



May 25, 2022

We wish everyone a safe Memorial Day weekend. We are especially grateful to all the men and women in the U.S. military who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

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## Share Memories of Jake Jacobson with ASLRRRA

ASLRRRA will announce winners of its Jake Safety Awards soon, so it is only fitting that the Association recognize the person for whom the awards are named: the late Lowell S. "Jake" Jacobson.

Jacobson served as president and COO of ASLRRRA member Copper Basin Railway for over 30 years. He was committed to improving safety at Copper Basin and started honoring short lines for safety accomplishments after finding a lack of industry recognition for stellar safety records. ASLRRRA took over the safety awards program in 1999, naming it the Jake Awards after Jacobson.

Jacobson passed away in July 2021 at the age of 80.

The Association is looking for any photos, special memories or stories about Jacobson and his impact on the short line railroad industry. ASLRRRA will use the information to paint a fuller picture of the Jake Awards, their history and the story of the person who inspired them.



*Jake Jacobson*

Please send any information to ASLRRRA's Vice President of Communications Amy Krouse at [akrouse@aslrra.org](mailto:akrouse@aslrra.org).

## Sign Up Today to Secure a Spot in this Summer's GCOR and DSLE Training Seminars

ASLRRRA has again partnered with the Iowa Northern Railway Company (IANR) to offer comprehensive training on [General Code of Operating Rules \(GCOR\)](#) and [Advanced Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineers \(DSLE\)](#). These popular training seminars will be presented by subject matter experts JR Gelnar, ASLRRRA's vice president of safety and compliance, and Mark Vaughn, IANR's assistant general manager.

The three-day [GCOR](#) seminar will be held July 26-28 and completing this training allows railroads using GCOR as their operating rules to meet training requirements mandated by 49 CFR Part 240, 242 and 214 Subpart C. The two-day [Advanced DSLE](#) training seminar will be held Aug. 9-10 covering a range of DSLE responsibilities, including application and administration of 49 CFR Part 240 and Part 242

similarities and differences. Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in daily interactive discussions with peers and regulatory experts.

Both seminars are being held at the BienVenu Event Center adjacent to the Holiday Inn & Suites in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Click the links for specific details or view the full list of upcoming training seminars [on the website](#).

ASLRRA's May and June training events in Nashville are completely sold out, so [register early](#) for July and August to secure your spot.



### Railroad Retirement Form BA-6 to be Mailed to Employees in June

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will mail Form BA-6, Certificate of Service Months and Compensation, during the first half of June to all railroad employees with creditable railroad compensation in the previous calendar year.

The form offers a record of railroad retirement service and compensation, and the information on each form is what the RRB uses to determine if an employee qualifies for benefits and how

much the individual is qualified to receive. The RRB advises recipients of Form BA-6 to review its contents to ensure it matches their own records.

A [press release](#) from the RRB explains what information is found on the form, such as the maximum annual earnings creditable for railroad retirement purposes, deemed service months and more. Those who do not receive their form by July 1 or who need a replacement should contact an RRB field office. The form is also available on [RRB.gov/myRRB](https://www.RRB.gov/myRRB) through the Request Documents section.

### FRA Posts Webinar Recording, Document Online to Help Explain Grant Application Component

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) held a webinar in early May to guide participants through the development of a benefit-cost analysis required to be submitted by organizations during the grant application process.

The FRA has posted the presentation online. A copy of the presentation document is available [here](#) and a recording of the webinar can be found on YouTube [here](#). The benefit-cost analysis is an important component of grant programs like the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program crucial to short line railroads.

## Railroad Retirement Board Explains Medicare Eligibility in May Q&A

The May edition of the Railroad Retirement Board's [Question and Answer](#) (Q&A) series explains on Medicare eligibility and coverage for railroad workers and their families.

The federal Medicare program covers railroad employees just as it does individuals who receive social security benefits. The Q&A summarizes Medicare Parts A-D and helps readers understand who is eligible for Medicare, how to enroll in the program, costs associated with Medicare Part A and Part B and more.

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## Senator Wicker Introduces Companion Bill for TSA Credential Process

Yesterday, Senator Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) introduced [S.4298](#), the Senate's version of the House's [TSA Security Threat Assessment Application Modernization Act](#), which will help streamline the application and renewal process for the multiple Transportation Security Administration (TSA) credentials required of certain transportation workers and establish a reduced fee structure for applicants.

The House bill [was introduced](#) in February by Representatives Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and John Katko (R-N.Y.). ASLRRA expressed its support for this bill when it was first introduced, with Association President Chuck Baker noting that TSA security credentials are critical for some railroad workers but the process is often costly and time-consuming. Baker welcomed the bill as a way to lessen unnecessary burdens and allow short line employees to focus on their key mission.

## Florida Becomes Newest State to Start Short Line Tax Credit Program

On May 6, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 7071, which creates a new short line and regional railroad track maintenance, reconstruction and replacement tax credit. The text of the bill can be found [here](#), starting on page 59, line 1460.

This new program allows Class II and III railroads to claim a state tax credit equal to 50 percent of their eligible infrastructure spending, capped at \$3,500 per track mile. Using an estimated 2,200 Class II and III track miles in Florida, this creates a potential \$7.7 million annual funding program. Similar to the federal 45G tax credit, this tax credit can be assigned to certain other Florida state income taxpayers with a relationship to the rail industry. This includes shippers, product or service providers or another railroad. This state credit begins in the 2023 tax year and does not have a scheduled expiration year.

Short line railroads in Florida championed this effort and the team at ASLRRA member Mickelson & Company played a critical supporting role. This credit is an excellent result for short line railroads in the state and more importantly the customers and communities they serve. Florida joins eight other states with similar tax credit programs: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Oregon.

If your railroad operates in a state that doesn't yet have a short line railroad tax credit and you would like to get involved in helping create one, reach out to fellow railroads in the state, your state railroad association if there is one, representatives at Mickelson & Company, or ASLRRRA's team and we can point you in the right direction to get started.

## Waiver Delays Buy America Requirements Until November

When it was passed, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), now known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), expanded the requirement to incorporate American-made construction products and materials into federally funded projects. However the Biden administration recently [issued a waiver](#) delaying this requirement.

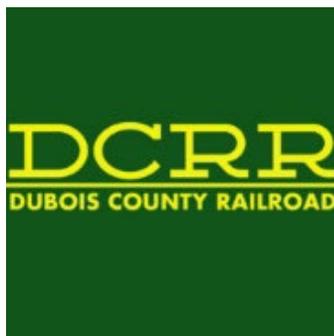
The 180-day "temporary public interest waiver" began May 14 and ends Nov. 10. During the waiver period, states, industry and other partners are expected to begin developing procedures to show compliance with the new standards.

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<p><a href="#">Click to learn more!</a></p>		

## ASLRRRA New Members

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

## ASLRRRA Welcomes Two Railroad Members



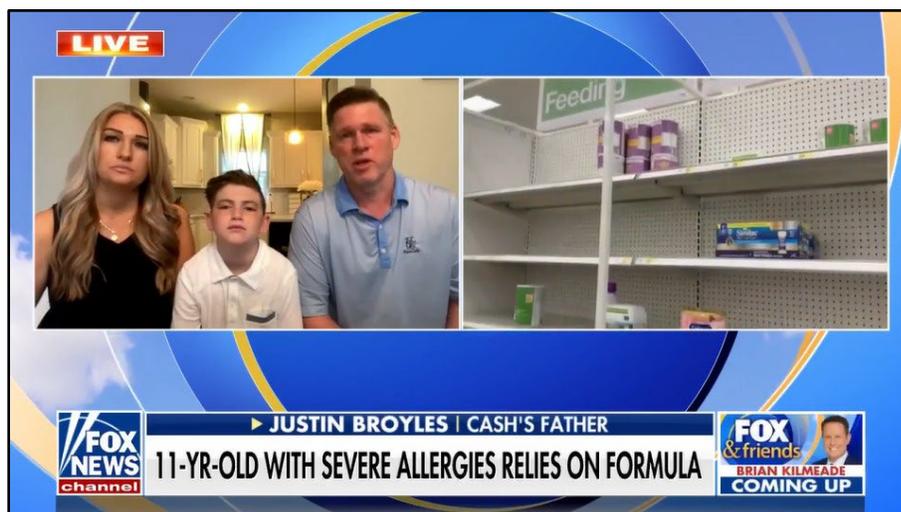
[Dubois County Railroad](#), based in French Lick, Indiana, operates a seven-mile freight line serving Dubois county in southern Indiana. It connects with Norfolk Southern at Huntingburg. General Manager Rick Olsen is our primary contact. Many thanks to ASLRRRA's Sabrina Waiss for the assist with this return membership.



[The Société du Chemin de fer de la Gaspésie \(SCFG\)](#), based in New Richmond, Quebec, operates a 202-mile stretch of track between Matapédia and Gaspé. SCFG serves the largest companies in the Gaspé Peninsula, shipping several thousand cars of forest products, cement, wind turbine blades and other products annually. SCFG operates the trains and maintains the track and its fleet of locomotives, cars and other equipment. Our primary contact is General Manager Luc Levesque. Many thanks to Brian Lavigne from Dominion Railway Services for suggesting that they join our Association.

## Member Spotlight

### ASLRRRA Raises Awareness of Formula Shortage Impact on Short Line Railroad Community



ASLRRRA Executive Committee Member and R. J. Corman Executive Vice President Justin Broyles, his wife Mackenzie and 11-year-old son Cash were [recently featured](#) on the Fox News show Fox & Friends about how the baby formula shortage has affected their family.

Cash suffers from eosinophilic disease and relies on a special medical formula to help him get the complete nutrition he needs. While not an infant formula, a surge in demand for out-of-stock products produced by Abbott

*ASLRRRA Executive Committee Member Justin Broyles and his wife Mackenzie were recently featured on Fox & Friends to discuss the impact of the baby formula shortage on their son Cash, who relies on a special type of medical supplement due to a rare immune system disease.*

Nutrition has led to shortages of other formulas like the Neocate amino acid-based formula Cash has used since he was an infant.

ASLRRRA is sharing Cash's story to raise awareness of eosinophilia and the unexpected impact of the current baby formula shortage on individuals who rely on specialized formulas for medical reasons.

The Association also hopes to help the Broyles family find more Neocate Splash Tropical Fruit for Cash, whose supply is expected to run out in two weeks.

## **Excursion Railroad Rocky Mountaineer Makes Sustainability an Integral Part of Its Operations**

Doing business sustainably is a priority for many modern businesses, and railroads are no different. ASLRRA member Rocky Mountaineer is one of those companies working to minimize its environmental footprint while still offering customers the best service possible.

Rocky Mountaineer is a train excursion company running four tourist routes through Western Canada and the American Southwest. Its commitment to sustainability is evident in nearly all aspects of its operations.

The company's fleet includes 10 GoldLeaf rail cars with energy-efficient features. When designing new rail cars or retrofitting existing ones, Rocky Mountaineer incorporates elements like dishwashers that use 20 percent less water and energy-efficient lighting. They also conserve energy by switching to shore power as often as possible. To reduce emissions, Rocky Mountaineer is participating in a research project studying the feasibility of alternative fuel sources for the train.

Onboard, the company is working toward its goal of diverting 90 percent of waste from landfills by 2023 by composting, recycling and providing reusable tableware. They source and serve locally produced culinary products, including produce, meats, wine, spirits and other beverages to both invest in local businesses and minimize emissions throughout the supply chain.

Protecting the areas the trains travel through is another priority for Rocky Mountaineer. The company plants a tree with Trees Canada to honor the employment anniversary of each team member, planting more than 13,500 trees in Canada since 2008. In addition, company employees have elected to support different community initiatives, including the Critter Care Wildlife Society, which treats, cares for and releases sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in British Columbia.

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## **ASLRRA Announcements**

### **New Preferred Provider Spark Training Solutions Offers Drug and Alcohol Testing Services**

ASLRRA is pleased to welcome Spark Training Solutions as the exclusive Preferred Provider of drug and alcohol testing services in the Association's Member Discount Program. Spark is passionate about helping railroads and contractors meet FRA drug and alcohol testing requirements and ASLRRA members receive preferred pricing on their expert services.

Spark Training Solutions delivers three key differentiators for drug and alcohol testing services: railroad industry-specific DAT expertise, online tools and key national partnerships. Spark's drug and alcohol program services include clinic and mobile / onsite testing services; laboratory and medical review officer (MRO) services; electronic chain of custody forms; and third-party administrator (TPA) - random testing/consortium.

Visit [www.aslrra.org/discounts](http://www.aslrra.org/discounts) and click on the Spark Training Solutions logo to learn more.

## ASLRRA Out and About

### ASLRRA's Gelnar Attends FAMES Meeting



JR Gelnar (second from right), ASLRRA's vice president of safety and compliance, traveled to Fort Worth, Texas this week to attend the Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-way Employees and Signalmen (FAMES) committee meeting.

ASLRRA member Herzog hosted the meeting, where members reviewed a bridge worker fatality. The group also discussed future communications efforts including FAMES website upgrades and continued social media efforts.

**2022 ASLRRA TRAINING SEMINARS** [click to learn more](#)

May 17-18	FRA Engineer/Conductor (240/242) and Railroad Operating Rules (217) Training	July 26-28	General Code of Operating Rules (GCOR) Training
June 7-8	FRA Drug & Alcohol (219) Training	August 9-10	Advanced Designated Supervisor of Locomotive Engineers (DSLE) Training
Coming soon	ASLRRA Leadership Development Training, Regulatory Module	Coming soon	FRA Roadway Worker/Bridge Worker Safety Training



## ASLRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

### Upcoming Webinars

#### [Part 243 Railroad Obligations with Contractors](#) – June 1, 2022

Join FRA Staff Director Rob Castiglione to understand what your obligations are as a railroad when engaging with contractors under Part 243, including Roadway Worker Protection (RWP). Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in Q&A at the end of the presentation. Presenters include Castiglione and ASLRRA's Jo Strang and JR Gelnar.

This webinar is free for both ASLRRA members and non-members.

Click [here](#) to learn more about ASLRRA's education offerings.

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## Industry Events and Announcements

### SLSI Introduces Newest HazMat Minute Training Series

The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) has developed a new three-part series to assist with training and safety briefings focused on the immediate steps in assessing and responding to a hazmat emergency on a railroad. The series will provide videos and safety tips focused on protecting people, the environment, and property, and will include:

1. Initial Safety Measures
2. Fact Gathering
3. DECIDE Process

The first in the series, "HazMat Emergency Initial Safety Measures," is now available on the Short Line Safety Institute website in [video](#) and [downloadable Safety Tip](#) formats. The second and third in the series will be made available in June and July, respectively.

The Short Line Safety Institute provides a variety of in-person and online hazmat training for short line railroads. Thanks to a grant from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), all are available at no cost to railroads.

Consider bringing the Safety Train to your railroad for a hands-on, in-person training event. To find out more about this training, and to schedule – [click here](#). Or, put more than 650 years of hazmat experience to work on your railroad by scheduling an [Emergency Preparedness, Reporting, and Response Exercise \(EPRRE\)](#) to practice Emergency Response protocols and identify opportunities to

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enhance your emergency response capabilities. For questions, or to schedule an EPPRE, contact [John Walsh](#).

Have a minute to learn more, or refresh your team's knowledge on the safe movement of hazardous materials? Check out the many [Minute Videos](#) available online, or access a [video training series](#) providing a number of training topics covered in four- to seven-minute segments.

### **June 3: FRA Will Host Virtual Multimodal Summit**

The focus of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) June 3 virtual multimodal summit will be highway-rail grade crossings, with the agency looking to promote collaboration between stakeholders and discuss various agencies' responsibilities regarding crossings.

The FRA will share the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) efforts to improve grade crossing safety and discuss federal funding opportunities. Leaders from the FRA, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will talk about individual agency efforts to improve crossing safety, and participants will be able to ask questions during a discussion panel.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar, or contact DOT's James Payne ([james.payne@dot.gov](mailto:james.payne@dot.gov)) or Debra Chappell ([debra.chappell@dot.gov](mailto:debra.chappell@dot.gov)) for more information.

Click [here](#) for a calendar of industry events.

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