Rail Industry Leader Stan Herzog Passes Away

ASLRA joins supplier member Herzog in mourning the death of Board Chairman Stan Herzog, who passed away on August 2. He was 70.

Herzog’s father, William Herzog, founded the company in 1969, and the younger Herzog started with the company as a foreman on asphalt paving projects. He was later promoted to project superintendent and eventually held the role of president of Herzog Enterprises and Chairman and CEO of Herzog Contracting Corporation.

According to a company statement, Herzog’s leadership led to the business becoming one of the largest private contractors in the country to provide construction, operations and maintenance services for railroads and transit clients. Herzog was the company’s longest-serving employee and majority shareholder.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to St. Joseph Christian School in St. Joseph, Mo. or to a charity of the donor’s choice.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation Solicits Applications for Freight Rail Grants

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has issued a request for applications for its Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) for fiscal year 2020. The program’s focus is to provide funding for projects that increase or improve rail transportation to shippers in Massachusetts.

A total of up to $3 million is available for projects that help provide wider access to freight rail services and ultimately stimulate economic development. The maximum possible award per project is $500,000, and funding requests cannot exceed 60 percent of the total project cost.

Applications are due August 29. Follow the link above to learn about application requirements and eligible applicants and project activities. The application itself can be found here.

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

Federal Railroad Administrator Ronald Batory testified about the status of positive train control systems before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on July 30.

Batory told lawmakers that although PTC was installed on almost 90 percent of the route miles subject to the federal mandate requiring implementation, “significant work” was still needed before the technology could be fully operational by the end of 2020.

Of the six short line railroads required to implement PTC systems on certain main lines, one has been operating since 2018, while the others are currently conducting field testing and expect to begin operations during the third quarter 2019.

Regarding interoperability, host railroads reported 17 percent of tenant railroads had achieved interoperability, 33 percent were installing PTC hardware and 38 percent had moved to interoperability testing as of March 31.
Congressman Greg Pence Visits Indiana Eastern Railroad Headquarters

On July 30 Congressman Greg Pence (R-Ind.) visited the Cottage Grove, Ind. headquarters of ASLRA member Indiana Eastern Railroad (IERR).

Pence participated in a tour of the railroad and learned about the services IERR provides.

“Congressman Pence has shown his continued support for the railroad industry and we ask that other lawmakers in the State of Indiana join Pence in his support for the 45G tax credit extension. This extension will ultimately provide a vehicle for short lines to rehabilitate track infrastructure, thus increasing efficiencies that provide economic value to our communities and increased safety to the general public,” said IERR CEO George Andres in a press release.

Pence, who is a co-sponsor of the bill to make the 45G short line infrastructure tax credit permanent, also visited ASLRA member Madison Railroad in Indiana last December.
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.

Maryland Midland Railway’s Got the Dirt – Keeping 7,000 Truckloads from Clogging Local Roads

Getting a contract to haul dirt might not seem like a significant achievement, but there is more to the agreement between ASLRRRA member Maryland Midland Railway (MMID) and Carroll County in Maryland than meets the eye.

According to the $562,400 contract, MMID will haul roughly 75,000 cubic yards of dirt from Westminster, Md., where a new stormwater management pond will be built, to a former wastewater treatment lagoon and a private farm in New Windsor, Md.

One of the most significant impacts of the project is the pressure it will take off of local roads. The railroad’s 150 or so round trips will take the place of 7,000 dump truck loads, which watershed restoration engineer Chris Heyn estimates would comprise 20 trucks per day making five round trips each. The potential impact of so many trucks on local roads, traffic and people was of great concern to county officials.

Additionally, MMID’s deliveries will help those in New Windsor, where the dirt will be used to fill a lagoon to be repurposed into a community use project, and will go to a local farmer for agriculture, which shows that moving even the humblest of commodities can have a big impact on business and communities alike.

Utilize ASLRRRA’s Member Discount Program to Save Money on Various Products and Services

Aside from the many other benefits of an ASLRRRA membership, members have access to the Association’s Member Discount Program, which offers discounted products and services from carefully selected preferred providers.

Preferred providers include Elavon, eVerifile, GREX and CAPTRUST, which offer services related to payment processing, contractor screening, track maintenance and retirement plans. Members can also utilize ASLRRRA’s grant writing services, through which experts help railroads apply for various national and local grants, including Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grants, Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants, and others like the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP), which is currently soliciting applications.

Follow the link above for more information.

Have a product or service that ASLRRRA members can benefit from? Contact Sabrina Waiss at swaiss@aslrra.org.
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*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

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Industry Events

[Click here](#) for a listing of industry events.

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