ASLRRA Eastern Region Meeting Concludes With New Board Members Elected, President’s Awards Presented

ASLRRA’s Eastern Region Meeting, held in Burlington, Vt., featured 160 attendees. Education sessions included updates on the CRISI grant process, a presentation on the history of railroading, a discussion of TSA’s freight rail counterterrorism plan, and the new Short Line Safety Institute Hazmat Instructor Training Program.

In addition, keynote speakers gave presentations on “Amazoning” your railroad, CN’s plans to boost capacity, and GE Transportation’s explanation of blockchain. Networking opportunities included a Young Professionals gathering and small railroad meet ups. Special events like Sandhouse Sessions, a PAC reception, and a Vermont Rail–hosted train ride rounded out the busy three-day meeting.

The Eastern Region members held their board meeting and elections. Tim Potts, Manager of Industrial Development for RJ Corman Railroad Company, LLC/Pennsylvania lines was elected to serve a three-year term. Potts had been serving a term vacated by a prior ASLRRA member. Steve Weaver, VP Operations & Roadway for Strasburg Rail Road Company has been re-elected to a second term. Edward Foley, VP Sales and Marketing, Northeast Region for Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc. is newly elected to a three-year term.

Also serving on the Eastern Region Board: Carl Belke, serving as Regional Vice President, Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad, Mike Bostwick, EVP & Chief Commercial Officer, Springfield Terminal - Subsidiary of Pan Am Railways, Donna Coleman, VP of Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad Co., Don Hutton, Managing Director, New York New Jersey Rail, LLC, and Alan Maples, President, Everett Railroad Company.

During Tuesday’s general session, several railroad members were presented with the prestigious President’s Award, honoring outstanding safety performance per man-hours worked in 2017, including: Indiana & Ohio Railway Company, Consolidated Rail Corporation, Union Railroad Company, LLC, Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad Company, and York Railway Company.

Rockwell Collins Will Provide PTC Safety Documentation Support to Short Line Railroads

ASLRRA’s newest benefit for short line railroads comes from Rockwell Collins, which ASLRRA has chosen to help tenant railroads create the safety-related documentation needed to gain permission to operate on a host’s positive train control (PTC) territory.

Rockwell Collins will create templates for the required documents and provide training for template use via webinar. This effort is expected to help expedite completion of PTC implementation for both host and tenant railroads.
“ASLRRA has stepped up to assist our member short lines in preparing for implementation with a variety of previously announced services,” said ASLRRA Chair and President and General Manager of Farmrail System, Inc. Judy Petry in a press release. “Rockwell Collins is the industry leader in safety plan and related documentation, and the templates and outlines they develop specifically for short lines will save our members time, and thousands of dollars in development costs for the required safety-related documentation.”

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**New Members**

ASLRRA is pleased to welcome three associate business members to our membership rolls.

**L.G. Barcus and Sons, Inc.**, based in Kansas City, Kan., is a contractor that performs a variety of tasks including shoring projects adjacent to railroad lines, bridge tie replacements, bridge repairs and replacements. In order to minimize the interruption of railroad traffic, Barcus has completed several bridge replacements in 24 hours or less. Daniel Gibson, chief estimator, is our primary contact and can be reached on daniel.gibson@barcus.com.

**Gerdau** has provided railcar dismantling services in North America for over 50 years. Its strategically located sites accept large volumes of all car types, with the generated scrap being consumed by its on-site mill. It also offers mobile dismantling services. Dave Gill, manager of railcar processing, is our primary contact and can be reached on David.Gill@gerdau.com.

**Shell Oil Products U.S.**, based in Houston, provides the highest quality lubricants alongside the proper lubrication processes and services that create sustainable value for customers. Services include storage and handling, lubricant application, training, contamination control, oil conditioning monitoring, lubricant dispensing and lubrication scheduling. Our primary contact is Business Development Manager Matt Webster, who can be reached on shannon.webster@shell.com. ASLRRA thanks Norfolk Southern’s Brandon Sherrod for recommending Shell join ASLRRA.

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**FAMES Releases Fatal Accident Pattern Report**

In its latest report, titled “Fatal Accident Patterns - Hours of Day,” the Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-Of-Way Employees and Signalmen (FAMES) Committee used data to examine 52 fatal accidents since February 1, 2017.

The FAMES Committee charted the number of fatalities that occurred during each hour of the day. Results showed that of the 55 fatalities resulting from the 52 accidents, nine happened between 1 and 2 p.m., which was significantly more than at any other hour of the day.
As a result, the FAMES Committee report also provides recommendations for railroads in order to prevent accidents at times like 1 p.m., when employees might be returning to duty from lunch or other periods of inactivity.

**FRA Re-establishes Railroad Safety Advisory Committee**

The Federal Railroad Administration announced it is re-establishing the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) via a new charter, which will be effective for two years from the date the charter is filed with Congress.

The RSAC provides information and advice regarding railroad safety issues to the administrator of the FRA. ASLRAA has previously been a member of the committee, which has not held a meeting since May 2017.

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**New Law Reauthorizes FAA, NTSB**

On October 5 President Trump signed H.R. 302, which includes a five-year reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and a package of disaster program reforms.

The new law also reauthorizes the National Transportation Safety Board, providing funding of over $111 million in fiscal year 2019, which will increase by $1 million each year until 2022.
ASLRA Events

Don’t Miss ASLRA’s Final Fall Regional Meeting!

Central/Pacific Region Meeting, San Diego, Calif., Nov. 12-14
Click here to register today! Also, don’t miss the California Short Line Railroad Association’s fall reception and train ride Nov. 11-12!

Finance & Administration Seminar and General Counsel Symposium, San Diego, Calif., Nov. 14-16
ASLRA’s General Counsel Symposium and Finance & Administration Seminar is the must-attend event of the fall for all small railroad personnel in the finance and legal sectors. These conferences offer dynamic agendas with top-notch speakers and engaging sessions that will benefit human resources, finance, and legal professionals at all levels of your organization. Click here for a complete list of presentations or to register.

Webinars

Assessor Webinar Series - Communication - 10/18/2018
The Short Line Safety Institute will present a series of webinars focusing on what it has discovered after conducting 55 safety culture assessments. This webinar discusses effective communication and how to enhance communication practices.

Click here for more ASLRA events.

Industry Events

Click here for a listing of industry events.

Views & News is published by American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Please contact Amy Krouse, Editor, with any questions or comments.