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American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

VIEWS & NEWS

VOLUME 72

NUMBER 4

MARCH 8, 2005

**Send in Your
Safety Person of
the Year
Nominations
Today!**

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

**Upcoming
ASLRRA
Meetings**

Click on the meeting
name for more
information

**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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RAIL INDUSTRY CARRIES UNIFIED MESSAGE TO CAPITOL HILL



On March 2, 2005, the railroad industry held its 7th annual legislative event, Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, in Washington, DC. Railroad Day on Capitol Hill has become an industry-wide event, with attendees from Class I railroads, the rail supply industry, the United Transportation Union, shippers, and railroad contractors joining up with ASLRRA members for a day of Congressional meetings. Representatives from across the industry came together with a common goal of maintaining momentum gained in the last Congress, when the rail industry secured passage of short line tax credit legislation and the elimination of the 4.3¢ diesel fuel tax. Over 200 Congressional meetings took place, where attendees focused primarily on four issues – TEA-21 reauthorization and railroad infrastructure investment, short line railroad infrastructure financing, hazardous materials transportation, and continued deregulation.

The event concluded with ASLRRA's annual Legislative Reception and Dinner. Over 275 industry representatives and legislative guests attended the evening's festivities, which concluded with Keith Hartwell and David Tittsworth performing song parodies that have become one of the highlights of this annual event.

Many thanks to those of you who attended Railroad Day on Capitol Hill and made it such a success this year. If you have not already done so, please follow up with the offices you visited by sending a note of thanks, including any information you offered to provide during your meeting. Additionally, you can use this opportunity to encourage the offices' continued support in our legislative pursuits. [Click here](#) to find the contact information for your Representative or Senator.

“EARLY BIRD” REGISTRATION DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR ASLRRA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Friday, March 11 is the last day to get the “early bird” registration fee for ASLRRA's 2005 Annual Convention, which will be held April 3-4-5, 2005 at the Anaheim Marriott in Anaheim, California. Send in your registrations now to get the \$335 (member) or \$535 (non-member) price. The Annual Convention Planning Committee has put together an outstanding program featuring a new two-track format, with the O&M and Annual Meeting sessions running simultaneously. This year's complete program is listed below.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2005

4:30pm - 7:00pm

RECEPTION IN THE EXHIBITION HALL

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2005

GENERAL SESSION

- **California: America's Busy Western Gateway** - *Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary, California DOT (Invited)*
- **Rail Partners, Completing the Transportation Picture** - *A conversation with the Commercial Officers of BNSF, CSX, NS, and UP*
- **Back By Popular Demand - Ask the President** - *Richard F. Timmons*
- **The View from Wall Street: Will Tax Credits Thaw or Freeze Future Investing?** - *Tony Hatch, Wall Street Analyst*
- **The Message from FRA: Make Safety Your Business** - *Robert D. Jamison*

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

- ASLRRRA Safety Awards
- ASLRRRA Safety Person of the Year Award
- ASLRRRA Marketing Awards
- Railway Age Short Line and Regional Railroads of the Year Awards

LUNCH IN THE EXHIBIT HALL

- Outdoor Demos

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS - TRACK ONE

Annual Meeting Breakout Sessions

- Dude, Where's My Car?
- Table Talk - Ask the Lawyers
- Getting the Most Out of the Short Line Tax Credit
- Short on Help - Part I

Operating & Maintenance Breakout Sessions

- Derailment Causation - Part I
- Railroad Police - Protecting You and your Customers
- Good Neighbors - Establishing Quiet Zone Rules

REFRESHMENT BREAK

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS - TRACK TWO

Annual Meeting Breakout Sessions

- How to Succeed in Event Reporting Without Even Trying
- Hot Issues in Short Line Abandonments
- Getting the Most Out of the Short Line Tax Credit
- Short on Help - Part II, What's a Short Line without an H.R. Dept. to do?

Operating & Maintenance Breakout Sessions

- Derailment Causation - Part II
- Table Talk - Railroad O&M Issues
- With Money to Spend, Will Tie Supplies Hold Out?

RECEPTION - EXHIBITION HALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2005

ANNUAL MEETING SESSION

- **Make the Railroad Industry Agreement Work for You**
- **Getting Short Lines Noticed For All the 'Write' Reasons**
- **Legislative Update: The Job's Not Done**

REFRESHMENT BREAK

- **National Mediation Board and the Small Railroad Industry**
- **Short Line Success Stories, Strategies For Growth**
- **Mobilizing the Industry - GoRail on a Mission**

OPERATING & MAINTENANCE SESSION

- **Railroad Accidents in the News (NTSB & FRA)**
- **Update on New FRA Equipment Regulations**
- **Rail Security Plan Presentation**
- **DHS Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program**

REFRESHMENT BREAK

- **ASLRRRA's Training Academy**
- **Keeping Human Factors in Mind: Improvements in Fatigue Management**
- **Roadway Worker Protection - Back to the Drawing Board?**
- **Reflections on Visibility: Reflectorization**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

CLOSING RECEPTION AND DINNER WITH ENTERTAINMENT

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. The rate is only guaranteed until **Friday, March 11, 2005**, so make your reservations today!

For more information about the meeting or to download registration materials, [click here](#).

ASLRRA TO CREATE TRAINING COMMITTEE

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, in its continuing effort to provide our members with current mandatory and affordable training, is looking for interested personnel to assist in future training initiatives. One of the main objectives of ASLRRA is to find ways to provide current employee training that utilizes the most up-to-date, effective and safest methods available.

We are forming a "Training Committee" to provide guidance and assistance to ASLRRA President Rich Timmons with this objective. We are looking for individuals who have training experience in the classroom, as tutors or in distance learning who could advise our members on the courses they should consider. Our new relationship with the National Academy of Railway Services (NARS) in Overland Park, KS will be central element in the formulation of a model training strategy and detailed annual training plans and products. NARS will also provide a member to the Committee to assist in developing programs and facilitate training opportunities.

Participation on the committee will require travel for a minimum of two face to face, day and a half working meetings and four teleconferences annually as well as additional time as needed for committee-related work. The Committee will consist of individuals from railroads, suppliers and regulatory agencies.

If you are interested please submit a brief summary of your qualifications to Rich Timmons.

ASLRRA SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR OPENINGS



WE WANT YOU!

Join a fast-paced, dynamic organization in exciting and historic Washington, DC. ASLRRA has immediate openings and is seeking resumes for the following positions: *(Click on the position title for more information.)*

[General Superintendent of Safety and Operating Practices](#)

[Executive Assistant to the President](#)

FEBRUARY *RAILWAY AGE* ARTICLE FOCUSES ON NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A STRONG NATIONAL RAIL NETWORK

In the February, 2005 "Short Line / Regional Perspective" column in *Railway Age* magazine, Farmrail System, Inc. CEO, George Betke, wrote about the recently passed short line railroad tax credit legislation and the public benefit of maintaining small railroad infrastructure. Betke noted that Congressional support for the tax credit legislation spanned across party lines and heralded from demographically divergent districts. Betke wrote about the importance of strengthening the national rail network and the role played by small railroads, noting that they collectively operate more mileage than any single Class I railroad and that they "define the outer limits" of the national network. "Strengthening the network should not divide railroaders or politicians," Betke wrote. "Just as we hope our legislators can set aside partisanship for the general good, so too must railroads large and small see beyond parochial concerns to support enhanced efficiency of the integrated system." To read the entire *Railway Age* column, [click here](#).

FORBES PROFILES GENESEE & WYOMING CEO, FULLER

On March 1, 2005, Forbes.com ran an article, "Road To Success: Think Small," profiling Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. CEO and majority shareholder, Mortimer Fuller III. The article noted that Fuller has found success by sticking with his great grandfather's motto of focusing primarily on servicing customers located along feeder lines, rather than competing with highly-competitive main lines. It referenced G&W's largest U.S. customer, a coal-fired generating plant served exclusively by a G&W road as evidence that "helps explain why G&W's profit margins are so consistently solid and how Mortimer Fuller has succeeded by thinking small." To read the complete Forbes.com article, [click here](#).

OMNITRAX ASSUMES OPERATION OF ALABAMA & TENNESSEE RIVER RAILWAY

OmniTRAX has announced its lease of a CSXT Alabama rail line headquartered in Gadsden, Alabama. Formerly known as CSXT's Alabama Mineral Subdivision, the line will be operated by an OmniTRAX subsidiary, the Alabama & Tennessee River Railway (ATN). This acquisition represents OmniTRAX's 15th rail operation.

From its headquarters in Gadsden, Alabama, the ATN interchanges with CSXT at Birmingham and with Norfolk Southern (NS) at Alabama City. In all, the ATN includes 120 miles of track. In addition, the ATN serves the Port of Guntersville, located at mile point 358.2 on the Tennessee River.

The rail line serves over 40 outstanding and growing customers including National Cement, Progress Rail Services, Tyson Foods, SMI Steel, Georgia Pacific, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Cargill, Praxair, Regional Recycling, and Bowater Lumber.

"OmniTRAX is very pleased with this new opportunity to work with CSXT in an effort to provide shippers with enhanced service and support for their business growth," commented Bob Parker, Chief Operating Officer at OmniTRAX. "We are especially pleased to play a role in supporting the Port of Guntersville." Mr. Parker noted that OmniTRAX also owns and operates the 900-mile Hudson Bay Railway, serving Port of Churchill on the Hudson Bay in Manitoba, Canada. OmniTRAX also owns and operates the port.

CHICAGO SOUTHSHORE RAILROAD RECEIVES CSX MARKETING AWARD

The Chicago SouthShore & South Bend Railroad (CSS) has won CSX's Second Annual Short Line and Regional Railroad Marketing Award for the most carload growth in 2004 among its interline partners.

CSS traffic with CSX increased by nearly 11,000 carloads, or almost 60 percent, when compared with 2003. A new contract between CSS, CSX and Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) to handle unit-trains of coal to NIPSCO's Bailly Generating Station near Burns Harbor, Ind., and shipments of steel slabs from several International Steel Group (ISG) plants to ISG's Burns Harbor steel mill, accounted for most of the winning margin. CSX is SouthShore's largest interchange partner together handling nearly 30,000 carloads in 2004, representing 50 percent of SouthShore's 2004 carload total.

At CSX's recent annual Short Line Workshop in Jacksonville, Fla., Chuck Compton, SouthShore's director-marketing and customer service, was presented with a check for \$5,000 by Clarence Gooden, executive vice president and chief commercial officer, CSX. The SouthShore plans to use this cash award to help fund two local Michigan City, Ind. charities and for a company-wide luncheon celebration for CSS employees and their spouses.

The Chicago SouthShore & South Bend Railroad (www.southshorefreight.com) provides rail freight service between Chicago and South Bend, Ind. While in the freight railroad business for nearly 100 years, SouthShore began operations as an independent freight carrier in January 1990, connecting Chicago and all its rail carriers with northern Indiana's industrial complex, which accounts for approximately 20 percent of the total steel production in the United States.

FRA SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11 & 12

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will be conducting a Code of Federal Regulations Seminar at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana, on May 11 & 12, 2005. Classes will begin on Wednesday, May 11th at 8:00 AM and will conclude Thursday afternoon, May 12th. There is no cost to attend the seminars.

Each FRA discipline, including: Track, Operating Practices, Motive Power and Equipment, Signal and Train Control, Hazardous Material, and Grade Crossing/Trespass, will conduct a four hour presentation each day. You are invited to attend each of the presentations, or select the classes that address the needs of your railroad. Individuals may attend the same class more than once if they wish. The seminar is tailored to allow railroad representatives to attend as many, or as few, classes as they wish.

Of special interest, Tammy Wagner, Region 4's Grade Crossing and Trespass Manager will be presenting a class on the new *Final Rule on Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Crossings*. The FRA's "Final Rule" describes specific standards local decision-makers can use to silence locomotive horns, while improving safety at public highway-rail grade crossings and allow many communities with existing whistle bans to maintain those prohibitions. In addition, she will provide an overview of the "Quiet Zone Calculator" to illustrate the risk index for determining quiet zone approval.

Additionally, Joe Vukson, MP&E Specialist, will be presenting a class on the new *Final Rule on Reflectorization of Rail Freight Rolling Stock*. This new rule requires railroads to install yellow or white reflective materials on locomotives over a 5-year timeframe and on freight rail cars over a 10-year period. The effective date of the rule is March 4, 2005.

The Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza is located at 800 East 81st Avenue, Merrillville, Indiana, 46410. Room rates are \$94 per night, plus tax. When calling for your reservations, be sure to reference FRA's Regional Railroad Conference. The Radisson Hotel's telephone number is: (219) 769-6311. Be sure to make your reservations soon.

DALE WILLIAMS NAMED ASSISTANT VP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT; ROBERT HALUZAK APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AT MMA

Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway has appointed Dale Williams assistant vice president Business Development, effective March 1. Robert Haluzak joined the railway February 1 as director of Finance at the railway's headquarters in Bangor, Maine.

Ms. Williams has more than 20 years of rail experience, most recently with CN as Eastern Division assistant vice president, Sales & Marketing. In her new post for MMA in Montreal, she will be the railway's principal Marketing, Sales, Government Liaison and Business Development person in Quebec and northern Vermont.

Ms. Williams joined CN in 1978 as market manager – Petroleum & Chemicals, following graduation from McGill University, where she earned a BA in industrial relations. Ms. Williams subsequently was director, Marketing Strategies from 1994 to 1997, when she became director, Network & Interline Marketing. In 1999, she advanced to assistant vice president-Market Development and was named assistant vice president, Sales & Marketing in 2000.

Mr. Haluzak is a CPA with 25 years of accounting experience. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Arizona and was assistant controller at G. H Bass Shoe from 2001 to 2004. He was assistant controller and director of finance-real estate for Petsmart, Inc., Phoenix, from 1998 to 2001. He previously served as accounting supervisor for WW Grainger at Chicago and accounting manager for Heath Industries and Restaura, Inc., both located in Phoenix.

ARNIE MCCULLOUGH JOINS GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD AS CMO

Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. is pleased to announce that Arnie McCullough has been hired as Chief Mechanical Officer effective February 21st, 2005. Mr. McCullough will be headquartered at Dawson, Georgia and will be responsible for the Railroad's locomotive fleet, as well as supervising the inspection and repair of rail cars. Mr. McCullough brings over 20 years of locomotive and rail car experience to the GSWR, and nearly 30 years of railroad service. *The Georgia Southwestern Railroad, Inc. operates 282 miles in southwest Georgia and eastern Alabama; it is "The New Reliable Railroad".*

RAILROAD TRAFFIC

According to the AAR, U.S. carloads were up 1.9 percent in the week ending February 26, 2005, with 346,967 cars originated, compared to 340,649 cars originated in 2004. Carloads for U.S. Non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were up 7.6 percent for the year. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 11.6 percent for the week and is up 10.6 percent for the year to date. U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic is up 9.7 percent for the year. Total volume is up 3.1 percent for the year.

For just the week ending February 19, 2005, U.S. carloads were up 4.9 percent and carloads for U.S. Non-Class I railroads that submit data to the AAR were up 6.6 percent. Carloads were up 3.7 percent in the East and up 5.8 percent in the West. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 22.8 percent for the week and U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic was up 7.8 percent.

According to RMI's RailConnect Index, which includes traffic summaries for 201 short line and regional railroads, short line carloads were up 13.28 percent for the week ending February 19, 2005. Short lines reporting to RMI moved 94,212 cars for the week, compared with 83,166 cars for the same week in 2004. For the year-to-date, short line traffic was up 9.64 percent, with 630,145 cars handled in 2005, compared to 574,747 cars handled at the same point in 2004. For the week ending February 12, 2005, short line traffic was up 10.67 percent, with 91,437 cars handled.

EMBARGO NOTICES & REROUTE ORDERS

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

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