



June 29, 2022



## ASLRRRA President Recognized as OneRail Canby Award Winner

ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker [is one of two winners](#) of the inaugural OneRail Coalition Canby Award. He was honored in a ceremony Tuesday for his dedication to rail and his efforts to support and promote the rail industry.



*ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker (left) received an inaugural OneRail Coalition Canby Award at a ceremony last night in Washington, D.C. Here he poses with Anne Canby, former OneRail executive director after whom the award is named.*

Each year the awards will recognize a OneRail member and a Congressional staffer who is dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the U.S. rail network. Baker is chair of OneRail's Board of Directors, a position to which he was appointed in 2020. He has served OneRail in various capacities for over ten years.

OneRail recognized Baker for his work on behalf of the rail industry and his strong belief in the mission of the coalition. Organizers also hailed Baker as an industry leader and lauded his ability to unite people in pursuit of a common goal, noting he has helped many of the coalition's priorities become law.

Michael Davisson, a professional staff member on the Commerce Committee for Chair Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), received the congressional staff award.

The Canby Awards are named for Anne Canby, the former OneRail executive director who helped found the coalition. Canby worked to promote rail at all levels of government and worked to make OneRail a way for all classes of railroad, as well as Amtrak and other industry stakeholders, to raise awareness of the many benefits of freight and passenger rail.

### Record Number of Railroads Receive ASLRRRA Jake Safety Awards

A record 364 railroads are winners of this year's Jake Safety Awards, which recognize Association members that perform better than the industry average reportable injury frequency rate based on data reported to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

"The railroad industry is safe, and getting safer. Our short line members are doing their part to continue to drive those statistics in the right direction, placing safety above all competing priorities," said ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker. "The short line industry average safety incident rate has dropped

once again to 2.17 reportable incidents per 200,000 person-hours worked. A record number of our member railroads performed at or above the industry average, a five percent increase from 2020's list of 346 railroads. In addition, 91 percent of Jake Award recipients had zero reportable injuries, noted as Jake Awards with Distinction."

Of the 364 Jake Award winners, 332 received Jake Awards with Distinction, given to those railroads having an FRA-reportable injury-free performance in 2021. In addition, 20 members received the President's Award – the Jake Award recipient with the lowest reportable injury frequency rate per FRA regulation as measured within person-hour categories. ASLRRA will honor Jake Award winners at the [2022 Regional Meetings](#) in the fall. Click [here](#) to view a list of Jake Award winners, and [here](#) to view a list of Jake Award with Distinction winners.

This year's President's Award winners are:

### Central Region Winners

Belt Railway Company of Chicago – Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 person-hours  
Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis – Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 person-hours  
Fort Worth & Western Railroad – Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 person-hours  
Dallas, Garden & Northeastern Railroad – Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 person-hours  
Rio Valley Switching Company – Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 person-hours

### Eastern Region Winners

Consolidated Rail Corporation – Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 person-hours  
Gary Railway Company – Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 person-hours  
Columbus & Ohio River Rail Road Co. – Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 person-hours  
New England Central Railroad, Inc. – Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 person-hours  
Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad Corp. – Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 person-hours

### Pacific Region Winners

Montana Rail Link, Inc. – Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 person-hours  
Pacific Harbor Line, Inc. – Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 person-hours  
Terminal Switching Services – Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 person-hours  
Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad – Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 person-hours  
Texas & New Mexico Railway – Lowest Frequency Rate: less than 50,000 person-hours

### Southern Region Winners

Conrad Yelvington Distributors, Inc. – Lowest Frequency Rate: more than 500,000 person-hours  
Paducah & Louisville Railway, Inc. – Lowest Frequency Rate: 250,000 – 500,000 person-hours  
Railserve Inc. – Switching – Lowest Frequency Rate: 150,000 – 250,000 person-hours  
Bay Line Railroad, LLC – Lowest Frequency Rate: 50,000 – 150,000 person-hours  
West Tennessee Railroad Co. – Lowest Frequency Rate: Less than 50,000 person-hours

The Jake Awards are named for the late Lowell S. "Jake" Jacobson, formerly the president and general manager of the Copper Basin Railway. After achieving a perfect safety record for the CBRY in 1993, Jacobson realized that there was no award that recognized smaller railroads' safety records. In 1999, the ASLRRA Safety Committee adopted the Jake Awards, and since then, has continued Jacobson's legacy of rewarding and drawing attention to the high safety standards of the small railroad industry.

## Send Us Your Stories – We Want to Share Them!

ASLRRA's members do amazing things every day, and the Association is eager to share those stories with a wider audience in "Views & News" and on social media.

ASLRRA would love to hear what its members and their employees have accomplished, whether it's engaging the community, achieving a milestone, making a big business deal or completing a major project. Maybe there are pictures of the company president being dunked in a water tank to raise

money for a local animal shelter. Or your railroad hosted a special train ride for a deserving community group. Let us know!

Please send any details about your news, including contact information, to ASLRRA's [communications team](#). Photographs are also encouraged.



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Bentley



### STB Publishes Annual Inflation-Adjusted Index and Deflator Factors

Today, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) [published](#) the annual inflation-adjusted index and deflator factors for 2021. Railroads use these deflator factors to adjust their gross annual operating revenues for classification purposes.

These factors allow railroads to ensure they are classified in the appropriate rail category based on actual business expansion and not simply the effects of inflation. The deflator factor for 2021 is 0.9535, making the Class I rail revenue threshold \$943,898,958 and the Class II threshold \$42,370,575.

### STB Member Primus Nominated for Second Term

President Joe Biden [renominated](#) Robert Primus to his first full five-year term on the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

Primus joined the STB in January 2021, filling the unexpired term of Deb Miller that was to end on Dec. 31, 2022. If confirmed, Primus's second term will expire on Dec. 31, 2027.

### Spring Agenda of Regulatory Actions Includes FRA Proposed and Final Rules

The Biden administration released its spring 2022 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, which outlines all the actions administrative agencies are planning to issue in the near and long term.

Below are the rules specific to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). ASLRRA staff is engaged in discussions with the FRA and other stakeholders on most of these potential regulations. A searchable list of actions is [here](#), with the FRA's items listed under the Department of Transportation.

DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Emergency Escape Breathing Apparatus	<a href="#">2130-AC14</a>
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DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Amendments to Locomotive and Passenger Equipment Safety Standards	<a href="#">2130-AC74</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Miscellaneous Amendments to Federal Glazing Standards	<a href="#">2130-AC76</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Amendments to the Freight Car Safety and Reflectorization Standards	<a href="#">2130-AC77</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Railroad Noise Emission Compliance Regulations	<a href="#">2130-AC83</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Training, Qualification, and Oversight for Safety-Related Railroad Employees	<a href="#">2130-AC87</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Train Crew Staffing	<a href="#">2130-AC88</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Risk Reduction Program	<a href="#">2130-AC89</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Passenger Equipment Safety Standards; Standards for High-Speed Trainsets	<a href="#">2130-AC90</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Dispatcher Certification	<a href="#">2130-AC91</a>
DOT/FRA	Proposed Rule Stage	Signal Employee Certification	<a href="#">2130-AC92</a>
DOT/FRA	Final Rule Stage	Locomotive Recording Devices	<a href="#">2130-AC51</a>
DOT/FRA	Final Rule Stage	Fatigue Risk Management Program	<a href="#">2130-AC54</a>



### Draft Spending Bill to Go to Full House Committee this Week

Last week, the House transportation and housing appropriations subcommittee released [draft text](#) of its Fiscal Year 2023 spending bill, and it was approved by the subcommittee by voice vote on June 23. The bill [will go to the full Appropriations Committee](#) for markup on June 30.

Overall, the House bill proposes providing \$91 billion to transportation and housing accounts for FY2023. Proposed funding for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) grant program in FY23 is \$630 million, \$5 million over what was provided for in the FY2022 omnibus spending bill with no increased set-asides for passenger rail.

ASLRRA's Government Affairs team will review the transportation bill after its markup later this week, and will provide further update on provisions in the transportation bill and other appropriations bills that are important to the short line freight rail industry.



## ASLRRA Announcements

### Room Block Closes Soon for Joint Committee Meeting in August

Room blocks for ASLRRA's [Joint Committee Meeting](#) in Boston, Massachusetts will close July 7, so members looking to attend the August meeting should book their accommodations soon.

The Joint Committee Meeting offers ASLRRA members on the Association's constituent committees a chance to gather and discuss important issues affecting the short line railroad industry. This year's Joint Committee Meeting takes place Aug. 2 and 3. MassRobotics will host the first day of events in the company's Boston office. Click [here](#) to view meeting details, or [here](#) to register for the event.

### Former Western-Cullen-Hayes President Ron McDaniel Passes Away

ASLRRA mourns [the passing of Ron McDaniel](#) at the age of 83 on June 23. Ron was president of ASLRRA member Western-Cullen-Hayes and was an active, engaged and memorable figure in the rail industry for many decades. McDaniel also served on the board of various rail industry contractor and supplier associations, including the NRC, REMSA, and RSSI.

"Ron was extraordinarily generous with his time and financial insight. He was an absolute stickler for having financial information presented accurately and consistently, and would not let you get away with anything less than your best, but would do it all with a smile on his face," said ASLRRA President Chuck Baker. "He was the definition of 'tough but fair.' He was a gregarious presence at dozens of rail industry conferences over the years, and his smile could light up an entire exhibit hall. He believed in supporting the short line industry and the association, and was a personal friend to me, Kathy Keeney, and others on our team too."

Memorial visitation is July 3 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The memorial service will begin at 4 p.m. at Adolf Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Willowbrook, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, memorials to [The Boys & Girls Club of Wayne County](#), Indiana would be appreciated.

### Online Resources Help ASLRRA Members Comply with Federal Training Requirements

ASLRRA strives to assist members with industry best practices and compliance throughout their operations by offering a wealth of [safety and compliance resources](#). Training videos are a popular and important safety resource available as a direct download from the Association website.

The "[Post-Accident Toxicological Testing Video](#)" is an interactive training video produced by the industry, with input from the FRA, that provides instruction on when and how to administer post-

accident drug and alcohol tests. Federal Regulation Part 219.11(g) requires Post-Accident Toxicological Testing (PATT) training for supervisors of regulated employees. This PATT eLearning course has been reviewed by the FRA and will ensure compliance with the PATT training requirements.

ASLRRRA also offers a "[Reasonable Suspicion Drug & Alcohol Signs and Symptoms Video](#)" that provides detailed direction on drug and alcohol testing guidelines. This video teaches railroad workers how to recognize possible impairment, what substances to test for, how to conduct a proper test, and steps to take in case of a positive test, among many other components. Part 219.11(g) requires signs and symptoms training for supervisors of regulated employees. Utilization of video will ensure compliance.

While most downloadable materials are available at no cost to ASLRRRA members many are available to non-members for a fee, including training videos and most – but not all – compliance program templates. Visit [www.aslrra.org/safety](http://www.aslrra.org/safety) to access the full complement of safety and compliance tools, resources and information available from the ASLRRRA.

### **ASLRRRA Members Save Money with Vetted Preferred Providers**

The money railroads save using Preferred Providers from [ASLRRRA's Member Discount Program](#) could pay their annual Association dues and then some! ASLRRRA's Member Discount Program leverages the buying power of all association members to secure discounted pricing on essential business products and services. ASLRRRA members receive exclusive access to programs tailored specifically for the short line railroad industry with discounted pricing, special offers and guaranteed exceptional service.

Member Discount Program offerings currently include personal protective equipment plus safety eyewear and shoe programs from ORR Safety; tie inspection services from Loram Technologies; drug and alcohol testing services from Spark Training Solutions; grant writing services from Bergmann, GTS and HDR; positive train control (PTC) products and services from GTS and Ayers Electronic Systems; and employee health insurance from HUB International. Visit our [Member Discount Program page](#) for details and to learn more about ASLRRRA's Member Discount Program Preferred Providers.

**Interested in becoming a Preferred Provider?** ASLRRRA is seeking to add new products and services to its Member Discount Program offerings. The program is open exclusively to ASLRRRA associate members who are committed to providing exceptional service along with volume discounts to short line railroads. Preferred Providers benefit from a broad range of marketing/promotional activities, including visibility on [ASLRRRA's website](#) and in print and electronic communications. Interested companies may contact [Sabrina Waiss](#) for more information on becoming a Preferred Provider.

### **ASLRRRA's Regional Meetings, Symposium and Seminar Set for Fall**

ASLRRRA's [regional meetings](#) will take place in the fall, with the General Counsel Symposium and Finance and Administration Seminar to be held in conjunction with the Central and Pacific Region Meeting.

The Eastern and Southern Region Meeting will take place Sept. 26 to 28 in Atlanta, Georgia, while the Central and Pacific Region Meeting will take place Oct. 25 to 27 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The symposium and seminar will also be held Oct. 25 to 27. Registration for regional meetings will open soon.

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## ASLRRRA Out and About

### ASLRRRA Hosts Transportation Delegation from Thailand for Industry Overview



*Representatives from the State Railway of Thailand and the Thailand Ministry of Transport met with ASLRRRA staff members in ASLRRRA's D.C. office to discuss the American short line freight rail business model*

ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker, Senior Vice President Jo Strang, Vice President Fred Oelsner, Operations Manager Julie Duriga and ASLRRRA's two summer interns Eva Lennuk and Kevin Wang hosted a delegation from State Railway of Thailand and the Thailand Ministry of Transport in ASLRRRA's Washington, D.C. office on June 23.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency and the Tuatara Group organized the visit. Discussions included best practices, funding and financing mechanisms, regulatory structures, and a general overview of the business model of short line freight railroads in the United States.

### Staff Members Attend RSAC Committee Meeting in D.C.

Several ASLRRRA staff members attended the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) [meeting](#) on June 27 at the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

Senior Vice President of Safety, Regulatory and Environmental Policy Jo Strang, Senior Vice President of Law and General Counsel Sarah Yurasko and ASLRRRA summer interns Eva Lennuk and Kevin Wang attended the meeting, as did Travis Herrod of ASLRRRA member Watco Companies and Herman Crosson and Tom Leopold of member Anacostia Rail Holdings. The RSAC committee discussed five tasks the FRA recommends they handle, including making improvements to worker protection protocols and reviewing electronic device regulation.

ASLRRRA Training Videos are available for download  
Visit [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org) for more information!





## ASLRRR Webinars – Live or On-Demand

### Upcoming Webinars

[FRA Updated Part 240/242 Audit Process](#) – July 19, 2022

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has revised their approach and process in performing Part 240/242 audits of railroads, including short lines, and these revisions were implemented at the beginning of 2022. Join the FRA's Kevin Lewis to review and discuss this process and common findings.

The webinar is free for members and \$25 for non-members.

### EPA's SmartWay Program Webinar Series is Available in ASLRRR's On-Demand Webinar Library

ASLRRR is a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's SmartWay program, which helps companies advance supply chain sustainability. A series of webinars helped participants learn more about the program and its application, and members can find recordings of these webinars in ASLRRR's [On-Demand Webinar Library](#). Look for the following titles:

- ASLRRR and SmartWay: Introduction and Opportunities
- Benefits of Freight Rail – Capacity, Safety & Clean Air!
- Benefits of Using Rail from a Shipper & Logistics Perspective
- Freight Emissions, Carbon Accounting and Sustainability

These webinars are only a few of the over 170 recordings available on a wide variety of topics including finance, human resources, communications and technology. ASLRRR members can access the On-Demand Webinar for free while non-members can purchase a subscription. [Click here](#) to access the webinar library today.

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

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## Industry Events and Announcements

### Subscribe to Receive Short Line Safety Institute Emails and Keep Up with Important Safety Information

The Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) offers a variety of resources at no cost to railroads. Make sure you are notified of new resources by subscribing to SLSI's email list.

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Go to the SLSI About page [here](#) and fill out the subscription form to the right of the page to receive the newest [safety tips](#), get links to [training videos](#) and read [research articles](#).

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.