



June 23, 2021



## ASLRRRA'S Eastern & Southern Regional Meeting a Success

Over 350 attendees were on hand in Louisville, Ky, for ASLRRRA's Eastern and Southern Regional Meeting, including those who attended the concurrent General Counsel Symposium.

General Session presentations included industry experts Tony Hatch, Class I executives Tom Tisa of CSX and Darrell Wilson of Norfolk Southern, Short line CEOs, leadership from shippers and the Federal Railroad Administration, presentations from Mickelson & Company and more. Additional educational break-out sessions enabled deep-dives on issues facing the industry and training on new and updated regulations.

At the event, several committees met, including the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). At the LPC meeting, Bob Ledoux, senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Florida East Coast Railway, was elected chairman. He will also serve on the ASLRRRA Board of Directors as an LPC representative.

Ledoux replaces Jerry Vest, senior vice president, government and industry affairs at Genesee & Wyoming Inc., who has served as chairman for the past eight years.

ASLRRRA recognized and thanked Vest for his leadership of this committee, and his unwavering commitment to representing the interests of short line railroads in Congress. Vest's tenure culminated last year with passage of the Short Line Railroad Investment Tax Credit, enabling qualifying railroads to claim a 50% tax credit on reinvestment in their infrastructure; in 2023, the credit will go to 40%.

**Save the Date for ASLRRRA's next in-person meeting in Phoenix, AZ November 17-19, 2021. Read more in the ASLRRRA Announcements Section.**

The advertisement features the Freightcar America logo on the left, which includes a stylized train car icon and the text 'FREIGHTCAR AMERICA PARTS'. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'Answering your railcar parts needs in an ever-changing environment.' The background is dark blue with white and light blue accents.



## TSA's New FAQs Address Mask Wearing Outdoors

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) created a new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to address mask wearing in outdoor areas consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) announcement on the topic.

The FAQs can be found on ASLRRRA's website in the [RAN Alert section](#). The TSA has said it will not enforce its [security directive](#), which mandated mask wearing in public transportation, on open-air conveyances or in outdoor areas at transportation hubs. This decision aligns with the CDC's [recent changes](#) to its face mask requirements in outdoor areas.

## Recent RAN Notices Available on ASLRRRA Website

ASLRRRA has posted a recent Association of American Railroads (AAR) Railway Alert Network (RAN) Notification and a Situational Awareness Message on its website.

The RAN Notification concerns claims made on social media. It can be viewed by members who log in to the [Ran Alerts section](#) of the website under the [Safety & Compliance](#) tab.

The Situational Awareness Message discusses the release of the National Security Council's National Strategy for Countering Domestic Extremism. The strategy identifies four pillars that serve as the main ways the Biden Administration plans to improve the government's response to the threat of domestic terrorism. The entire national strategy document can be found [here](#), while the shorter fact sheet summary is [here](#). ASLRRRA members can also view the AAR's RAN message at the links above.



## R.J. Corman Line Receives Visit from West Virginia Congresswoman

On June 17, West Virginia Representative Carol Miller and members of her staff [visited](#) a coal load-out facility on ASLRRRA member R.J. Corman's West Virginia Line.

The group met with representatives from R.J. Corman and their customer Alpha Metallurgical Resources (AMR), with teams from both companies talking to Miller about their operations, business outlook and, for R.J. Corman, important rail policies.

Miller also met with R.J. Corman and AMR crew members at the load-out site and watched coal being loaded in railcars. This visit came about through a connection made during April's virtual Railroad Day on Capitol Hill event, which set up over 200 Zoom meetings between railroad and supplier employees and federal lawmakers.

Members of Congress are eager to meet with and learn from their constituents, and events like Miller's tour are a way to build relationships and demonstrate the important contributions of rail to the local and national economy. With many members likely to return to their home states during their summer recess, it is a good opportunity to invite lawmakers for a tour.



ASLRRRA encourages its members to reach out to their representatives and senators. Those needing assistance in setting up a meeting or making connections can contact ASLRRRA's [Tom Lynch](#) or [Zach Radford](#).

*West Virginia Representative Carol Miller (center, white blouse), toured a coal load-out facility and learned about rail operations from representatives from ASLRRRA member R.J. Corman's West Virginia Line and the railroad's customer Alpha Metallurgical Resources.*

## Letter from Local Leaders Calls on Senate Committee Members to Include Rail-Friendly Policies in Plans

A group of community, business and political leaders from the home states of members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation sent a [letter](#) to the Senate committee outlining the benefits of freight rail and calling on members to include rail-friendly policies in any infrastructure legislation.

The letter noted the ability of railroads to safely and efficiently carry tons of goods, potentially taking hundreds of trucks off the nation's roads. Also listed were specific policies the signatories supported, such as restoring the Highway Trust Fund, increasing funding for highway-rail grade crossing projects and ending modal inequity.

Rail advocacy group GoRail helped coordinate the letter's creation. ASLRRRA is a member of GoRail, and supports its efforts to convey the importance of freight rail to federal lawmakers. The Association also encourages its members to connect with those who signed GoRail's letter to thank them for their support. The letter's content can also serve as an avenue through which railroads can reach out to maintain or build relationships with other elected officials, whether federal, state or local.



## ASLRRA Announcements

### Members Save Money on Essential Industry Products and Services with ASLRRA's Member Discount Program

The money you save using ASLRRA's Member Discount Program providers could pay your annual dues and then some! Whether you operate five miles of track or fifty, you can save thousands of dollars a year on products and services you already use.

From personal protective equipment and employee health insurance to tie inspection and grant writing services, ASLRRA's discount program preferred providers have you covered.

Visit [aslrta.org/discounts](https://aslrta.org/discounts) to view the complete list of preferred providers and start saving money today!

### Save the Date for the ASLRRA Annual Convention and Exhibition in November

With ASLRRA's 2021 regional meetings coming to a close, the Association's team is excited to get to work planning this year's Annual Conference and Exposition.

Mark your calendars for Nov. 17 to 19! The 2021 ASLRRA Annual Conference and Exhibition will be held in person at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz., and will feature the engaging educational content, networking opportunities and exhibition hall that we all missed in 2020.

Please continue to check our [conference page](#) for updates and the latest information.

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## ASLRRA Out and About

## Gitchell Speaks on Short Line Topics at MSU Railway Management Program

ASLRRA Assistant Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Policy Crystal Gitchell recently spoke to members of Michigan State University's Railway Management Certificate Program.

Gitchell's talk focused on legislative and regulatory issues affecting short line railroads. Several individuals who work at ASLRRA-member companies are enrolled in the program, which ASLRRA is happy to support.

# COMPLIANCE TEMPLATES

Click here for member-exclusive templates and additional resources.



REGULATIONS

ETHICS

POLICIES

REQUIREMENTS

ASLRRA  
Products & Services



## ASLRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

### Upcoming Webinars

[Employee Retention Credit](#) – June 29, 2021

In this webinar, Nicole Teska and Chelsea Sweet of Bowers and Company CPAs will talk about how Employee Retention Credit rules have changed in 2021. They will discuss how to determine eligibility, how much the credit can be worth and how to claim the credit. Also,

Teska and Sweet will explain to participants how those who have not yet analyzed their credit for 2020 can still file an amended return.

Sponsored by:



**How Can Technology Help Railroads Maximize Efficiency? Find Answers in ASLRRA's Recorded Webinars**

ASLRRA member CloudMoyo sponsored a series of webinars discussing cutting-edge railroad technology. Recordings of these webinars can be found in the Operations & Safety category of ASLRRA's [On-Demand Webinar Library](#). Look for the following titles:

- Making the Digital Shift to Safety Culture, Using Analytics & Automation to Simplify Crew Manager Tasks
- Using Analytics & Automation to Simplify Crew Manager Tasks
- Effective On-the-Job Training (OJT) Strategies
- Ops Testing with Employee Performance Tracking for Compliance

In addition to these offerings, ASLRRA has more than 100 webinar recordings covering a wide variety of railroad-related topics in its On-Demand Webinar Library. Recordings are free to members and available by subscription to non-members.

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

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## Industry Events and Announcements

### **E. & J. Gallo Winery to Build S.C. Facility on ASLRRA Member Line**

ASLRRA member Lancaster & Chester Railroad (L&C) is [gaining](#) a spirited new customer. E. & J. Gallo Winery [will build](#) a \$423 million production facility and distribution center in Chester County, S.C., on a 650-acre industrial site located along the L&C.

The L&C will connect the new facility to both CSX and Norfolk Southern Railway. The first phase of the project should be finished in October 2022, and it is expected that this investment will create 496 new jobs over the next eight years.

By opening up this facility, E. & J. Gallo Winery hopes to better meet demand on the East Coast. In addition, the location's proximity to the Port of Charleston allows it to serve as a hub for product imports and exports.

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## New Jersey Railroad Association Honors Conrail President and CEO Tim Tierney



*On June 18 the New Jersey Railroad Association (NJRRA) hosted a farewell luncheon for Tim Tierney (center), president and CEO of ASLRRRA member Conrail, who is retiring.*

*Tierney joined Conrail in 1979, working his way up to his current position, to which he was named in 2017. The Association joins the NJRRA in wishing Tierney a peaceful retirement and the best in all his future endeavors.*

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

Views & News is published by American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Please contact [Amy Krouse](#), editor, with questions or comments.