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American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

VIEWS & NEWS

VOLUME 71

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**Mark Your
Calendars for
ASLRRA's 2005
Meetings!**

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

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

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

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

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FRA ISSUES SAFETY ADVISORY

On Tuesday, January 11, 2005, FRA Acting Administrator, Robert Jamison, issued Safety Advisory 2005-1, advising all railroads to strengthen procedures for monitoring track switch operations. The advisory was issued in response to a number of incidents in which trains derailed due to switches that were left in the wrong position. The advisory asks all railroads to review their operating rules and take actions to ensure that train crews who operate manual main track switches in non-signaled territory restore the switches to their normal position after use.

In a note accompanying the advisory, Jamison writes, "FRA is committed to working with the industry to address the issues that have contributed to the recent accidents, including working to solidify standard operating procedures in this area. Our Operating Practices inspectors will aggressively monitor railroads' adoption of this advisory to help determine if additional steps are needed."

[Click here](#) or visit www.fra.dot.gov to view the Safety Advisory.

NEW ACTING ADMINISTRATOR AT FRA

On January 3, 2005, Robert Jamison took over as Acting Administrator at the Federal Railroad Administration, following the resignation of Betty Munro. The Department of Transportation is engaged in an ongoing effort to identify new candidates for the position of Administrator.

FRA PUBLISHES FINAL RULE ON REFLECTORIZATION

Reflective materials will be installed on the sides of locomotives and freight rail cars as a safety measure to make trains more visible to motorists at railroad crossings under a Final Rule published by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in the January 4, 2005 *Federal Register*.

Nearly one quarter of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions involve motor vehicles running into trains occupying grade crossings. The large size and dark colorization of trains in combination with poor lighting or limited visibility may contribute to motorists having difficulty detecting the train in their path. The reflective material may help reduce the number and severity of this type of accident by giving motorists an additional visual warning of the presence of a train.

The Final Rule on *Reflectorization of Rail Freight Rolling Stock* 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 reflective materials will be installed on all newly constructed locomotives and freight rail cars and on existing ones during periodic maintenance or repair, unless alternate implementation plans have been developed that meet the requisite timetables. The effective date of the rule is March 4, 2005.

PLAN TO ATTEND 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, 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.

Rooms are available at the Washington Court Hotel at a group rate of \$249 single / double. Reservations can be made at the group rate by calling (202) 628-2100 and mentioning ASLRRA. The cut-off date for the group rate is January 28, 2005.

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

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

SEND IN NOMINATIONS FOR ASLRRA MARKETING AWARDS

ASLRRA is now accepting nominations for the 10th Annual Marketing Awards Competition, which is open to all member railroads. A panel of three distinguished judges will select the top three marketing initiatives. Each winning entry will receive an engraved award specially designed for the Association. To enter the competition, send ASLRRA a written description of the marketing initiative in sufficient detail to permit outside judges to review its essential elements. Photos and video tapes are welcome, but not necessary, and if submitted, there must be three complete sets of photos or videos, which cannot be returned, to provide the judges.

The competition is open to all member railroads and neither the railroad's size nor project size will have any bearing on eligibility or outcome. All ASLRRA member railroads are encouraged to participate in the competition. Short line and regional railroads have some of the most innovative and successful marketing campaigns in today's railroad industry. We need to demonstrate to our peers and to present and potential customers how we get the job done.

The Marketing Awards will be presented at the ASLRRA Annual Convention, which will be held April 3-4-5, 2005 in Anaheim, CA.

Because this year's ASLRRA Annual Meeting will be held in April, time is of the essence, so all entries for the Marketing Awards Competition must be submitted **no later than March 11, 2005**. Send all entries to Jenny McKinney, ASLRRA, 50 F Street, N.W., Suite 7020, Washington, DC 20001 or fax entries to ASLRRA at (202) 628-6430.

RAILWAY AGE NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR SHORT LINE / REGIONAL RAILROAD OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Railway Age is now accepting entries for its annual Short Line/Regional Railroad of the Year awards. The 2005 winners will be honored with articles describing their achievements in the March 2005 issue of Railway Age and will be awarded specially designed plaques at the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association Annual Convention in April 2005.

Short line and regional carriers are invited to submit entries describing what they deem to be outstanding achievement in one or a combination of areas. These include, but are not limited to, turnaround situations; consistent excellence; innovation in operations or maintenance; marketing; customer service; enhanced productivity; community relations; safety improvement; and ingenuity in dealing with the unexpected.

Each of the more than 600 smaller roads in Mexico, the U.S., and Canada is eligible for an award and may nominate itself. Size is not important. In the past, awards have gone to carriers ranging from 20 miles to nearly 2,000 miles. In some years, separate awards are given for regional and short line carriers.

Entries should be submitted to: Marybeth Luczak, Executive Editor, Railway Age, 345 Hudson Street, 12th Floor, New York, N.Y., 10014. E-mail: mluczak@sbpub.com, Fax: (212) 633-1863. Entries should contain the name, position, and contact information of the nominator and an approximately 500-word description of the achievement(s) of the nominated railroad.

Entry forms are not essential, but may be obtained from Luczak by fax or e-mail. The **entry deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2005.**

Railway Age works with the winners to publicize the awards in online and national media.

[Click here](#) or visit www.railwayage.com for additional information and entry forms.

DEADLINE FOR MURRAY SCHOLARSHIP IS FEBRUARY 16th

The Susan C. Murray Memorial Women's Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for its second annual scholarship award. The scholarship is open to daughters and granddaughters of any employee of an ASLRRA railroad or associate member in good standing. The scholarship provides \$1,000 per semester for up to four consecutive years. All applications must be received by February 16, 2005. For additional information and application forms, [click here](#).

The Susan C. Murray Memorial Women's Scholarship Program was created in 2003 in honor of Susan Murray. Susan was VP of the Directories Division for Commonwealth Business Media, at the time of her sudden death January 7, 2003. Murray had been a leader in directory publishing and trade show exhibition management for nearly three decades. Susan helped to grow the ASLRRA's Annual Exhibition from its humble beginnings in 1987 with 40 tabletop booths to become the premier exhibition dedicated to the short line and regional railroad industry. Susan also wore the mantle of mentor and valued friend to many in the industry, particularly women railroaders. In line with Susan's desire to help others achieve their goals and encourage higher education, Commonwealth Business Media announced the formation of the Susan C. Murray Memorial Women's Scholarship Program in May of 2003 at the ASLRRA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

CRANDIC SENDS SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION TO IRAQI CHILDREN

There is a saying that goes, "It's all who you know." Maj. Chuck Larson of the National Guard's 372d Engineer Group serving near Baghdad, Iraq, knew just who to call when seeking school supplies for area students. Larson contacted his friend Paul Treangen, at the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City (CRANDIC) Railway Co., and the Alliant Energy Transportation Company quickly responded to his request.

CRANDIC sent a box loaded with pencils, pens, erasers, and of course, their navy and white signature engineer hats. "It's the giving season, and we are honored to provide supplies that will help make learning a little easier for these children," said Treangen, CRANDIC president and general manager.

CRANDIC's donation is one of more than 750 care packages totaling more than \$100,000 that have been sent from across the United States as part of Operation Iraqi Hope. "We have received donations from churches, schools, service clubs and businesses," explained Larson. "As we distribute the supplies to area schools, the children are overjoyed to receive the basic tools for a good education – pencils, pens, notebooks and erasers. It's like Christmas for them."

Larson added that the engineer hats were also cheerfully received, "We explained that the hat is worn by workers on trains. Within minutes we had the children singing, 'I've been working on the railroad, all the live-long day.' They loved it!"

Larson, an Iowa senator representing the Cedar Rapids area, plans to be back in the state within a month. However, he said additional school supplies and over-the-counter medicine are still in need. Care packages can be sent to:

Maj. Calvin Harris
30th Engineer Brigade
LSA Anaconda
APO AE 09391

For more information on Operation Iraqi Hope, visit www.chucklarson.com.

MODEL SAFETY ACTION PLAN NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

ASLRRA's Safety Committee has developed a model Safety Action Plan for Class II and III railroads. The plan is meant to be used as a model for setting up a comprehensive safety plan on small railroads. It is a combination of various Class I plans and inputs from ASLRRA members and is broken down into four categories: Risk Identification, Preventative Actions, Measurement, and Communications and Feedback. Like other ASLRRA programs, it can be copied and personalized for each railroad that uses the safety plan.

The Safety Plan is now available on ASLRRA's website, www.aslrra.org, or by [clicking here](#).

STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE RAILWAY SECURITY CONFERENCE

Railway Age will host the first-ever Railway Security Forum and Expo, January 31-February 1, 2005 at the Washington Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. This event is presented in cooperation with the Association of American Railroads, the American Public Transportation Association, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, and the Railway Supply Institute.

If you are involved with rail security at any level, you can't afford to miss this conference, which will address such questions as:

- What best practices can you use to secure vulnerable freight and passenger infrastructure and rolling stock?
- Is it possible to screen passengers without disrupting operations?
- What technologies are available to monitor hazmat shipments?
- Are you properly prepared for a potential emergency?
- Where is the funding going to come from?

For more information, visit www.railwayage.com.

MM&A APPOINTS SHEAHAN DIRECTOR ENGINEERING ADMINISTRATION

Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway has appointed Melody A. Sheahan as Director Engineering Administration, effective January 1, 2005, at the railway's headquarters in Hermon, Maine.

Ms. Sheahan has more than 20 years of rail experience in Engineering at CSX Transportation and Amtrak, where she was senior manager, maintenance, planning & integration and director of special projects from 1997 to 2001. Most recently, she was general manager at On Track-On Line--a railroad consulting firm based in McMurray, Pa.

Ms. Sheahan earned her undergraduate degree in business administration at Marshall University, Huntington, W. Va. and an MBA in Finance and Statistics from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. She also has an A.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology from the University of Cincinnati.

Ms. Sheahan was elected twice as president of the American Council of Railroad Women and was Railroad Woman of the Year in 2001 and 1992.

Montreal, Maine & Atlantic began operations January 9, 2003 operating 745 route miles of line in Maine, New Brunswick, Quebec and Vermont.

NEW MEMBERS

Railroads

Central New York Railroad, Inc., 1915 Blackbrook Rd., Middle Grove, NY 12850, Phone: 518-882-5134, Fax: 518-882-6984, of which Gerry McKenna is President and Joseph White is VP / GM.

Chicago, Ft. Wayne & Eastern Railroad, 1125 N. Cole Street, Lima, OH 45805, Phone: 419-225-5056, Fax: 419-225-8336, website: www.railamerica.com, of which Brad Wilkins is AGM.

Riceboro Southern Railway, LLC, 186 Winge Road, Lyons, GA, 30436, Phone: 912-526-6165, Fax: 912-526-6399, website: www.rail-management.com, of which Cecil Bowden is GM.

Tazewell & Peoria Railroad, Inc., 301 Wesley Road, Creve Coeur, IL 61610, Phone: 303-694-8619, Fax: 303-694-8609, website: www.gwrr.com, of which Dale Montgomery is Terminal Manager, Allan Johnson is Chief Engineer, and Julie Evans is Asst. Terminal Manager.

Associates

Zuckert Scutt & Rasenberger, 888 17th Street, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20006, Phone: 202-298-8660, Fax: 202-342-0683, website: www.zsrlaw.com, e-mail: raallen@zsrlaw.com, providing legal advice and assistance on federal regulatory matters (including Surface Transportation Board, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation) commercial disputes and litigation, federal and state tax matters, contracts and transactions, of which Richard A. Allen is a Partner.

RAILROAD TRAFFIC

According to the AAR, U.S. carloads were up 2.9 percent in the year 2004, with 17,423,309 cars originated, compared to 16,939,397 cars originated in 2003. Carloads for U.S. Non-Class I's that submit data to the AAR were up 5.8 percent for the year. U.S. and Canadian carloads were up 3.5 percent for the year. U.S. intermodal traffic was up 10.4 percent for the year, with 10,993,662 trailers and containers, compared with 9,995,605 trailers and containers in 2003. U.S. and Canadian intermodal traffic was up 8.7 percent for the year. Total volume was up 4.9 percent for the year, with 1.607 billion estimated ton miles.

According to RMI's RailConnect Index, which includes traffic summaries for 167 short line and regional railroads, short line carloads were up 11.60 percent for the week ending December 25, 2004. Short lines reporting to RMI moved 61,158 cars for the week, compared with 54,803 for the same week in 2003. For the year-to-date, short line traffic was up 10.49 percent, with 3,789,585 cars handled in 2004, compared to 3,429,930 cars handled at the same point in 2003. For the week ending December 18, 2004, short line traffic was up 10.85 percent. For the week ending December 11, 2004, short line traffic was up 9.41 percent and for the week ending December 4, 2004, short line traffic was up 6.17 percent.

EMBARGO NOTICES & REROUTE ORDERS

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