



February 23, 2022



### ASLRRRA Launches New Website

The ASLRRRA has launched an all-new website! The [site](#) has been redesigned to give members quick access to the areas that they use most often, such as Safety Resources, Events, and Training. Enjoy navigating the new site. Questions? Please email us at [aslrra@aslrra.org](mailto:aslrra@aslrra.org).

We look forward to adding additional capabilities in 2022, including an online Membership Join function, the ability to access member company and individual information via a Member Portal, and a Member Search feature.

Please note, to access all areas of the site, Members must reset their password.

1. At the top right of the Home Page, click on "Member Portal" and select "Login" from the dropdown.
2. Enter your login e-mail address, which is the same as the e-mail address that you are accessing to read this notice.
3. Click "Forgot Your Password", located below the red "Login" button.
4. A new e-mail will be sent to the login e-mail address with a password reset link.
5. Click the link.
6. Enter a new passcode following the password guidance on the screen.

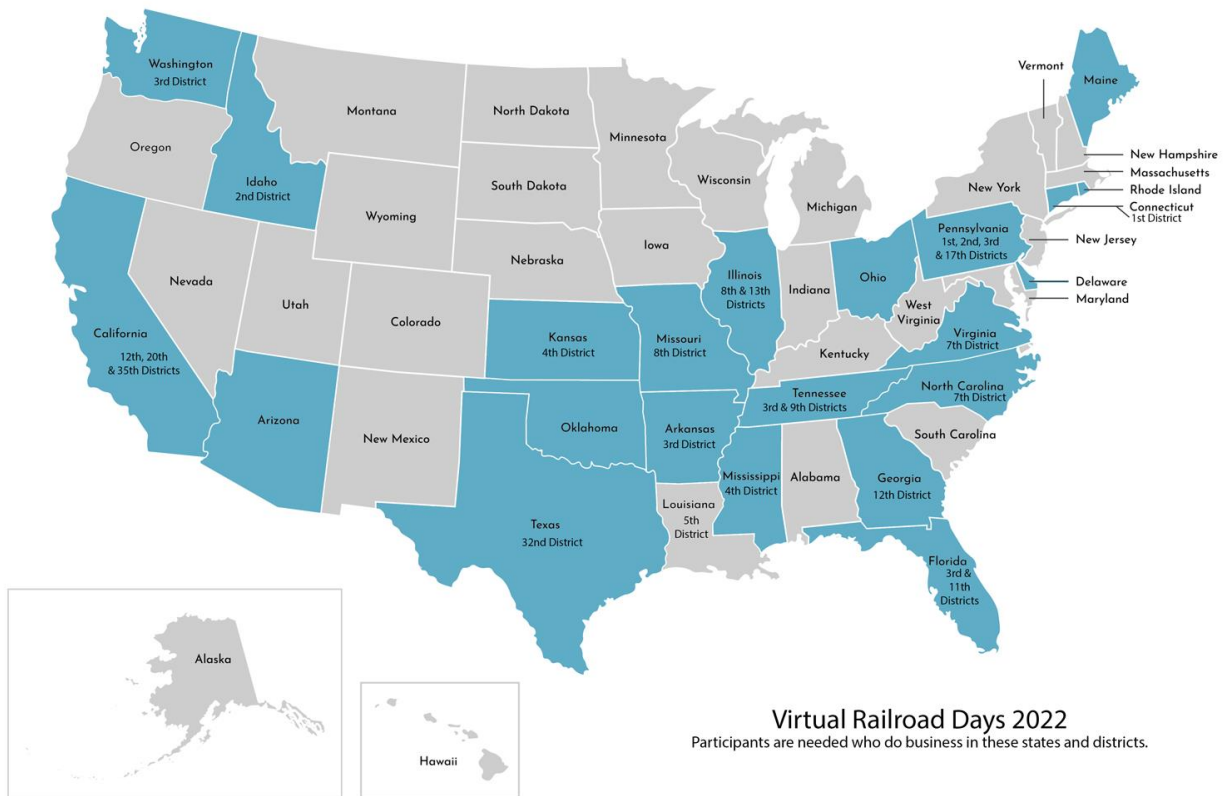
### Deadline Approaching to Register for Railroad Days 2022!

Virtual Railroad Days will take place March 9 and 10, and there is no cost for [registration](#). **To ensure placement with lawmaker's offices that pertain to your location(s), register today!** Registration will close **WEDNESDAY MARCH 2**.

ASLRRRA wants to engage as many federal lawmakers as possible and is looking for participants who do business in specific states and districts to help tell the rail industry story. Those states and districts are identified in the graphic below.

Organizers will schedule meetings for participants specific to the congressional offices where the participants do business. Class I, II and III railroad personnel, shippers, rail labor representatives, state and local government representatives, and members from the supplier community are all invited to participate. Training in advance of the event will be provided via Zoom on March 3, at 1pm.

Organizations interested in sponsoring the 2022 Virtual Railroad Days can contact ASLRRA's [Amy Westerman](#) for information. ASLRRA thanks its many partner organizations for their support in planning and holding the event.



### ASLRRA Awards Nominations Due March 15!

Don't miss out on seeing your company onstage at ASLRRA's 2022 [Annual Conference and Exhibition!](#) Follow the links below to learn more about each award and its criteria, and to find nomination forms.

The ASLRRA **Business Development Award** recognizes Class II and III railroads that have designed and enacted the most innovative and successful business-building initiatives in the small railroad industry. Last year's awardees provided case studies we can all learn from – how to shift business from truck to rail with current customers, partnering with shippers to build new rail-located facilities, and leveraging transload opportunities.

Criteria for ASLRRA's Business Development Awards can be found [here](#). Submit your entries to [akrouse@aslrro.org](mailto:akrouse@aslrro.org).

ASLRRA's **Veterans Engagement Award** honors employers who demonstrate positive policies toward U.S. veterans and who implement unique programs and practices to hire, recognize, support, and engage with veterans in the workplace and the broader community. View the award criteria [here](#) and submit a nomination [here](#). Contact [Sabrina Waiss](#) with questions.

**The Safety Professional of the Year Award** - Do you have the best Safety Officer in the land? Tell us how your safety management personnel are keeping your employees and customers out of harm's way on your railroad.

The Safety Professional of the Year is open to management employees of an ASLRRRA member railroad responsible for safety programs, training and the overall management of safe behavior and actions on their railroad(s).

Nominate someone [here](#). [Click here](#) to read about additional criteria. Contact [Crystal Gitchell](#) with questions.

**The Safety Person of the Year Award** - Who on your team embodies Safety on your railroad, going the extra mile to ensure that you have a great safety culture on your railroad? Nominees do not need to have "safety" in their title to meet this criteria.

This award recognizes a non-management employee of a member railroad who works with management on effective safety programs, exhibits a high degree of safety awareness and contributes off-duty time to activities promoting safety awareness in the community. Nominate someone [here](#). [Click here](#) for award criteria. Contact [Crystal Gitchell](#) with questions



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### Updated Forms, Templates and More Available Through ASLRRRA

Keeping members informed of new information is a priority for ASLRRRA, and several updated resources are now available.

First, ASLRRRA has updated the Part 240 program template concerning the qualification and certification of locomotive engineers. Railroad members can access the document through ASLRRRA's [website](#) and customize it to reflect specific company information.

Second, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has updated the railroad Hours of Service Report form 6180.30, and a copy can be found [here](#). Please contact the FRA's Bill Smith at [William.smith@dot.gov](mailto:William.smith@dot.gov) with any questions.

Third, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) approved an updated version of its United States Hazardous Materials Instructions for Rail document, informally known as the industry hazmat rulebook. These general guidelines are meant for employees who transport hazardous materials and can be modified by individual railroads to align with particular operating rules and practices. A copy can be found at the link above or under Part 172 templates in the Safety & Compliance section of ASLRRRA's website.

## ASLRRA Submits Response to Shipper Comments in EP 767 (First-Mile, Last-Mile) Proceedings

On February 17, ASLRRA filed [comments](#) responding to shippers and shipper groups' submissions in response to the Surface Transportation Board ("Board")'s September 2, 2021 invitation to stakeholders to provide comments on issues regarding first-mile/last-mile ("FMLM") service, particularly on whether additional metrics to measure such service might have utility that exceeds any associated burden. In our initial comments, filed December 16, 2021, we noted that for short line railroads, capturing metrics to measure performance data "in the aggregate" is exceptionally difficult.

Variability in data collection, reporting systems, and abilities across the approximately 600 short lines would result in inconsistent and non-meaningful information. Because of the difficulty in collecting uniform service data and accounting for the many variables affecting that service, ASLRRA collected information on how some short line railroads capture service data and are responsive to customer concerns that is generally representative of the short line industry.

ASLRRA found that there is no single metric or set of metrics or data reporting process that would make sense for the STB to mandate of 600 different small business short lines. Overall, short lines are very responsive to their customers and quickly address any identified service issues, particularly in the provision of FMLM services – that is in fact generally considered the hallmark of short line service.

## RRB Q&A Discusses Study of Annuitant Longevity

The [February edition](#) of the Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) monthly Question and Answer (Q&A) series focuses on a study of the longevity of railroad retirement beneficiaries, which takes place as part of a valuation of future revenues and benefit payments.

The study, which takes place every three years, examines the life expectancy of male and female annuitants, as well as disability, spouse and survivor annuitants. This year, the study also talks about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mortality rates. The Q&A also features a link to the full study.



## Federal Funding Extended Until March 11 with Negotiations for Long-Term Spending Bill in Full Swing

Late last week, the U.S. Senate passed the latest stopgap funding measure, ensuring that federal government operations can continue through March 11.

The House previously passed the measure, so the Senate's action sent the funding bill to the president, who signed it into law before funding ran out February 18, which had been the previous expiration date for government funding.

House and Senate leaders are now engaged in fierce negotiations over the details of the next spending bill, which, if passed, could last through the remainder of the federal fiscal year into September 2022. Failure to pass a longer-term spending bill keeps funding at outdated 2021 levels and limits the ability of the federal government to carry out many of the new policies in the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). ASLRRA continues to urge long-term passage of a spending bill with robust levels for programs critical to short line freight rail.

## Thanks to All Who Contributed to the ASLRRR PAC

On behalf of the ASLRRR PAC, we wanted to express our sincere appreciation for the generous contributions from the individuals noted below. Membership support remains vital to the PAC's efforts to back candidates for the House and Senate who understand the significance and the needs of short line railroad operations. As you know, the 2022 primary and general election season will shortly be upon us. For those who are interested, there is still time to contribute to the ASLRRR PAC in order that we can continue our support for good candidates. We still seek to further replenish our PAC. If you feel you did make a contribution that is not reflected below, please contact Tom Lynch at [tlynch@aslrra.org](mailto:tlynch@aslrra.org).

### PAC Contributors For 2021-22 Cycle

DAVID	ARGANBRIGHT	OMNITRAX
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## ASLRRA Announcements

### Disaster Preparedness and Response Resources

Severe weather events, natural disasters, fires, floods and derailments can all cause widespread damage to the national rail network, wreaking havoc and disrupting normal business operations for weeks and even months. The potential human, community and economic impact underscores the critical need for railroads to have an emergency plan that can be activated on short notice as well as quick access to resources and emergency relief services to facilitate a return to normal operations as quickly as possible.

With support from railroad and supplier members, the ASLRRA has assembled essential templates and checklists to assist members in developing response plans that can be put in place and used as training tools before disaster strikes, as well as emergency response tools and resources to aid in the recovery process in the aftermath of a catastrophic event.

Available resources include Disaster Planning, HazMat Response, and instructions on accessing an Emergency Docket, in addition to links to other government websites, and members may download materials [directly from the website](#).

ASLRRA also has a robust selection of recorded webinars available for members in the [On-Demand Webinars](#) library that may be used to prepare and train for emergency situations. Topics range from Crisis Communications and Media Training to Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting and Emergency Notifications Section Review.

### Plan to Earn a Jake Safety Award? Complete Accident/Incident Reports by Feb. 28 to be Eligible

Only 3 business days are left to complete Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) accident/incident reports for 2021 and be eligible for ASLRRA's President's and Jake Awards.

Railroad and switching members must complete the required FRA accident/incident reports for every month of 2021 to be eligible for the awards. Any reports submitted after Feb. 28 will not be considered.

For more information, please contact ASLRRA's [Fred Oelsner](#).

## Short Line Safety Institute Releases New Safety Tip

The Short Line Safety Institute has released a new Safety Tip covering the causes and effects of worker fatigue. The Safety Tip also provides recommendations from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to help reduce the effects by promoting a healthy sleep pattern. Use this [Tip](#) at your next Safety Briefing or management meeting!

Got just a minute to learn more about Safety Culture on a railroad? View SLSI's Safety Minute Video series [here](#). There are six to choose from, all with corresponding Safety Tips!

In addition to Safety Tips and videos, the Short Line Safety Institute provides [Safety Posters](#) to assist in elevating safety culture on your railroad, available in both English and Spanish.

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## ASLRRA Out and About

### Gitchell Speaks at AASHTO Legislative Conference

ASLRRA Assistant Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Policy Crystal Gitchell spoke this week at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Council on Rail Transportation (CORT) Legislative Meeting.

The conference was held in Washington, DC, Feb. 22-23. Gitchell gave presentations during the freight states panel and a panel discussing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), that was recently passed. ASLRRA's Zach Radford, and Jo Strang also attended the Conference, representing Short Line railroad interests.

## ASLRRA Industry Award Nominations Open!



Nominations being accepted for 2022 Safety Person, Safety Professional, Business Development, and Veterans Engagement Awards. **Nominations due by March 15!** *Click to learn more...*



## ASLRRA Webinars – Live or On-Demand

### Upcoming Webinars

[Overview on the Expanded Scope of Part 219](#) – Feb. 24, 2022

Join representatives from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a comprehensive overview of the Feb. 2 final rule expanding the scope of Part 219 to include mechanical employees. Presenters

include FRA Drug and Alcohol Staff Director Jerry Powers, FRA Drug and Alcohol Program Specialist Sam Noe and FRA attorney Patty Sun.

This webinar is free for both ASLRRRA members and non-members. **Please Note: Registration for this webinar is accepted up until the webinar begins at 11 a.m. EST.**

### [Part 243 Railroad Obligations with Contractors](#) – March 8, 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 ASLRRRA's Jo Strang and JR Gelnar.

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

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## Industry Events and Announcements

### March 8 - FRA Provides Webinar for Potential Grantees, Section 106

On March 8 from 2:30 – 3:30 pm ET, join the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a basic overview of the [National Historic Preservation Act Section 106](#) review process (Section 106). Register [here](#).

Section 106 is one of many federal environmental review requirements that are triggered by federally funded transportation projects. Before obligating a grant, FRA must go through a four-step decision-making process to consider a project's potential effects to historic properties. The Section 106 review process can include consultation with State Historic Preservation Officers, tribes, local governments, historical societies, and other community stakeholders. This webinar will help grant applicants make sense of the Section 106 review process and understand whether Section 106 streamlining procedures are applicable to their railroad project.

With the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which will provide \$66 billion in new funding over the next five years to freight and passenger railroad projects, this webinar will be particularly useful for new grant applicants. The webinar will also be a timely Section 106 refresher for any FRA grantee.

For more grantee technical assistance, visit FRA's [Training & Guidance page](#).

### March 30 to April 1 – APTA's High-Speed Rail Conference Takes Place in Philadelphia

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) will hold its 2022 High-Speed Rail Conference March 30 to April 1 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The conference will feature panelists from various areas of expertise, including state, local and federal agency leaders, corporate executives and more. Follow [this link](#) for more information, including a program schedule and speaker biographies. Registration can also be completed through the link above.

### April 27-28 – NRC's Railroad Equipment Auction Stages a Comeback in Ohio



**February 23, 2022**

The National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association's (NRC) [Annual Railroad Equipment Auction](#) returns this year, taking place in Austinburg, Ohio on April 27-28.

The auction offers railroad construction and maintenance equipment to all contractors, suppliers and railroads, with past auctions featuring items like backhoes, excavators, hi-rail trucks, rail saws, tie handlers, track undercutters and more. A portion of sales will support the NRC's safety training program.

### **Aon Offers Webinar on TSA Cybersecurity Rules for Railroads**

ASLRRRA member Aon will host a webinar on Feb. 28 that addresses the TSA Cybersecurity Requirements for Freight and Passenger Rail and the Cyber Insurance Market. Presenters are Scott Swanson, VP, Risk and Compliance, Aon Cyber Solutions Security Advisory Practice, and Shane Moylan, VP, Aon Cyber Solutions.

The discussion will provide an overview of the new security requirements and the deliverables related to the TSA directive for freight rail, passenger rail, and rail transit systems. Specific attention will be on the process of completing the required cyber vulnerability assessment and development of a cyber incident response. In addition, Aon will offer a brief overview of the cyber risk transfer/insurance environment for freight railroads, passenger railroads, and transit systems with a highlight of any critical factors to be considered when transferring risks.

The February 28 webinar will be at 12 noon Eastern time. [Register Here](#)

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