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http://www.aslrra.org/whats_in_the_news/views_and_news/

American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

VIEWS & NEWS

VOLUME 72

NUMBER 3

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

**Send in Your
Nominations for
ASLRRA Awards
Today!**

**ASLRRA Marketing
Awards Competition**
[Click here for more
information](#)

**Safety Person of the
Year Award**
[Click here for more
information](#)

**Upcoming
ASLRRA
Meetings**
Click on the meeting name
for more information

**Railroad Day on
Capitol Hill**
March 2, 2005
Washington, DC

**2005 Annual
Convention**
April 3-4-5
Anaheim, CA

**Questions? Comments?
E-Mail Us.**

**Currently, Railroad
Security Alert Level
2 is in Effect**

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DON'T MISS OUT ON RAILROAD DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

Wednesday, March 2, 2005 is Railroad Day on Capitol Hill. Railroad Day brings together all of the nation's railroads, shippers, and rail supply companies for a day-long series of meetings with Congressional leaders. These sessions provide an opportunity to talk with our elected representatives about infrastructure spending, tax policy and regulatory issues, all of which affect the economic well-being of our businesses. Together, our industry represents hundreds of thousands of working Americans and we need a big turnout on March 2 to drive that point home to Congress.

"Last year, participation of the rail industry in Railroad Day was critical to our efforts to secure passage of the short line railroad tax credit," said Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS), the lead sponsor of short line tax credit legislation. "My colleagues and I look forward to Railroad Day each year and hearing about the issues that are important to the industry."

Railroad Day on the Hill begins with a breakfast orientation at the Washington Court Hotel, followed by a full day of Congressional visits and will conclude with ASLRRA's Annual Legislative Dinner. This has become one of our most effective lobbying events of the year and every ASLRRA member is strongly encouraged to attend. Our staff, in consultation with you, will coordinate all of your Congressional visits.

Our room block at the Washington Court Hotel is sold out. For a list of alternate area hotels, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) for additional details and registration forms.

Contact Kathy Cassidy at kcassidy@aslrra.org for meeting info. Contact Sally Johnson at sally.johnson@cch-llc.com for information on Hill appointments.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND ASLRRA'S 2005 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Make plans now to attend the **2005 ASLRRA Annual Convention**, April 3-5, 2005 at the Anaheim Marriott in Anaheim, California. The meeting will feature a new format, with two "tracks" – the Annual Meeting and an Operating & Maintenance session – running simultaneously. Conference attendees will be able to mix and match program sessions, allowing them to create the meeting program that best fits their needs and interests.

Program topics to be covered will include:

- **Getting the Most Out of the Short Line Tax Credit**
- **Small Railroad Marketing Trade Fair**
- **Class I Marketing Officers Reports**
- **Event Reporting Panel**
- **Roadway Worker Protection: Back to the Drawing Board?**
- **Short On Help**
- **Derailment Causation**
- **Table Talk – Ask the Lawyers**
- **Getting Short Lines Noticed for all the "Write" Reasons**
- **Railroad Security**
- **And Much More...**

The Annual Convention will also include the only exhibition designed exclusively for the small railroad industry. Hotel rooms are available at the group rate of \$159 / night at the Anaheim Marriott. Call 714-750-8000 and mention group code **ASLASLA** for our discounted rate.

Look for the full conference program and registration materials later this week.

SEN. LOTT APPOINTED SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) has been appointed chairman of the Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee under the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The subcommittee authority over automobiles, trucks, railroads, Amtrak, maritime and ports, driver safety, transportation of hazardous materials, pipelines and transportation research.

Sen. Lott said he "welcomed the responsibility of overseeing improvements in the administration of highway, rail and maritime transportation and safety. One of our first priorities will be the reauthorization of the trucking and automobile safety titles in the overdue highway bill. It's vital that these programs have the stability of being renewed in a multi-year reauthorization so that the states can get to work on their implementation."

Lott also said the subcommittee will be looking at freight rail and railroad safety issues early in this Congress.

STATE OF COLORADO SEEKS OPERATOR FOR SHORT LINE RAILROAD

The State of Colorado is requesting proposals from interested and qualified vendors for the purchase, or the lease-purchase, AND the continued operation of, the 122-mile railroad line between Towner and NA Junction within the State of Colorado, pursuant to Sections 43-1-1305 and 24-103-203, C.R.S. and all other applicable implementing regulations.

Request for Proposal #RFP HAA 02-05/BL

Submission Deadline: 2:00pm on March 31, 2005

To access RFP information:

- Go to Colorado State Home Page
- Select 'Business' (left hand column)
- Select 'Doing Business With the State - Colorado State Purchasing & BIDS'
- Select 'Colorado BIDs for Goods & Services.'
- Select 'Open solicitations By Agency'
- Select 'Department of Transportation'

Or

<http://www.gssa.state.co.us/BdSols.nsf/ac5de8da6ffc7fd487256928005cc63f/89d901538fa0ba7487256fa20064a926?OpenDocument>

Proposals must be prepared as specifically instructed in the above cited RFP solicitation and submitted to the following address:

Brenda Lujan, RFP Administrator
Colorado Department of Transportation
Center for Procurement Services, Room 150
4201 E. Arkansas Avenue
Denver, CO 80222

Envelopes must be clearly marked "RFP No: HAA 02-05/BL" and received in room 150 by the date and time deadline specified.

RAILWAY AGE ANNOUNCES 2005 SHORT LINE & REGIONAL RAILROADS OF THE YEAR

Railway Age magazine has named Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway Co. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) as 2005 Short Line Railroad of the Year, and Red River Valley & Western Railroad Co. (Wahpeton, North Dakota) as 2005 Regional Railroad of the Year. The awards will be presented at the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association's annual meeting in Anaheim, California on April 4.

"This year's winners were selected from a pool of 34 strong finalists—a Railway Age record," said Robert P. DeMarco, senior vice president and group publisher of the magazine's parent company, Simmons-Boardman Publishing Corp. "Their dedication and tenacity—never accepting 'no' for an answer—helped make them standouts. They maximized growth opportunities wherever possible to increase customer business volumes."

Both railroads have been recognized previously in the Railway Age competition. Cedar Rapids and Iowa City (CRANDIC) received an Award of Merit in 1995 for consistent excellence. Red River Valley & Western (RRVW) secured the Regional Railroad of the Year Award in 1997 for solid business growth in the years following its establishment in 1987.

"These outstanding performers wowed us again, and deserve top honors," DeMarco said.

CRANDIC is being honored for its exceptional achievements in productivity, safety, and customer service. The winning entry was submitted by CRANDIC President Paul Treangen.

Celebrating 100 years of service in 2004, the former high speed electric interurban is now one of the nation's premier short lines, maintaining more than 100 miles of track and providing more than \$18 million in annual revenue to its parent company, Alliant Energy. Last year, CRANDIC handled nearly 90,000 revenue carloads, an increase of some 20,000 since 1992. Its 90-plus employees worked more than 150,000 hours with no lost-work accidents for the second consecutive year, and only one recordable injury.

"Our employees are extremely proud of their railroad, commitment to safety, and successful heritage," said Treangen.

Recent strategic haulage agreements with BNSF Railway Co., Canadian National, and IAIS allow CRANDIC to offer a variety of competitive pricing options. CRANDIC customers can connect with all Class I carriers via major interchange gateways, or take advantage of single-line pricing to Mexico and Canada.

CRANDIC customers are benefiting from more than \$20 million in local rail infrastructure enhancements completed in 2004, setting the pace for economic growth in eastern Iowa. A new 1.9-mile, double-track interchange with Union Pacific was completed to facilitate the movement of unit corn and coal trains in 135-car consists, versus four-to-five multi-car cuts. Not only are efficiencies created for the carriers, the interchange is free of grade crossings, enhancing public safety. CRANDIC's largest customer, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), also completed a 65-car rail expansion around its processing plant. The 3,700-foot expansion allows the short line to serve ADM's load-out without halting operations and save at least one crew a week, and lets ADM stage empties on its property and increase load-out capability. The project includes the latest safety precautions such as electronic signals at the only private crossing.

The 517-mile Red River Valley & Western (RRVW) is being recognized by Railway Age for outstanding business achievements through Class I partnership, marketing, and customer service efforts. William F. Drusch, RRVW's President and CEO, submitted the winning entry.

In the late 1990s, the grain industry began a trend toward 110-car unit trains loaded solely at shuttle facilities, and RRVW's primary connection, BNSF, maintained a policy of locating such facilities only along its main lines. Facing an uncertain future, RRVW undertook a bold program in 1999 that reversed the potential loss of its largest commodity and the likely demise of many small online elevators in North Dakota. It took more than a year, but the regional and its local shippers convinced BNSF to establish a joint shuttle network, locating or expanding five large shuttle elevators along RRVW lines together with a collector program to transport grain from small elevators to RRVW-served shuttle facilities.

RRVW and its customers spent more than \$20 million on facilities and track upgrades to accommodate 286,000-pound gross rail load cars. The regional also invested in a fleet of 105 covered hopper cars to handle grain locally. In 2004, 12,237 carloads—or 45% of RRVW's total grain shipments—were handled in BNSF shuttle trains. Of this, 3,156 came from small elevators. Without RRVW's determination to keep pace with grain transportation changes and ability to earn BNSF's confidence, much of this traffic would have been lost to trucks or other rail competitors. The project has kept more than 10,000 trucks off rural highways to the benefit of the North Dakota Department of Transportation.

"RRVW has demonstrated exemplary handling of our shuttle trains," said R. Mark Schmidt, assistant vice president-short line development for BNSF. "As a result of hard work and aggressive marketing, RRVW's grain volume tendered to BNSF has risen significantly."

"RRVW rose to the challenge," added Sonia Meehl, owner/manager of country grain elevator Crete Grain, which opened a new elevator along the regional's lines last year. "We could not and would not have done it without the help we received from the RRVW."

The awards will be announced in the March issue of Railway Age.

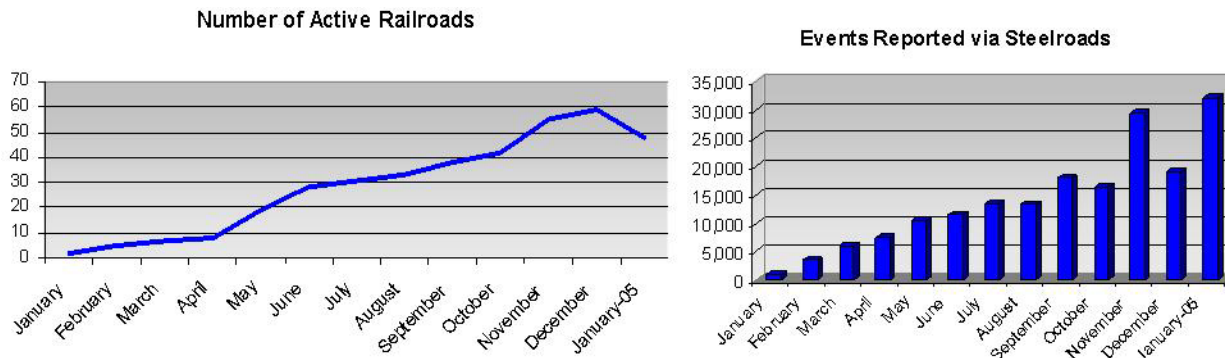
ARKANSAS SHORT LINES CREATE STATE ASSOCIATION

Railroads across the State of Arkansas have joined together to form "Local Railroads of Arkansas" (LRA) with the goals of promoting our industry within the state as well as promoting a legislative and regulatory framework supporting an efficient rail system in Arkansas.

The newly elected officers are: Alan Wagoner, Little Rock & Western Railway, President; J. D. Ventreck, DeQueen & Eastern Railroad, Vice-President, and Brent McCready, Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Director is Brent Stevenson.

STEELROADS© SHORT LINE EVENT REPORTING, DECEMBER 2004

Steelroads©, the one stop source of rail solutions, is now serving approximately 60 Short Line Railroads in the event reporting arena. Railinc has joined the industry efforts to improve event reporting by offering a free, easy to use reporting tool within Steelroads. More than 140,000 rail events were added to the community in 2004 through Steelroads Short Line Event Reporting.



The easy to use, point-and-click website offers events such as: Interchanges, Placements, Departures/Arrivals, and all of the suggested quality reporting movements. Generate an Advance Consist (EDI 418 message) with one click of a mouse.

To register, log onto www.steelroads.com and select "Become a Member."

STAFF CHANGES AT ASLRRRA

Tyrene Wilson, Assistant to the President, has accepted a position with another organization and her last day with ASLRRRA was Thursday, February 10, 2005. E-Mail correspondence to the President's office should be directed to Stephanie Scott at sscott@aslrra.org. Stephanie can also be reached at (202) 585-3442.

FRA / IOWA DOT TO HOLD SHORT LINE SEMINAR

A safety seminar, hosted by the Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Rail, will be conducted by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) specialists on March 1 and 2 in Ames, Iowa.

The sessions are intended for managers and employees of short line and regional railroads and railroad contractors' employees who work on these railroads.

Workshops will be offered on:

- Track
- Roadway Worker Protection
- Operating Practices
- Signal & Train Controls
- Hazardous Materials
- Motive Power & Equipment

Each workshop will be repeated during the seminar in order for participants to attend more than one workshop of interest.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m., with workshops beginning at 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

There is no cost to attend the seminar, however, seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Lunch will not be provided.

Register on-line by February 15 at <http://www.iowarail.com/seminar/seminar.asp>

If you have questions or need additional information, call 515-239-1140.

AAR RAILROAD ACCOUNTING OFFICERS MEETING

The AAR Railroad Accounting Officers (RAO) will hold their 2005 Spring Training / Update Session May 5-6, 2005 at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The program will address current accounting and financial issues and will feature presentations by the "Big Four" accounting firms on developments dealing with the SEC, FASB, EITF, Sarbanes-Oxley and current accounting issues. Other topics include developments in rail research, safety and security. Contact Dave Miller at 202-639-2304 or dmiller@aar.org for registration forms and additional details.

RAILROAD TRAFFIC

According to the AAR, U.S. carloads were up 9.0 percent in the week ending February 5, 2005, with 335,416 cars originated, compared to 307,757 cars originated in 2004. Carloads for U.S. Non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were up 12.0 percent for the year. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 9.9 percent for the week, with 218,755 trailers and containers, compared with 198,977 trailers and containers in the comparable week in 2004. U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic is up 9.0 percent for the year. Total volume is up 1.9 percent for the year.

For just the week ending January 29, 2005, U.S. carloads were up 2.1 percent and carloads for U.S. Non-Class I railroads that submit data to the AAR were up 4.4 percent. Carloads were up 1.3 percent in the East and down 2.8 percent in the West. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 8.1 percent for the week and U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic was up 3.6 percent from the prior year.

According to RMI's RailConnect Index, which includes traffic summaries for 167 short line and regional railroads, short line carloads were up 7.27 percent for the week ending January 29, 2005. Short lines reporting to RMI moved 89,350 cars for the week, compared with 83,297 cars for the same week in 2004. For the year-to-date, short line traffic was up 7.78 percent, with 352,136 cars handled in 2005, compared to 326,706 cars handled at the same point in 2004. For the week ending January 22, 2005, short line traffic was up 2.03 percent, with 84,990 cars handled.

EMBARGO NOTICES & REROUTE ORDERS

A complete listing of embargo notices is available at embargo.railinc.com.

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