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ASLRRA Announces Annual Jake Award Recipients
Jake Award Recognizes Above Industry-Average Safety Performance

WASHINGTON – June 28, 2019 – The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) has awarded its annual Jake Award to 293 member railroads, recognizing above-industry average safety performance during 2018. To be honored with a Jake Award, an ASLRRA member railroad must perform better than the Class II and III industry average injury frequency rate as reported by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) during the calendar year.

Of the 293 Jake Award recipients, 265 railroads will be honored ‘with Distinction’, recognizing their FRA reportable injury-free performance in 2018.

“Safety is at the forefront of our members’ operations. We are pleased to recognize our member railroads who perform better than industry average with respect to injury frequency – with more than 90% of our Jake Award recipients performing injury-free on an annual basis,” said Chuck Baker, President of ASLRRA. “Through the dedication and commitment of these
railroads each and every day, as an industry we are achieving record levels of safety performance."

The safety performance of short line railroads has contributed to the 36% decrease in train accidents per million miles since 2000 as reported by the Federal Railroad Administration.

The short line industry’s continued significant investment in rail infrastructure has contributed to the 35% reduction in derailments and the 47% in track-caused accidents per million rail miles, and the 48% reduction of employee injuries per 200,000 man-hours since 2000.¹

The Jake Awards will be presented at each of ASLRRRA’s Regional Meetings this fall. In addition, 17 member railroads across ASLRA’s four regions will be honored with the President’s Award for the best safety performance based on operation man-hours in 2018.

The Jake Awards are named for Lowell S. “Jake” Jacobson, the President and General Manager of the Copper Basin Railway. After achieving a perfect safety record for the CBRY in 1993, Jake realized that there was no award that recognized smaller railroads’ safety records. In 1999, the ASLRA Safety Committee adopted the Jake Awards, and since then, has continued Mr. Jacobson’s legacy of rewarding and drawing attention to the high safety standards of the small railroad industry.

Since its inception in 1995, the Jake Award program has distributed more than 5,600 Jake and Jake with Distinction Awards to America’s small railroad community.

¹ Railroad Safety Statistics as of June 2019, Federal Railroad Administration.

About ASLRA - The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRA) 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.