



August 18, 2021



## Training Scholarships Available Thanks to Donation from Former ASLRRRA Board Member

ASLRRRA is pleased to announce the availability of \$12,000 in training scholarships to be awarded to employees of small railroads, made possible by a generous donation from the Douglas Golden-Mary Cullen Charitable Fund. The program will be administered by ASLRRRA's [Short Line Education Fund](#).

"We are grateful to Doug and Mary for their generous support and hope their actions will spark generosity in other industry leaders who wish to leave a legacy and impact the future training programs and opportunities for short line railroaders," said ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker. "These scholarships will enable employees of small railroads to attend training and bring valuable tools and insights back to their railroads that will have far-reaching impact on railroad safety and operations for years to come."

ASLRRRA's Short Line Education Fund received the \$12,000 donation from retired former ASLRRRA board member Douglas Golden and his wife Mary. Mr. Golden has expressed his intention to make an annual contribution to the Education Fund to be used to support education and training needs of small railroads. The Douglas Golden-Mary Cullen Charitable Fund donation represents the first of its kind since ASLRRRA's Education Fund was established in 2017 to support education and training initiatives for the short line industry.

Scholarships may be used for industry-specific training in track, bridge, and signal inspection and maintenance and/or locomotive and freight car inspection and maintenance, and funds can pay for training, travel and lodging costs. Employees of short line and regional railroads earning \$10 million or less in annual revenues may apply for scholarships by completing an [online application](#). Scholarships will be awarded to qualified candidates on a rolling basis until all funds are distributed. Questions may be directed to ASLRRRA Accounting Manager [Julie Duriga](#).

ASLRRRA's Short Line Education Fund is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and may receive tax-deductible contributions from individuals and corporations. Donations support industry training and certification programs; help communicate and promote the value of short line railroads to decision makers and industry stakeholders; and build a valuable library of industry-specific research. Click [here](#) to make a tax-deductible donation today!

### ASLRRRA Members in Kansas Receive State Railroad Grants

Three ASLRRRA members received grant funding from the Kansas Department of Transportation's Short Line Rail Improvement Fund Program, which was [announced](#) by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly on Aug. 17.

Kyle Railroad will receive \$700,000, Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad will receive \$535,782 and South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad will receive \$114,725. In all, 10 companies received funding through the

program, including one other short line and six shippers. The state awarded over \$5.2 million total this year.



### CISA Cyber Training Guide Featured in Recent RAN Note Now on ASLRRRA Website

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released a Cybersecurity Workforce Training Guide, which is described in the most recent Association of American Railroads (AAR) Cyber Security Awareness Note.

AAR's RAN notices are available for viewing by members on [ASLRRRA's website](#). This particular note describes CISA's training guide, which is meant to help cyber professionals plot a career path. The guide includes information regarding training and professional development opportunities, and the knowledge, skills and abilities considered keys to success.

### Jennifer Homendy Sworn In as NTSB Chair

On Aug. 13, Jennifer Homendy was [sworn in](#) as the fifteenth chair of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). She was nominated by President Joe Biden on May 19, and confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 9.

Homendy became an NTSB board member in 2018. She had previously spent 14 years as the Democratic staff director of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, which falls under the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

### SLSI HazMat Tip Discusses 48-Hour Rule

A new [Hazardous Materials Safety Tip](#) from the Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) discusses 49 CFR 174.14, also known as the 48-hour rule.

This rule requires shipments of hazardous materials to be forwarded promptly and within 48 hours after being received, with some exceptions. SLSI's tip explains particular language in the regulation and the types of exceptions to the 48-hour requirement.

SLSI provides other online safety resources to railroads free of charge. This includes additional [safety tips](#), [hazardous materials guides](#) and [sample documents and templates](#).



### Ohio Representative Visits ASLRRRA Supplier Member

ASLRRRA supplier member Hiab USA hosted Ohio Congressman Bob Latta on Aug. 12. Latta toured the company's National Support Center in Ohio.

Hiab representatives provided Latta with an overview of the company's operations and products. Latta also had an opportunity to operate one of Hiab's cranes. The company manufactures knuckle boom cranes, material handler loaders and other load-handling equipment.

Meetings with congressional representatives offer ASLRRRA members a way to develop a more personal relationship with federal policymakers, and help those in Congress better understand the role and impact of freight rail on the U.S. economy.

ASLRRRA's team can help connect members with their representatives, and members interested in hosting lawmakers in-person or connecting with them virtually are encouraged to contact Assistant Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Policy [Crystal Gitchell](#).

### Convey Short Line Support for Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill Through Communication with Representatives

As the rest of America waits to see what action the House of Representatives will take on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), ASLRRRA reminds its members that this is an opportune time to convey support for the bill to representatives in Congress.

The Senate has passed the IIJA and is beginning the budget reconciliation process, while the House has resolved to wait to vote on the infrastructure bill until a full budget is complete, likely weeks or even months away. However, there is pressure to pass the IIJA sooner. The IIJA already passed the Senate in overwhelming fashion last week; it has firm support from the White House and moderate Democrats in the House, and has strong public support.

To build on this momentum, it is important to communicate with members of the House the ways the IIJA will benefit the short line freight rail industry and its stakeholders. ASLRRRA strongly supports the infrastructure bill, and plans to make more formal outreach to House members when a scheduled vote appears more likely.

Until then, it would be helpful for ASLRRRA members to directly communicate support for the IIJA with those in the House. It can be done in person, via phone call, email or even a social media post tagging the representative's official account. For help knowing what to say, consider ideas from [ASLRRRA's recent statement](#) on the IIJA, or contact ASLRRRA's Assistant Vice President of Congressional Affairs [Zach Radford](#) for assistance.



## ASLRRRA New Members

Know a company that would benefit from joining and participating in ASLRRRA? Please contact ASLRRRA's Vice President of Membership and Business Development [Kathy Keeney](#) via email or on (202) 585-3439.

## ASLRRRA Welcomes Two Supplier Members



[CWR Solutions LLC](#), based in Omaha, Neb., is a consulting firm with a mission to help short line railroads and communities realize the benefits of, and grow with, freight rail. Its services include industrial development, customer engagement, railroad marketing, Class 1 engagement, rail strategy and multimodal strategy (transload & intermodal). Our primary contact is Founder [Rob Russell](#), a 20-year railroad veteran who can also be reached on (402) 981-0524.



**EA Engineering,  
Science, and  
Technology, Inc., PBC**

[EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC](#) (EA), based in Hunt Valley, Md., is a 100 percent employee-owned public benefit corporation (PBC). Founded in 1973, EA has provided a full range of environmental services to Class I and II railroads for over 30 years. It is experienced in the multiple

environmental concerns facing major transportation providers, including due diligence and acquisition support, impact analysis and permitting, EHS operational risk management and compliance auditing, site investigation, remediation and technology application development and implementation. EA maintains an in-place FRA 219 Railroad Contractor Compliance Plan. Our primary contact is Senior Client Manager, Commercial Programs [Fred Olivari](#), who can also be reached on (410) 527-2469.

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## ASLRRA Announcements

### ASLRRA Associate Business Member Board Seat Nominations Accepted Until Sept. 8

ASLRRA is seeking nominations for individuals wishing to run for election to the board of directors representing Associate Business Members (suppliers).

There are two board seats representing Associate Business Members that are filled via election from the membership and there is one board vacancy that we will need to fill at the annual convention in Phoenix, Ariz. The term for Shea McLaughlin from CDL Electric is coming to an end. Jim Hanlon from Herzog Technologies holds the other Associate Board Member position.

The term for a director is two years. The board responsibility involves attending two in-person board meetings annually and several conference calls throughout the year. Board members are also expected to attend the annual convention and regional meetings, and are urged to attend Railroad Day on Capitol Hill. The newly elected board member will also serve on the Supplier Committee and work to provide agenda items to benefit the membership.

The Nominating Committee Co-Chairs for this year are two former board members, Steve Friedland of Short Line Data Systems and Beth Garguilo of Lincoln Transportation Insurance Brokers. They will be assisted by Kathy Keeney, ASLRRA's vice president of membership and business development, who serves as staff liaison to the Supplier Committee.

We are reaching out to gather nominations at this time from candidates who work for Associate Business Members (suppliers) in good standing. The nomination period will remain open until **close of business on Sept. 8**, and any member wishing to suggest themselves or nominate a candidate should contact one of the Nominating Committee leaders by then. Candidates should supply the Nominating Committee with a short biography, photo and a few sentences about why they would like to serve on the ASLRRA Board of Directors. They are also welcome to provide a two-minute video outlining their qualifications. A ballot will be distributed this fall to the primary contact of every Associate Business Member company in good standing.

Please contact Garguilo or Friedland with any questions, to nominate yourself or to suggest another candidate. Garguilo can be reached on [Beth.Garguilo@lincolnins.com](mailto:Beth.Garguilo@lincolnins.com) or (315) 768-6110 and Friedland can be reached on [sfriedland@sdsrocs.com](mailto:sfriedland@sdsrocs.com) or (973) 769-6505.

### Take Advantage of Grant Funding Opportunities with Help from ASLRRA's Preferred Providers

If the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) remains largely unchanged and is signed into law, short line freight railroads stand to benefit from significant increases in funding for grants, like the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program.

Federal grant programs join state programs as a significant source of funding for ASLRRA's small-railroad members. Yesterday Kansas Governor Laura Kelly [announced](#) three ASLRRA-member short lines had received funding for various projects, while North Carolina's Department of Transportation [awarded](#) grants to 12 ASLRRA member railroads earlier this month.

To help members secure funding through these programs, ASLRRA has tapped industry experts to assist in the preparation and submission of grant applications. ASLRRA's preferred providers for grant writing services include Bergmann, HDR, Inc. and Global Train Services (GTS), and all three companies offer discounted rates, industry expertise, and exceptional service to ASLRRA members.

Visit [aslrta.org/discounts](https://aslrta.org/discounts) and select Grant Writing Services to learn more about these exceptional preferred providers.

## ASLRRA Out and About

### ASLRRA Staff Members Attend Joint Committee Meeting in Montana

The ASLRRA Young Professionals Committee hosted this year's Joint Committee Meeting in-person in Billings, Mont. The meeting, which took place Aug. 11 and 12, gave attendees the opportunity to learn about the work and progress of many ASLRRA committees.

ASLRRA's JR Gelnar, Crystal Gitchell, Mike Ogborn, Fred Oelsner, Jo Strang and Sarah Yurasko attended the meeting. Staff members serve as liaisons for ASLRRA committees.

On the first day, participants learned about the history of railroading in Billings, then listened to presentations from representatives for nine committees. The next day, six individual committees held meetings, including the Safety and Training Committee, Environmental Committee and Young Professionals Committee.

### ASLRRA's Member Discount Program Includes Grant Writing Services!

Visit [aslrra.org](http://aslrra.org) to learn more!



## ASLRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

### Communications Webinars Cover Various Aspects of Media Relations

Recorded webinars in the Communications category of ASLRRA's [On-Demand Webinar](#) library can help members understand issues relating to public relations, social media and crisis communications.

Look for these popular titles:

- Government and Community Relations Fundamentals
- Media Training Basics
- Crisis Communications Fundamentals for Railroaders

- Using Social Media as a Business Development Tool

ASLRRA's online resource library offers more than 150 webinar recordings on a variety of topics. Visit [aslrra.org/webinars](https://aslrra.org/webinars) and select the On Demand Webinars button to view a complete list of all available recordings. Access is free to ASLRRA members, and by subscription for non-members.

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

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## Industry Events and Announcements

### **Aug. 26 – Virginia DOT to Hold Webinar Discussing Grade-Crossing Plan**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will hold an informational webinar to discuss the state's first [Highway-Rail Grade Crossing State Action Plan](#) (SAP).

The action plan, which is being developed according to Federal Railroad Administration guidance, will address unique attributes of the state's crossings and ways to prevent incidents, injuries and fatalities at these points. During the webinar, VDOT representatives will discuss completed and proposed activities related to the plan.

Use this [link](#) to register for the webinar, or follow the link above to learn more about the state's plan.

[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.