IN THIS ISSUE:

ASLRRA Salutes 2015 Rising Stars
Legislative Update
Regulatory Update
Spotlight on Veterans Recruitment
ASLRRA Out and About
News from Members

45G Tax Credit
Ten new Senators have joined this effort in the past three weeks. Co-Sponsors now number 222 in the House and 33 in the Senate.

ASLRRA REGIONAL MEETING
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

2015 Central / Pacific
September 13-15, 2015
Scottsdale, AZ

July 22, 2015

ASLRRA Salutes 2015 Rising Stars

ASLRRA’s Cara Boyle and Kathy Keeney attended a dinner in Baltimore on July 19th honoring Progressive Railroading Magazine’s 2015 Class of Rising Stars. Five Rising Stars are employees with ASLRRA member companies. Note: ASLRRA is forming a Committee of young professionals. For more information please contact Cara Boyle at cboyle@aslrra.org. Read more.

Rising Stars from left to right: Oliver Dolder, Kaleigh Reyes, Charles Rennick, Alanna Strohecker and Stefan Loeb

Legislative Update

ASLRRA Applauds Senate Progress on 45G Tax Credit Legislation

The Senate Finance Committee met to debate legislation put forward by Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to extend expiring tax credits, including the Section 45G railroad track maintenance credit. Linda Darr commented on the substantive changes discussed. The Bill has been approved by the Senate Finance Committee and now moves to the Senate Floor. Read more.

Regulatory Update

Please Complete PTC Survey by 7/31

If your railroad interchanges or traverses a Class I,
Terminal Switching Railroad, Regional Railroad, or another Short Line installing PTC, your railroad may be required to implement PTC as a host or tenant. Help ASLRRA in creating a plan going forward by completing the survey.

**Fall Peak Letters Requested by STB**

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) is again providing ASLRRA’s railroad members the opportunity to submit assessments of their respective abilities to meet expected demands for rail service during the traditional “fall peak”. Please respond promptly so that small and regional railroads’ observations can be digested by STB along with the Class I responses.

**RRIF Loan Applications Receive DOT Recommendations**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) managed Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement (RRIF) Loan Program is currently considering two applications for improvements to short line rail infrastructure recently recommended for approval by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Credit Council. Read more.

**Training Seminar in FRA Region 6**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Watco Companies will host a regulatory training seminar on September 1-3, 2015 at the Intercontinental Kansas City At The Plaza in Kansas City, MO. There is no charge for Railroaders.

**Spotlight on Recruiting Veterans**

ASLRRA's Veterans Recruitment Committee supports and informs exiting military personnel about rewarding career opportunities in the short line railroad industry and also provides the Association's members with tools and information they can use to recruit and hire veterans to their operations. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is your go-to source for information about upcoming Transition Summits and Hiring Fairs. American Job Center is a one-stop-shop for posting your job openings filled with resources to help with attracting, hiring, training and retaining a high quality work force. Read more.

**ASLRRA Out and About**

**Linda Darr Visits New Jersey**

ASLRRA President Linda Darr made a presentation to the New Jersey Short Line Railroad Association on June 24, indicating ASLRRA’s desire to work more closely with state railroad associations.

**Tomas Sakal attends a hearing on Capitol Hill**

ASLRRA's Digital Services Associate Tomas Sakal had the
chance to attend the markup of the Senate Commerce Committee Bill S. 1732 held on July 15. Key changes to the bill agreed upon during the markup include increased funds for auto safety.

Farewell Maitland McManus

Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell (CC&H) Associate Maitland McManus has decided to retire from her career at CC&H and formally pursue her life’s calling as a speech pathologist. For the past four years Maitland has served as a lobbyist and grassroots political director for ASLRA. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

Meet Ashley Bosch

Ms. McManus will be succeeded by CC&H Associate Ashley Bosch. Ms. Bosch joins the ASLRA Washington DC team after having worked at CC&H for three and a half years most recently as the VP of Grassroots Advocacy & Events for the National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association (NRC).

Host your Member of Congress Soon!

Interested in hosting a Member of Congress at your short line railroad during the upcoming recess? Please contact Ashley at 202-715-1247 / ashley.bosch@cc-h LLC.com for more information.

News from Members

Watco Companies, LLC

Watco Companies, LLC, has announced the appointment of Ed McGuire in the role of Executive Vice President – Strategic Planning. Ed is an experienced transportation industry investment banker who has been a key advisor to Watco over the past ten years. Read more.

Strato, Inc.

Strato, Inc. has announced that the Association of American Railroads Coupling System and Truck Casting
Committee has approved the Strato E50BE Knuckle to the AAR M-216 Knuckle Fatigue Test specification (which requires an average fatigue life of at least 600,000 cycles.) The Strato E Knuckle is one of only a few on the market to meet this specification. Read more.