Railroad Day on Capitol Hill Registration Closes Friday, May 3

This year’s Railroad Day on Capitol Hill is next week, May 8, and online registration ends Friday, May 3. Don’t miss the opportunity to join the large contingency of industry representatives who will meet with lawmakers in Washington, D.C. to discuss the important issues facing short line and regional railroads.

With the number of co-sponsors of House bill H.R. 510, which would make the 45G tax credit permanent, at 172 of the 218 votes needed, having more Railroad Day participants meeting with lawmakers could have a vital impact. Telling the story of short line and regional railroads in person helps those in Congress understand the crucial role these companies play in the U.S. economy.

Participants who have already registered should look out for an email with instructions regarding online tools to help navigate the day’s events.

Second DOT BUILD Grant Webinar Scheduled for Thursday; ASLRRRA Schedules Webinar for May 16

The second of five webinars discussing various aspects of the application process for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program will be held May 2. It is titled “How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants - Tribal and Rural Applicants.” Future webinars will be held May 7, 9 and 14.

According to a recent press release, up to half of this year’s allotted BUILD funds will go to rural projects that will enhance transportation for rural communities, making this particular webinar particularly appropriate. The first webinar, held April 30, explained the process of competing for BUILD grants as applied to all applicants.

To help Association members applying for funding like BUILD grants, ASLRRRA has teamed up with experts to offer grant-writing services through its member discount program.

ASLRRRA will be hosting a webinar directed to Short Line Railroads on May 16. More information to come in an upcoming e-blast.
RRB Discusses Medicare for Railroad Families

In its most recent news release, the Railroad Retirement Board provides basic information regarding Medicare eligibility and coverage for railroad retirement annuitants and their families.

The document identifies the four basic parts of Medicare and explains eligibility, enrollment, costs, premiums and other topics related to medical coverage. All railroad retirement beneficiaries age 65 or over and others who are eligible for railroad retirement benefits are covered by this program.

Transportation Research Board Seeking Nominations for Humanitarian Award

The Transportation Research Board is accepting nominations for its Sharon D. Banks Award for Humanitarian Leadership in Transportation.

The award recognizes excellence in people-oriented initiatives in transportation, and is awarded to a person who best exemplifies the character of award namesake Sharon D. Banks. Recognition can be based on a specific accomplishment or achievements over a period of time.

Letters of nomination are due July 31. See the link above for more information about the award and how to submit a nomination.
Congresswoman Tours Whiting Corporation Manufacturing Facility

Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-Ill.) toured the Illinois headquarters and manufacturing facility of ASLRA supplier member Whiting Corporation on April 23.

During the tour, Kelly learned about the company’s business operations. Whiting Corporation manufactures overhead cranes and railcar maintenance equipment for Class I and short line railroads. The facility in Monee houses both corporate offices and almost 170,000 square feet of manufacturing space and employs 160 people.

In addition to the tour, Kelly participated in a policy discussion focusing on the 45G tax credit, freight rail transportation and free trade policies. Industry representatives thanked Kelly for being a co-sponsor of the current bill to make the 45G tax credit permanent.

“ASLRA thanks Representative Kelly for her support of Whiting Corporation and other key businesses in Illinois that support the rail industry and the entire national economy,” said ASLRA President Chuck Baker in a press release.

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ASLRA Out and About

Association of American Railroads Tank Car Committee Meets in Denver

ASLRA’s JR Gelnar represented short lines at the Tank Car Committee meeting in Denver, Co. the week of April 15. Various working groups, the Federal Railroad Administration and Transport Canada provided updates. At the meeting the committee reviewed the core elements of Appendix B.

RSAC Meets in Washington, DC

Jo Strang attended the Federal Railroad Administration’s Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) meeting this week on behalf of ASLRA. The meeting covered a wide variety of topics and procedures were agreed to. Working groups were formed for the following areas: passenger rail safety, tourist and historic railroads, track geometry, Part 225 accident reporting, train dispatcher certification, and railroad signalmen certification.
ASLRRRA Events

Webinars

**Tax Reform Traps and Issues** - 5/15/2019

This webinar will discuss some of the tax traps and pitfalls related to the 2017 Tax Reform Act and explain how to deal with them.

[Click here](#) for more ASLRRRA 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.