Reminder: ASLRRA Offices Will be Closed December 24, 2018 – January 1, 2019
The next edition of Views and News will be published January 9, 2019

ASLRRA Now Accepting Nominations for All Awards

Safety Professional and Safety Person of the Year - Deadline Extended

The deadline has been extended to nominate a railroad management employee or railroad employee who makes an exceptional contribution to his or her company’s safety culture.

Click here to view criteria for the safety professional award, and here to view criteria for the safety person award. Nominations should be submitted via e-mail to Crystal Gitchell at cgitchell@aslrra.org.

Business Development Awards

ASLRRA’s Business Development Awards, formerly known as the Marketing Awards, recognize Class II and III railroads who have designed and enacted innovative and successful marketing initiatives in the small railroad industry.

Criteria for the business awards can be found here. Please submit nominations to Cara Boyle at cboyle@aslrra.org no later than February 1.

Veterans Recruitment Award

The 2018 Richard Timmons Veterans Recruitment Award will recognize an industry company (railroad or supplier) that exhibited successful Veterans Recruitment efforts through their hiring and retention practices.

Completing this survey will put your company in consideration for this award. Contact Amy Westerman at awesterman@aslrra.org for more information.
Donate Today to Support Industry Education and Scholarships

As you finalize your 2018 year-end giving, please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Short Line Education Fund. The Short Line Education Fund is a 501c3 charitable organization established to support industry training and certification programs; communicate the value of short line railroads; and build a valuable library of industry-specific research, education and training materials.

Your tax-deductible donation will fund scholarships for employees of small railroads and support the launch of a leadership development training program to serve the next generation of industry leaders.

Next Joint FHWA/FRA Webinar to be Held in Late January

The next webinar in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) joint webinar series will be held January 30. Discussion will center on agency and community coordination.

A representative from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) will discuss SHRP2 efforts and a state Department of Transportation speaker will talk about their project’s success with community coordination.

Participation is free but registration is required no later than January 25. Click here to register for the event.

Pressurized Acetylene Tanks Present Dangers in Employee Vehicles

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has asked ASLRA to remind its members of the dangers of storing pressurized acetylene tanks inside employees’ vehicles. FRA states that there have been three incidents over the last two months.

In two incidents, ASLRA is told, welding or grinding was being conducted within ten feet of trucks when tanks exploded. In the third incident, a tank allegedly exploded spontaneously, possibly due to a leak. Investigations into these incidents continue. Note that in one incident it appears the tanks were left “on” with the gages still in place and the safety caps were not attached.
New York Senator Vows to Restore Short Line Tax Credit

According to an article in The Post-Star, a New York newspaper, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) promised to restore the 45G railroad tax credit for short line railroads during his tour of a former General Electric dewatering plant in Fort Edward, N.Y.

While much of the site remains unused, rail cars are now bringing canola meal there for local farmers, who use it for animal feed. The farmers previously got the feed trucked in to a nearby terminal, which was shut down.

The tour was meant to showcase plans to turn the facility into an industrial park, while highlighting the need for a larger gas line to make those plans a reality. Local officials told Schumer about the need for federal grants to help pay for a bigger line, which would benefit not only the industrial park but the nearby town of Irving Tissue.

Hope Dims for Tax Package as Year End Nears

We have entered perhaps the final legislative week of the 115th Congress and the lame-duck session will soon conclude. Congress has passed yet another short-term funding extension, which expires December 21, and is now working to wrap up a few other legislative efforts. The resolution of the short line railroad 45G tax credit is still up in the air - Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas) of the House Ways & Means Committee has released another tax proposal that among many other things would make 45G permanent, but the path for that bill is unclear in both the House and the Senate.

We continue to advocate for an end-of-the-year bipartisan tax package that will address the short line railroad 45G tax credit. ASLRA is also keeping a close eye on Congressional leadership elections, changing chairmanships and ranking members, and the still outstanding FY2019 appropriations bills, all of which will impact short line priorities such as the BUILD and CRISI grant programs and policy issues surrounding maximum truck sizes and weights.
As you have likely seen covered on the national news, there is also a real possibility of a partial government shutdown if Congress and the President can’t come to agreement on the full suite of FY19 appropriations bills. Funding for a southern border wall is the primary driver of the dispute despite being a relatively tiny monetary piece of the package being considered.

**ASLRRA Events**

**Last Chance to Reserve Your Space in the Winter Short Line Connector**

This edition will receive bonus distribution at CONNECTIONS 2019. Advertising in the magazine is a cost-effective way to get your marketing message in front of about 1,000 ASLRRA short line and supplier members, raise your profile in the industry and show support for your association. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Contact ASLRRA’s Kathy Keeney via [e-mail](mailto:keeney@aslrra.org) or on (202) 585-3439 to reserve your space today.

[Click here](#) for more ASLRRA 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.