Deadline is TODAY for Central Pacific Region Meeting Hotel and Early Bird Registration

Today is the last day to register with early bird rates, and to secure a room in the hotel block for the first of ASLRRA’s regional meetings, the Central Pacific Region Meeting held September 11-13 in San Antonio, Texas.

In addition to the excellent general education sessions offered at all regional meetings, the Central Pacific meeting will feature the regulatory module from ASLRRA’s Leadership Development Training, which takes place alongside general meeting events. The leadership development’s regulatory module training focuses on regulatory programming starting with federal regulations 101 and covering Parts 217, 218, 219, 225 and 228.

Do not miss a chance to experience the educational and networking opportunities an ASLRRA regional meeting offers. ASLRRA’s other regional meetings include the Eastern Region Meeting on October 7-9 in Columbus, Ohio and the Southern Region Meeting held November 11-13 in Charlotte, N.C. ASLRRA’s Finance and Administration and General Counsel Symposium takes place immediately after the Eastern Region Meeting, October 9-11 in Columbus.

Though Its Fundraisers are a Blast, ASLRRA’s Short Line Education Fund is Serious Business

A win-win situation is one in which all parties involved benefit. Nothing fits that description better than ASLRRA’s annual silent auction to raise money for its Short Line Education Fund, when participants can walk away with coveted prizes while simultaneously funding the initiatives meant to develop crucial education and training programs for those in the short line industry.
In all the fun and excitement the silent auction brings to ASLRRA’s convention, the Association never loses sight of its goal to use the Short Line Education Fund to support high-priority industry education and training initiatives, build a foundation of short line data and industry research and provide scholarships to employees of small railroads so they can attend industry events and access educational resources.

This year the education fund is supporting new initiatives, like helping underwrite the General Code of Operating Rules Training Seminar held in July by ASLRRA and member Iowa Northern Railways, which provided operating rules training for railroads that have adopted the GCOR.

Another of the education fund’s projects is the Leadership Development Training program created by ASLRRA and the Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI). The training comprises two portions - one focused on leadership and the other on regulatory programming.

While the annual silent auction is very successful, it does not provide the fund’s sole financial support. Monetary donations made throughout the year are crucial. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Short Line Education Fund may accept tax-deductible donations from individuals and corporations, which can be made by clicking on the link here.

This might look like a typical vacation selfie, but the people in this photo, (L-R) ASLRRA Safety and Training Committee Chair Mitch Harris, Jason Ward, Beth Harris, Janet Brown, Susan Gelnar and ASLRRA Vice President of Safety and Compliance JR Gelnar, are showing how much fun it can be to support ASLRRA’s Education Fund. By submitting a winning bid to stay at the Maine vacation home of Jason Ward, managing partner at ASLRRA supplier member Industrial Search Partners, Harris, Gelnar and their spouses and friends are helping ASLRRA develop important education and training programs for member railroads and their employees.

Position Available: Director, Office of Safety Analysis
The FRA is looking for an executive to serve as the Director, Office of Safety Analysis for the Office of Railroad Safety. The Director is the principal program advisor to both the Deputy Associate Administrator and the Associate Administrator in advancing the mission of FRA railroad safety. More info:
https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/538902000
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Issues Call for Applications for Rail Transportation and Rail Freight Assistance Programs

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its two rail grant programs, the Rail Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) and the Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP).

Eligible organizations include freight railroads, freight railroad-served shippers and economic development entities. All those eligible can apply for funding through either program. Last year, the programs awarded a total of $23 million to 27 different freight-rail projects.

Applications are due August 30. More information and the applications can be found at the PennDOT website.

Washington UTC Now Accepting Applications for Safety Grants

The Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) is accepting applications for grants that will help fund safety improvements at grade crossings or along railroad track.

Funding is provided through the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) and is generally limited to $20,000 for each project. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 1, 2021. Railroads, local governments and other agencies may apply.

Please remember, ASLRRA’s Member Discount Program includes access to experts who can assist in the submission of grant applications. ASLRRA’s preferred providers are committed to providing ASLRRA members exceptional service at competitive pricing.

Position Available: Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Railroad Safety

The FRA is looking for an executive to serve as the Deputy Associate Administrator (DAA) for the Office of Railroad Safety. The DAA is the principal advisor to the Associate Administrator in advancing the mission of FRA railroad safety. More info: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/538901700

CC&H and ALSRRA Team Members Visit Maryland Midland Railroad
Representatives from ASLRRA and lobbying firm Chambers, Conlon and Hartwell take a picture in front of a locomotive during a visit to ASLRRA member Maryland Midland Railway. Participants toured the railroad’s Union Bridge, Md. property and spoke with company leaders and employees.

Maintaining strong relationships with member railroads enables ASLRRA and its partners to understand the needs of railroads and how best to work on behalf of Association members.

*Photo from Maryland Midland Railway.*

L to R: Fred Oelsner, (ASLRRA), Will Resch (CC&H), Crystal Gitchell (ASLRRA), Madeleine Stern (REMSA), Ryan Solt, Max Dyson (ASLRRA) and Emily Smith (SLSI).

---

**ASLRRA Out and About**

**Keith Borman Represents ASLRRA at Various Meetings**

ASLRRA’s General Counsel Keith Borman represented the Association at Union Pacific’s Short Line Advisory Group meeting in Omaha, Neb., and at the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel in Denver, Co. July 28-31.

The trial counsel association’s 65th annual meeting was meant for railroad lawyers and claims professional to address current issues facing the railroad industry.
ASLRRRA Announcements

To further tell the short line story, ASLRRRA will profile some of its members who are noteworthy movers and shakers in the railroad industry. These railroads’ savvy decision-making and ingenuity make their business achievements worth sharing.

Palmetto Railways Projects Demonstrate the Key Role Railroads Play in Economic Development

It can sometimes be difficult to convince those outside the railroad world that the U.S. freight rail industry is more than coal-powered choo-choos chugging along the track, and black smoke spewing from the chimneys. In fact, modern freight railroad companies are often pushing the boundaries of technological innovation in an effort to more safely and efficiently move goods around the country, and these efforts make railroads an integral part of local, state and national economies.

An August 1 message from South Carolina’s Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, recognizes the contributions of ASLRRRA member Palmetto Railways to the state’s economy, noting two projects in particular that will help stimulate economic development and make connections to important regional infrastructure.

Palmetto Railways will construct and operate the Navy Base Intermodal Facility on the former Charleston Naval Complex. The facility, located on a 118-acre site, will serve as a key connecting point between major roadways, the South Carolina Ports Authority and both of the state’s Class 1 rail carriers, CSX and Norfolk Southern.

The project comprises six different elements, such as the construction of a new overpass and rail connections, and Palmetto Railways plans to develop the intermodal facility itself with a focus on state-of-the-art technology meant to reduce noise and air emissions and be more environmentally responsible.

Another Palmetto Railways project involves building approximately 28 miles of new rail line in Berkeley County, S.C. to connect Camp Hall Commerce Park to an existing Class 1 rail network. The Surface Transportation Board recently approved the plan to build the new rail line, which will support the area’s infrastructure needs and help alleviate future congestion that would result from shipments to and from Volvo Cars and other Camp Hall Commerce Park tenants.

As Secretary Hitt can attest, freight rail in South Carolina is “a valuable part of the state’s infrastructure” and “an economic development engine.”
ASLRRRA Webinars

Check Out ASLRRRA’s Top Rated On Demand Webinars

ASLRRRA has a wealth of educational webinars available online with a quick click. Visit the On Demand Webinars resource library on the ASLRRRA website to access dozens of relevant and timely webinar recordings on a wide range of topics, including some of our most popular marketing and business development titles:

*Not in my Backyard: Responding/Reacting to NIMBYism in the Community*
Presented By: Janet Gilbert, Partner, Fletcher & Sippel LLC

*Using Social Media as a Business Development Tool*
Presented By: Stacey Mansfield, Director of Public Relations, Norfolk Southern

*A Practical Guide to the Railroad Industry Agreement (RIA)*
Presented By: Keith Borman, ASLRRRA SVP & General Counsel & Mike Ogborn, Ogborn Consultants

Check out these popular recordings and dozens more covering finance, communications, human resources and technology by visiting ASLRRRA’s On Demand Webinars resource library. On Demand Webinars are available FREE to ASLRRRA members and by subscription to non-members.

[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.