



## In This Issue:

- **ASLRRRA Welcomes SkyRights Holdings** – Learn more about our newest associate business member in our [ASLRRRA New Members](#) section below.

## Headlines

### Eastern and Southern Region Meeting Recognizes Safety Winners, Welcomes Variety of Industry-Expert Speakers

ASLRRRA's first regional meeting of 2022 opened with celebration, as the Association recognized winners of its President's Award for top safety performance during the meeting's general session on Tuesday.

From there ASLRRRA continued to present a top-notch slate of speakers from all over the short line and freight rail world. Association President Chuck Baker picked the brains of Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company President Jonathan Chastek, Buckingham Branch Railroad Company President Steve Powell and R.J. Corman Railroad Group President and CEO Ed Quinn during the Short Line Leaders Panel.

Other speakers offered meeting attendees important food for thought. Roger Tutterow, economics professor at Kennesaw State University, talked about the future of the American economy, while Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Executive Director Michael Lestingi focused on the agency's current priorities.

Breakout sessions were just as engaging, with audience members packing meeting rooms to hear from speakers like FRA Human Factors Division Chief Starr Kidde and Engineering Psychologist Jason Wornoff, who spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about CRISI grants.

Today's general session featured more diverse presentations with talks from Class I representatives and shippers and a legislative and regulatory update from ASLRRRA's Jo Strang and Zach Radford. Attendees then headed to the Stone Mountain Golf Club for an afternoon tournament to close out the meeting.

#### ASLRRRA Photo Album: The Association Honors Eastern and Southern Region President's Award Winners

ASLRRRA presented plaques to the winners of the Association's President's Awards during the general session on the first full day of events at the Eastern and Southern Region Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Representatives from eight of the 10 winners were on hand to accept their awards from ASLRRA Eastern Region Vice President Justin Broyles or ASLRRA Southern Region Vice President Ben Tarbutton III (left of award winner) and ASLRRA President Chuck Baker and Board Chair Stefan Loeb (right of award winner). Not pictured are Conrad Yelvington Distributors, winner in the Southern Region's more than 500,000 person-hours worked category, and Railserve Switching, Southern Region winner in the 50,000 to 150,000 person-hours worked category.

Be sure to follow ASLRRA on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) to view more pictures from this week's meeting.



*Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) was the Eastern Region President's Award winner for more than 500,000 person-hours worked. Conrail Director of Risk and Operations Compliance Brian Baginski (second from left) accepted the award.*



*Gary Railway Company was the Eastern Region President's Award winner for 250,000 to 500,000 person-hours worked. Transtar Vice President, Operations Scott Conner (second from left) and Gary Railway Senior General Superintendent Daniel Webb (center) accepted the award.*



*Columbus & Ohio River Rail Road was the Eastern Region President's Award winner for 150,000 to 250,000 person-hours worked. Columbus & Ohio General Manager Tim Slusser (second from left) accepted the award.*



*New England Central Railroad was the Eastern Region President's Award winner for 50,000 to 150,000 person-hours worked. New England Central General Manager Jeff Castle (second from left) accepted the award.*



*Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad was the Eastern Region President's Award winner for less than 50,000 person-hours worked. Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Assistant Vice President and General Manager Corey Zeh (second from left) accepted the award.*



*Paducah & Louisville Railway was the Southern Region President's Award winner for 250,000 to 500,000 person-hours worked. Paducah and Louisville Executive Vice President, COO and CFO Tom Greene (second from left) accepted the award.*



*Bay Line Railroad was the Southern Region President's Award winner for 50,000 to 150,000 person-hours worked. Genesee & Wyoming Inc. Vice President of Rail Services Jason Bradt (second from left) accepted the award.*



*West Tennessee Railroad Corporation was the Southern Region President's Award winner for less than 50,000 person-hours worked. West Tennessee Railroad Corporation Vice President JJ Hohorst (second from left) accepted the award.*

## CONNECT REMOTELY AND CONTINUE LEARNING WITH ASLRRR WEBINARS

With nearly 200 recordings available, there's a webinar to meet the needs of everyone on your team. Visit [aslrra.org/webinars](https://aslrra.org/webinars) to view a complete list of available recordings.



## Regulatory Update

### Four FRA Reports Focus on Results of Research on Track Issues

Four [Federal Railroad Administration \(FRA\) reports](#) discuss the results of research on different track issues, including longitudinal resistance, wood tie fastening systems, tie performance and ballast condition forecasting models.

In [one report](#), researchers at the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI) developed a "proof-of-concept" finite element longitudinal resistance model to simulate a rail break, which they hope to use to better understand longitudinal track resistance on frozen ballast. The model will not only help identify the appropriate longitudinal track resistance parameter for frozen ballast conditions, it can help better interpret and measure rail break tests.

In [another report](#), TTCI again conducted a study on behalf of the FRA, this time examining the spike loading environment in various wood-tie fastening systems. TTCI measured how dynamic loads are transferred to rail spikes in these systems in an effort to identify ways to address issues of spike breakage. Test results showed that elastic fastener plates with cut spikes and no rail anchors, or elastic-only systems, had higher strains on the spikes resulting in spikes breaking sooner, though systems with rail anchors had lower strain levels in the spikes and therefore less of an issue with spike breakage.

A [report](#) produced by both the FRA and the Association of American Railroads (AAR) looked at in-track performance of engineered-polymer composite (EPC) railroad ties. Results from a revenue service test identified two main types of defects, and further analysis showed fatigue failure resulting from dynamic cyclic loading was the cause, and temperature also played a role.

The [most recently released report](#) discusses a TTCI study that looks at mechanics-based ballast condition forecasting models and works to improve them.

### FAMES Committee Issues Fourth Quarter Safety Alert

The Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-way Employees and Signalmen (FAMES) committee [published a "Fourth Quarter Safety Alert"](#) reminding people about the spike in fatal roadway worker incidents that occurs in the last three months of the year.

Analysis of 25 years of data on roadway worker incidents shows 35 percent of all fatalities occurred in the fourth quarter. Of these fourth-quarter fatalities, a little more than half occurred in October.

With the fourth quarter starting at the end of the week, the FAMES committee reminds all roadway workers to remain hyper vigilant when applying on-track safety protection.

FAMES reports are also available on our [website](#).

## Legislative Update

### Senate Closer to Passing Continuing Resolution After Manchin Pulls Controversial Permitting Reform

The Senate is closer to passing a continuing resolution (CR) after Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) asked Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) to drop his controversial permitting reform language from the stopgap government funding bill.

Manchin's permit reform measure, which had opponents on both the Democratic and Republican sides of the aisle, was a significant stumbling block for the bill. But without the permitting language in the CR the Senate voted overwhelmingly to advance the bill to debate.

Although several steps still remain until a CR is signed into law by President Joe Biden, today's vote demonstrates solid support for the Senate stopgap bill and suggests Congress will be able to meet Friday's midnight deadline for passing a CR to avoid a government shutdown.

Aside from the permit reform language, the Senate bill also does not include additional emergency funding for COVID-19 or monkeypox efforts, which was another point of contention for Republicans. It does, however, provide funding for Ukraine's military effort and government operations, money for domestic natural disaster assistance and more.



As an ASLRRR Preferred Provider, Loram offers Discounts on Tie and Track Inspection Services to ASLRRR Members.

Click to learn more!



## ASLRRR New Members

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



### ASLRRR Welcomes New Associate Business Member SkyRights Holdings

[SkyRights Holdings LLC](#), based in Carmel, Indiana, is exclusively focused on developing and managing the airspace above railroad corridors for the emerging EVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) drone delivery market. SkyRights works to educate, advocate for and support the North American railroad industry to become the most efficient transport network in the world. CEO [David Christophersen](#) is our primary contact and can be reached on (646) 325-6595. Many thanks to ASLRRR's Crystal Gitchell for the assist with this new membership.

## Announcements



### Want to Attend an ASLRRA Regional Meeting? There is One More Chance in October

The Association's [Central and Pacific Region Meeting](#) takes place next month, Oct. 25-27, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, offering one more opportunity for short line industry stakeholders to benefit from the robust educational offerings and productive networking opportunities available at an ASLRRA event.

Attendees will hear from Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) representatives, shippers, short line railroad executives and many others. [Register](#) today for the Central and Pacific Region Meeting, or click [here](#) to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

In addition to the regional meetings, ASLRRA offers targeted events for railroad personnel with the [Finance and Administration Seminar and General Counsel Symposium](#), which take place in conjunction with the Central and Pacific Region Meeting. Continuing legal education credits (CLEs) are available to symposium participants. Participation requires a separate registration for each event.

Those who register for the seminar can learn about today's labor environment, diversity, equity and inclusion implementation and grant accounting, while those who attend the symposium can hear from Surface Transportation Board (STB) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) representatives and learn about federal grant opportunities and insurance risk groups.

Rooms are still available in the ASLRRA [hotel block](#) for these three events. ASLRRA is also welcoming sponsors for the finance seminar and symposium. Click [here](#) to learn more about sponsorships.

### Save Money on Tie Inspections with ASLRRA's Preferred Providers

ASLRRA member railroads can turn tie inspections into savings and improved safety with Loram's Aurora Track Inspection Technology. As an exclusive ASLRRA Preferred Provider, Loram offers discount pricing on its Aurora Track Inspection Technology featuring state-of-the-art imaging technology that scans track to reveal the specific condition of every tie along the way, pinpointing potential problems and marking their exact location.

A comprehensive tie inspection using Loram's Aurora technology provides a detailed report that enables a railroad to streamline capital maintenance programs and helps ensure their compliance reports are in line with industry regulations, while also helping them to plan repairs in the most efficient way possible.

All ASLRRA Member Discount Program Preferred Providers are carefully vetted companies committed to providing discounted pricing, special offers and guaranteed exceptional services on a range of industry-specific products and services. Visit ASLRRA's [Member Discount Program page](#) to view all Preferred Providers and learn how Loram's Aurora Track Inspection Technology can make your operations safer and more efficient.

### Don't Wait to Register for ASLRRA's Part 219 Training Seminar in January

ASLRRA expects registration for its popular [Drug and Alcohol \(Part 219\) Training Seminar](#) will fill quickly, so the Association encourages those interested in learning more about 49 CFR Part 219 to [register](#) soon. The training seminar will take place Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 in Phoenix, Arizona.

September 28, 2022

The seminar will discuss Part 219, covering all sections of the rule and requirements for all railroads and contractors and including interactive discussion of rule requirements and practices. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Drug and Alcohol Program Specialist Sam Noe will lead the instruction, joined by ASLRRA Vice President of Safety and Compliance JR Gelnar.

## ASLRRA Out and About

### **Strang, Yurasko Attend Virtual RSAC Working Group Meeting**

Last week, ASLRRA Senior Vice President of Safety, Regulatory, and Environmental Policy Jo Strang and Senior Vice President Law and General Counsel Sarah Yurasko participated in a virtual meeting with members of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) Track Standards Working Group.

ASLRRA is a member of the RSAC, which comprises representatives from various rail industry organizations who come together to provide advice and recommendations to the FRA concerning its railroad safety regulatory program.

### **ASLRRA SAFETY & TRAINING** **Reasonable Suspicion Drug & Alcohol Signs** **and Symptoms Training Video**

Visit [www.aslrra.org/safety](http://www.aslrra.org/safety) for more info



## ASLRRA Webinars

### **Upcoming Live Webinars**

#### **ASLRRA Part 219 Education Materials and Correction Affidavits – Nov. 10, 2022**

Join Holly Rainwater, vice president of drug and alcohol programs at Spark TS, Mitch Harris, director of safety, training and regulatory compliance at Rio Grande Pacific, and JR Gelnar, vice president of safety and compliance at ASLRRA to discuss the recently developed Part 219 drug and alcohol educational materials and multiple Correction Affidavits. A working group was established by the Safety and Training Committee to develop these materials to better assist the membership in the requirements of Part 219.

## **On-Demand Webinars**

### **Access ASLRRRA's On-Demand Webinar Library to Learn More About Human Resources Topics**

ASLRRRA's On-Demand Webinars resource library offers nearly 200 webinar recordings on a variety of topics, from industry-specific finance, human resources and legal issues to business development, strategic communications and more! All recordings are available at the click of a mouse by visiting [aslrta.org/webinars](https://aslrta.org/webinars). Check out the some of our human-resources-focused sessions, presented by industry subject matter experts:

- Performance Management: Employee Counseling and Discipline
- Eligibility for Leave Determinations
- Military Leave Management: Special Provisions under Laws; End of Leave Considerations and Transition

Visit ASLRRRA's [webinar homepage](#) and log in to view all the titles in the Association's webinar library. ASLRRRA members can access all the recordings any time for free, while non-members can purchase a subscription.

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

## **Industry Events and Announcements**

### **Oct. 16-19: AAPA's Annual Meeting Will Take Place in Orlando**

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) will hold its Annual Convention and Expo in Orlando, Florida Oct. 16 to 19. The event brings together industry stakeholders to talk about issues related to ports, including the supply chain, cruise operations, digital infrastructure and more. [Click here](#) for more information or to register.

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.