



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

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ASLRRRA Honors James A. Bowers for Decades of Service to the Industry *Bowers Named the 2024 Schlosser Distinguished Service Award Winner*

WASHINGTON, January 31, 2024 - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) has selected James A. “Jim” Bowers, founder of Bowers CPAs & Advisors, as the 2024 Schlosser Distinguished Service Award winner.

Jim Bowers has spent decades serving the short line railroad industry through his work as a certified public accountant (CPA) in the accounting firm he founded – Bowers and Company CPAs, now called Bowers CPAs & Advisors, and in service to the ASLRRRA, including chairing the Finance & Administration Committee, and many years of presenting at and supporting ASLRRRA events. In addition, Bowers has encouraged employees of the firm to participate in the ASLRRRA, with several chairing committees such as the Finance Committee and the Young Professional’s Committee, guiding the work of the Association.

“Jim has followed the path of many a small railroader, persistently applying his talent, building a one-man shop into a sustainable enterprise that creates value for many,” said ASLRRRA President Chuck Baker. “Alongside growing Bowers & Company, Jim has been a willing partner and friend to many in the industry, and most especially to our Association, where his measured counsel has been instrumental in many successful initiatives such as the 45G Tax Credit, to helping our members understand the tax impacts of their actions, particularly during COVID,

and to the Finance & Administration Committee. Jim has also had an eye on knowledge transfer in our industry, actively supporting others in his firm in taking committee leadership positions at ASLRRRA, ensuring the next generation of railroaders will be similarly well-counseled.”

James A. Bowers – Distinguished Service Award Winner

Before starting Bowers CPAs, Bowers earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from St. John Fisher University and started working as an accountant at Deloitte, where he eventually was named manager in charge. While at Deloitte Bowers also spent several years as an adjunct professor of accounting at St. John Fisher.

Bowers decided to forge a new path in 1980 as one of the founding partners of the accounting firm [Bowers CPAs and Advisors](#). In the 44 years since its inception, [Bowers CPAs and Advisors](#) has now expanded to three office locations in New York and features a staff of over 130. The company’s railroad arm offers short lines assistance in financial reporting, mergers and acquisitions, grant administration, tax planning and compliance, and payroll.

Bowers has also been active with other railroad organizations, such as the Railroads of New York (RONY) where he serves on the Board of Directors as an associate member. He is a member of several professional organizations as well including the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA).

The Schlosser Distinguished Service Award, named for former ASLRRRA Chairman Thomas L. Schlosser, is the highest individual honor bestowed by the ASLRRRA, recognizing long-term, significant service to the ASLRRRA and the short line industry. Bowers will be honored on March 25, 2024 at the ASLRRRA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Kansas City, Missouri.

For a video on the background of the Schlosser Distinguished Service Award and past Award recipients, click [here](#).

About ASLRRRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the nation’s 603 short line and regional railroads and railroad supply company members in legislative and regulatory matters. Short lines operate 47,500 miles of track in 49 states, or approximately 29% of the national

railroad network, touching in origination or termination one out of every five cars moving on the national railroad system, serving customers who otherwise would be cut off from the national railroad network. www.aslrra.org