 10pm, weekends until 11pm

Grand Café

Open 24 hours

Feast Buffet

Breakfast 8am – 11am
Lunch 11am – 4pm
Dinner 4pm – 9pm
Sunday Brunch from 8am – 4pm

Salt Lick BBQ

Open for dinner daily from 4pm – 9pm
Saturday & Sunday 2pm – 9pm

Cabo Cantina

Monday -Thursday 5pm-9pm
Friday 5pm-10pm (appetizers served @ the bar until midnight)
Saturday 12pm-10pm (appetizers served @ the bar until midnight)
Sunday 12pm-9pm

LBS: A Burger Joint

Open daily from 11am – 11pm

Turf Grill

Monday thru Friday from 12:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday & Sunday 8:00am – 7:00pm

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