



April 7, 2021



ORR Safety is Newest Preferred Provider in ASLRRRA Member Discount Program

[ORR Safety](#) is the newest preferred provider to join ASLRRRA's [Member Discount Program](#). ORR Safety is an ISO 9001-registered distributor of personal protective equipment (PPE) and related

services to the industrial market.

The company has worked with railroads since 1972 and currently provides PPE products and solutions to five Class 1 railroads, 196 short line railroads and contractors that support the railroad industry.

In addition to its PPE products, ORR Safety offers a variety of services including life safety system installation and maintenance; product rationalization and consolidation; and field audits and recommendations.

“During the early stages of the pandemic, railroads and other front-line workers were challenged to find PPE. We are pleased to bring ORR Safety onboard to ensure that ASLRRRA’s members have a trusted partner that can be relied upon to supply our industry with necessary and innovative products, keeping railroad employees safe as they work tirelessly toward economic recovery,” said ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker in a [press release](#).

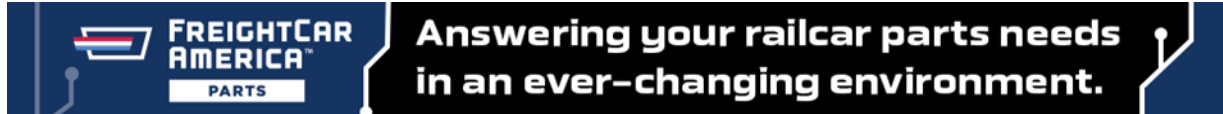
ASLRRRA’s Member Discount Program enables its members to save money on products and services many railroads already use. Offerings from the Association’s other preferred providers pertain to topics like payment processing, track maintenance, employee health insurance, positive train control and grant writing.

For information on the benefits of joining ASLRRRA’s Member Discount Program, contact Senior Vice President of Education and Business Development [Sabrina Waiss](#).

Baker and Jefferies Talk Freight Rail During Policy Punchline Podcast

ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker joined Association of American Railroads (AAR) President Ian Jefferies for an episode of Princeton University’s [Policy Punchline podcast](#) on April 2.

During the podcast, titled “Containers, Coal, and Carbon: Freight Railways in America’s Transportation Landscape,” Baker and Jefferies gave an overview of their respective association’s responsibilities, talked about the role of freight rail in the American economy, and discussed freight rail policy issues.



ASLRRA Dispatcher Program Templates Available on Website

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has approved ASLRRA's Dispatcher Program, which is now available to members on the [Association website](#).

The Dispatcher Program templates cover training for freight, passenger/commuter dispatchers and control operators.



ASLRRA Eager to Provide Input on American Jobs Plan

On March 31, President Biden unveiled his [American Jobs Plan](#) in a speech in Pittsburgh. In a response to the proposal, ASLRRA President Chuck Baker welcomed Biden's plan and underscored the willingness of ASLRRA to work with the administration and lawmakers on behalf of short line railroads.

"The ASLRRA and the nation's 600+ small business short line freight railroads welcome the President's infrastructure proposal, the American Jobs Plan," said Baker. "Short lines are a critical part of the nation's infrastructure, driving economic growth across the country, as we serve thousands of shippers in the critical manufacturing, agriculture, and energy industries, and thousands of communities, particularly in small town and rural America."

"We look forward to working with the Administration and Congress in a bipartisan way as they develop and consider this proposal. Short lines can help accomplish many of the nation's most important goals, such as economic development, jobs growth, safety, and environmental sustainability, and we will look to help steer this plan in a way that recognizes and prioritizes those possibilities."

The plan calls for billions of dollars to be spent on improving U.S. transportation networks, including \$80 billion for rail. This funding would be used, in part, to enhance grant and loan programs for passenger and freight rail.

Attend Pre-Railroad Day Training Meeting, LRW to Hold Networking Event After Railroad Day

The first [Railroad Day on Capitol Hill](#) informational Zoom meeting was held yesterday, allowing registered participants to test their computer set ups, review key talking points and understand anticipated meeting flow.

April 7, 2021

Another informational call will be held tomorrow, April 8, at 12:30 EDT. Participants will receive a reminder e-mail with the Zoom link and are encouraged to attend, or view a recording of the call, which will be [available](#) after April 8.

Railroad Day organizers are finalizing the hundreds of anticipated meetings for railroad industry employees and stakeholders, working to place participants in meetings most relevant to their interests. Railroad Day serves as the single most effective way to deliver the rail industry message to Congress, with a large number of geographically diverse attendees allowing lawmakers to meet those most affected by their policies and decisions.

After the conclusion of Railroad Day on Capitol Hill meetings on April 14, the League of Railway Women (LRW) will hold a networking event. LRW Director-at-Large Michele Malski will host. Follow this [link](#) for more information or to register.

ASLRRA's Member Discount Program Includes Grant Writing Services!
Visit aslrra.org to learn more!



R.L. Banks & Associates, Inc.
ECONOMICS | ENGINEERING | SERVICE PLANNING



BERGMANN
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS





ASLRRA Announcements

SLSI Safety Tip Reviews When Equipment is in the Clear

A new [safety tip](#) from the Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) reviews when rolling stock and on-track maintenance equipment is in the clear.

The document references 49 CFR Section 218.101 and reviews exceptions to fouling a connecting track and identifying clearance points. There are also discussion questions for use during safety briefings.

A number of free resources can be found on SLSI's website, including other [safety tips](#), [hazmat training videos](#), [templates and sample materials](#) and more. SLSI also offers a variety of programs to railroads free of charge, including [safety culture assessments](#), [hazardous materials training](#) and [leadership development training](#).

Coalition Health Plan is a New Benefit Designed for ASLRRA Members

The Coalition Health Plan is specifically designed for ASLRRA members looking for a solution to reduce their medical premiums and simplify the healthcare experience for their employees. As the fifth-largest broker in the world with over 500 locations in North America, HUB International is well equipped to provide ASLRRA members with a vast network of benefits experts and best-in-class resources no matter where you are in the US.

When you partner with HUB, you're at the center of a vast network of experts who will help you reach your goals through risk services, claims management, and compliance support. Visit www.aslrra.org/discounts and select Employee Health Insurance to start saving today!



Employee Health Insurance
The Coalition Health Plan is available exclusively to ASLRRA members, designed to reduce medical premiums and simplify the healthcare experience for employees. [Click to learn more...](#)

ASLRRA Out and About

Gelnar Participates in Roundtable to Discuss Vaccine Verification Issues

On April 1, ASLRRA Vice President of Safety and Compliance JR Gelnar participated in a Vaccine Verification Roundtable video conference with representatives from the White House COVID-19 Response Team and five other federal agencies.

The discussion focused on questions about vaccine verification credentials, as more people are being vaccinated for COVID-19 and more companies are concerned with both developing credentials and related technological tools and using such tools. Gelnar was invited to offer a perspective on vaccine verification and potential paths forward.



ASLRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

Upcoming Webinars

[Short Line Fire Prevention - Hazards, Risks and Resolutions](#) - April 20, 2021 (NOTE NEW DATE)

Members of ASLRRA's Environmental Committee and representatives from sponsor Purify Fuel will offer comprehensive fire prevention education and an in-depth discussion on how to prevent fires involving train operations, locomotive mechanical issues and maintenance of way.

Sponsored by:



[Rail Trends: Freight Railroads Helping America Recover](#) - April 27, 2021 (NOTE NEW DATE)

Association of American Railroads Assistant Vice President of Policy & Economics Luisa Fernandez-Willey will discuss the current state of the railroad industry, the movement of key commodities, and leading economic indicators crucial in understanding the economic recovery. This webinar is scheduled to last 90 minutes to allow for more questions at the end of the presentation.

Webinar Recordings Include Three-Part Series on FRA Part 243 Requirements

ASLRRA's JR Gelnar joined Mitch Harris of Rio Grande Pacific Corporation and Katie Inouye of Spark Training Solutions for a three-part webinar discussing the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 243, which regulates training, qualification and oversight for safety-related railroad employees.

Recordings of these webinars can be found in ASLRRA's [On-Demand Webinar library](#).

- 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

In addition, ASLRRA offers more than 100 recordings covering a variety of railroad topics. Recordings are free to members and available by subscription to non-members. Follow the link above to learn more.

[Click here](#) for more ASLRRA events.

Industry Events and Announcements

Friday's Hay Seminar to Offer Recommendations to Prevent Derailments

This Friday, the University of Illinois Hay Railroad Engineering Seminar Series will feature Gary Wolf, president of Wolf Railway Consulting.

Wolf's presentation is titled "Essential Strategies for Derailment Elimination in today's PSR Environment" and will offer "specific and timely" recommendations for all stakeholders concerning "the battle against derailments." Topics covered include track, human failure, equipment and railroad management.

Registration for the Hay Seminar is free, but required for all participants. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

Registration Open for AAR's Annual Damage Prevention and Freight Claims Conference

Registration is now open for the Association of American Railroads (AAR) Damage Prevention and Freight Claims Conference, which will be held virtually June 8-10.

Canadian National Railway Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rob Reilly will be the event's keynote speaker. Other presenters include Jacque Bendon of Union Pacific, Marc Brazeau of the Railway Association of Canada and Patrick McDavid of Michigan State University.

Early-bird registration ends May 3. Follow this [link](#) for more information or to register.

[Click here](#) for more industry events.