Baker Begins Tenure as ASLRRA President

February 4, 2019 was Chuck Baker’s first day on the job at the ASLRRA.

“I couldn’t be happier to be on board at the short line association. It’s a world-class organization representing an incredible group of entrepreneurs and rail industry professionals who every day play a key role in moving and connecting America,” said Baker.

“I’m beginning my role at a particularly exciting time as the annual conference planning is in full swing and we’re preparing for Railroad Day on the Hill 2019. I’m looking forward to working with the Association staff, the railroad and associate members to make both events useful and enjoyable for all.”

Baker’s 15-year career working with short line members of ASLRRA as a partner at Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell, LLC, and his experience running associations such as the National Railroad Construction & Maintenance Association (NRC), will enable him to hit the ground running at ASLRRA.

Act Now to Secure Advertising in CONNECTIONS Convention Program

Interested in raising your profile at the annual convention and getting your brand/latest products in front of railroad decision-makers? Want to drive more traffic to your booth in the Expo Hall? Then you won’t want to miss the chance to place a cost-effective ad in our Official Convention Program that contains key need-to-know information about the event and is distributed on-site to all attendees.

Another valuable option is a convention sponsorship. There are still several high-profile sponsorship opportunities available that will provide great visibility for your company before, during and after the convention. Contact ASLRRA Vice President Kathy Keeney for more details.

Membership Dues Notices Sent Out

Membership dues invoices have been emailed to all member companies. Please contact our Accounting Department on (202) 628-4500 if you did not receive your invoice. Dues can be paid by check, credit card or wire transfer.

If your company is exhibiting at this year’s convention, please note that dues payments must be made by March 15. Thanks in advance for prompt payment of your dues.
Dept. of Labor Accepting Applications for HIRE Vets Medallion Award

The U.S. Department of Labor began accepting applications for its HIRE Vets Medallion Award. The award recognizes businesses and organizations for their role in recruiting, employing and retaining veterans.

Awards will be given based on employer size, with two levels of awards, platinum and gold, for each size category. Large employers have 500 or more employees, medium employers have 51 to 499 employees, and small employers have 50 or less employees.

Applications for the awards are due April 30. Follow this link for more information or to apply.

Fuchs Designated STB Vice Chairman

Patrick Fuchs, who was sworn in last month as a member of the Surface Transportation Board, has been designated its vice chairman for 2019. The vice chairmanship changes each year, rotating between board members.

Before joining the STB, Fuchs was a senior professional staff member who worked for the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation under Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.). Fuchs focused on surface transportation and maritime issues and played an important role in creating major railroad legislation.

ASLRA Co-Signs Rebuild Rural Letter Addressed to House, Senate Leaders

ASLRA joined over 240 organizations in signing a letter from the Rebuild Rural Coalition to the leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. The letter encourages legislators to quickly pass bipartisan legislation to help improve and strengthen the nation’s infrastructure.

The letter focuses specifically on the importance of infrastructure improvements in America’s rural communities, highlighting the need for better access to things like clean drinking water, dependable surface transportation, reliable power and high-speed internet in these areas.

The Rebuild Rural Coalition also notes the negative effect deteriorating infrastructure can have on the American economy, particularly because rural communities are home to most of the country’s manufacturing and agricultural production.
FRA Webinar to Help with State of Good Repair Grant Applications Now Available Online

The Federal Railroad Administration will not reschedule a webinar previously slated for Jan. 8. The webinar was titled “How to Apply for Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Program Grants.”

The recording and presentation file of an earlier webinar of the same name, held in December, can be found on the FRA website.

NTSB Releases Biennial Most Wanted List

On Feb. 4 the National Transportation Safety Board published its Most Wanted List for 2019-2020, highlighting the top safety improvements seen by the board as necessary to prevent accidents, injuries and deaths across all modes of transportation.

In addition to general ideas like eliminating distractions and ending drug and alcohol impairment, the NTSB mentioned fully implementing positive train control and ensuring the safe shipment of hazardous materials. On its website, the NTSB specifically mentioned the need for the railroad industry to meet existing federal deadlines for replacing or retrofitting rail tank cars to prevent accidents involving hazardous materials.

ASLRA Fly-ins Educate Legislators on Importance of 45G Tax Credit

As you are already aware, H.R. 510, which is largely identical to the BRACE Act in the 115th Congress, has been introduced. ASLRA hosted a fly-in Jan. 30 to build support for the bill in both the House and Senate, and will hold another on Feb. 7.

Less than one month since its introduction, H.R. 510 already has 72 co-sponsors in the House, representing 36 states and the District of Columbia.

Now is a great time to call your representatives and ask them to cosponsor H.R. 510 if they have not done so already. A Senate version of the 45G tax credit has also been introduced as stand-alone legislation. We are happy to announce that S. 203 already has 13 co-sponsors. Our priority today is letting Congress know how important the 45G tax credit is to our industry. Tax time is approaching and our credit has been expired since the end of 2017. If your representative is already a co-sponsor of H.R. 510, take this opportunity to thank him or her for being an early supporter.

If your representatives are new to Congress, take some time to tell them about your operations in their district. Members of Congress love hearing from the businesses they represent and many would appreciate an opportunity to learn more by visiting your railroad. Feel free to reach out to your team in D.C. if you are interested in hosting an event. Contact Will Resch at will.resch@cch-llc.com. We are here to help.
ASLRRRA Announcements

ASLRRRA Mourns Passing of Former Board Chairman

Samuel Russell Tedder died Jan. 29 in Little Rock, Ark. He was 83.

Tedder once served as Chairman of the Board and was on the executive committee from 1983 to 1988 of the American Short Line Railroad Association, as the ASLRRRA was previously known. He was a member of the operating-maintenance committee and a director and regional vice president.

After graduating high school at 16, Tedder became a clerk at the Live Oak Perry & Gulf and South Georgia railroads. He worked with railroads his entire career, even during a brief stint in the Army, until he retired in 1997.

Even in retirement, Tedder was involved with the rail industry. He ran a railroad management consulting business for five years, and wrote books and articles on railroad history.

Tedder is survived by his wife, Carolyn, daughter Jennifer Tedder Booth and son-in-law Steven Booth and two grandchildren, Harrison and Elizabeth.

Longtime Conrail Safety Leader Dies

Neil Ferrone, who retired as chief risk and regulatory compliance officer from Conrail in October 2018, died Jan. 29 at age 62. He had worked for Conrail for 42 years, priding himself in “bleeding Conrail blue.”

Ferrone started his career in the rail industry in 1974 as a trackman on the Central Railroad of New Jersey. He stayed with the company when it merged into Conrail two years later. In 1984 he moved to the safety department, which Conrail officials note was the perfect fit.

During his time at Conrail Ferrone worked with Ronald Batory, the current administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration. Batory recognized Ferrone for his contributions to safety at Conrail, which helped create a safer, more stable work environment.

Ferrone is survived by his wife, Judy, and two children.
New Members

ASLRRA is pleased to welcome the following new members:

**Midwest Mole, Inc.**, based in Greenfield, Indiana, is a trenchless contractor specializing in all types of trenchless work. Services include boring, tunneling, directional drilling, pipe rehabilitation, pipe cleaning, and vacuum excavation.
Our contact: **Rail Division Manager David Howell**

**Ozark Mountain Railcar**, based in Kirbyville, Missouri, is a leading brokerage firm in North America for the sale of railroads and railroad equipment including locomotives, freight, MOW & passenger equipment.
Our contact: **CEO John Suscheck**

**Port Harbor Railroad**, based in Granite City, Illinois, is a Class III carrier that operates 10.5 miles of track. It serves stations in Granite City and Madison, Illinois, and connects with Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis (TRRA). Commodities hauled include aggregates, chemicals, ethanol, forest products, metallic ores and minerals and steel and scrap. A special thanks to Farmrail’s Judy Petry for recommending this short line join ASLRRA.
Our contact: **VP-Marketing Carl Yount**

ASLRRA Events

**Webinars**

**ASLRRA Young Professionals Committee: What You Need to Know** - 2/27/2019
This webinar will discuss the ASLRRA Young Professionals Committee and why it is important to join. We will review the committee’s mission, vision and future goals and describe resources members can use to keep abreast of all future activities.

[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 questions or comments.