

# NEW JERSEY RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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*MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 19, 2018*



THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW JERSEY RAILROAD ASSOCIATION IS TO PROVIDE AN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF ALL FREIGHT RAILROADS THAT OPERATE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, THEIR CUSTOMERS AND VENDORS TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC GROWTH WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM](http://WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM)**

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We thank **Kathy Pitt and Tim Tierney** of Conrail for hosting a large meeting again!

We apologize to our Jewish members and friends for having the meeting on Yom Kippur. However, this was the only date in September on which Rep. Norcross was available when the meeting was scheduled a few months ago.

**We congratulate Conrail's Rodney Gordon on becoming the new President of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents. This organization was founded in 1881, six years before the Interstate Commerce Commission.**

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 2018**  
**Location: Hilton Garden Inn at Raritan Center, Edison, NJ**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Sept. 25-27, 2018</b>	<b>NEARS Fall Meeting, Westchester, NY</b>
<b>Oct. 8-10, 2018</b>	<b>ASLRRA Eastern Region Meeting, Burlington, VT</b>

## MEETING ATTENDEES

NAME	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Kelvin MacKavanagh	MacKavanagh RR Consulting	609-704-1270
Bob Bailey	NYNJ/Munro	201-232-0389
Bob Ryan	RR Real Estate Consultant	973-220-8963
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT	609-530-2492
Nathan Fenno	NYS&W	607-547-2555
Tom Noon	FRA	732-397-3095
Ben Graziano	Chemistry Council NJ	609-960-3075
Donald B. Hutton	NYNJR	201-433-0360
Rodney Gordon	Conrail	856-231-2004
Matt Van Hatten	HDR.	402-218-9089
Neil Ferrone	Conrail	856-231-2007
Mike Moen	NS	757-823-5442
John McCreavy	SMS Rail	609-868-1342
Dennis Hart	Chemistry Council NJ	609-382-4214
Rodney Oglesby	CSX	484-278-1742
Will Resch	CCH	202-715-2915
Chip Greiner	FRA	201-390-7372
Ronald Sabol	SMART TD	609-396-1994
Rep. Donald Norcross	US House of Representatives	202-225-6501
Michael Maitland	Congressman Donald Norcross	202-225-6501
Ron Baile	Seashore Lines	600-828-7881
Mark Comerota CPA	MCA Accounting	267-297-1313
James Badgley	Rowan College at Burlington Co.	609-314-4678
Mike Fesen	NS	717-319-6870
Thomas Jedic	NS Police Dept.	201-297-1394
John K. Fiorilla	Capehart Scatchard	856-914-2054
Michael Allen	Operation Lifesaver	609-929-6421
Jim Daloisio	Railroad Construction of SJ Inc.	856-423-2220
Pat Abusi	Railroad Construction of SJ Inc.	856-423-2220
Denise Bailey	Norfolk Southern	215-806-9095
Thomas Coleman	National Steel Car	732-299-7321
William Sheppard	Atlantic Rail Services	609-781-0896
Debi Rogers	ICF	202-714-1508
Arthur C. Ivins, Jr.	Hatch & Kirk	215-499-3275
Joe Bowen	FRA	201-249-2759
Jon Bombardieri	CLB Partners	609-392-2332
Chris Petit	ICF	609-335-3284
Joseph Zarriello	KS Engineers	856-206-0892
Brian Smalley	National Steel Car	770-713-2499



## MEETING MINUTES

NJRRRA President Bob Bailey opened the meeting at 10:31 a.m. and gave the safety briefing.

### 1. NJDOT rail grant status.

Andrews Ludasi was the only NJDOT employee at the meeting. However, he said that he could not give an update on rail grants because he works in a different department.

### 2. Chemistry Council of NJ (Dennis Hart).

Dennis Hart, the President of the Chemistry Council of New Jersey, distributed the attached information about the chemistry industry in NJ. Among the highlights are;

- At \$25.5B, it is the largest manufacturing industry in the state.
- It provides 43, 802 direct jobs and 33,556 related jobs.
- The industry invests \$777M to build and update equipment and facilities.
- New Jersey is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest chemistry producing state.
- The chemical industry generates \$710M in state and local taxes and \$1.02B in federal taxes.

The chemical industry likes working with the railroad industry. The Council is opposed to the crude oil bill (S.1883; it wants to protect its commodities.

Dennis Hart said that the chemical industry needs to partner with the railroad industry on issues. We could have an annual conference in late April or early May. Elvin Montero will get in touch with us.

### 3. Remarks by Rep. Donald Norcross (D.-NJ 1<sup>st</sup> District).

Jim Daloisio of Railroad Construction Co.-South Jersey introduced Rep. Norcross, describing his rise through the NJ Assembly, the NJ Senate, and election to the House of Representatives in 2014.

Rep. Norcross said that as a former electrician, he knows Positive Train Control very well. He said that he is the only electrician in Congress! Later on in his remarks, he urged individuals to get into construction trades instead of worrying about having a four-year college degree and the debt which goes with it. There will always be a demand for workers in the construction and related industries, citing the damage caused by Hurricane Florence as a example. Finding these workers is a real problem.

He talked about the new port in Paulsboro, NJ. In order to help the port, he is trying to get a waiver on Russian steel.

He is a strong supporter of spending money on infrastructure, especially the Gateway Tunnel. Rep. Norcross said that he does believe in earmarks.

A co-sponsor of the 45-G tax credit (HR 721), he thinks it could be part of an infrastructure bill in the House of Representatives. On account of uncertainty about future tax policies, he does not think it could be approved now as a permanent tax credit.

Following his remarks, Rep. Norcross was given a tour of the Conrail Operations Center by Supt. Rodney Gordon.

#### **4. Status of rail-related legislation in the US Congress and the NJ Legislature (Will Resch, CCH).**

Will Resch of Chambers, Conlon & Hartwell, the lobbying firm for the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA), joined in the discussions with Rep. Norcross.

Will said that he did not expect that any of the numerous railroad-related bills sitting in House Committees will be passed into law in this Congress as it winds up the second session. Most of these bills have few sponsors.

#### **5. NJRRA reorganization.**

Vice president John McCreavy discussed the reorganization. This included:

- The status of the process for hiring a lobbyist.
- The process for nominating officers. They will be elected for a one-year term beginning on January 1, 2019. Elections and proxy ballots will take place at the meeting on November 14, 2018. Only **paid railroad members** may vote.
- The review of the committees and the membership on these committees. Membership is open to any paid member, not just railroad members.

Pat Abrusi of Railroad Construction Company-South Jersey suggested that there be a Contractors Committee as well.

#### **6. ASLRRA Eastern Region meeting in Burlington, VT on October 8-10, 2018.**

This is the third Eastern Region meeting in Burlington and once again, has a varied program. Among the topics to be covered are technology, safety, PTC, and hazmat training. There is also a train ride on the Green Mountain Railroad on October 8.

At the first meeting, we had Gov. Howard Dean kick off the meeting. This was before he entered national politics. John Snow, the CEO of CSX Corporation, spoke at the meeting in 1997. This occurred while the split-up of Conrail was in progress. He later became the Secretary of the Treasury for the United States.

**7. NJ Railroad Law Enforcement Guide (Thomas Jedic, NS Police).**

Tom Jedic said that he had already presented the Guide to two police associations and receive enthusiastic responses. The Guide, developed by Tom and Lisa Tackach of Railroad Construction Co. of Paterson, NJ can be accessed at [www.uctoa.com](http://www.uctoa.com). The new New Jersey Railroad Association logo will be added next week.

**8. Member reports.**

**a. Operation Lifesaver.**

Michael Allen reported that the national Operation Lifesaver office now has a budget and is going to proceed with restaffing.

Mike said that he has stepped down as NJ Deputy Coordinator for OL. All questions involving events and requests for events should go through Todd Hirt's office at NJDOT. Mike is staying on the OL Board. Public safety training issues can go to Tom Jedic in the Norfolk Southern Police Dept..

**b. Hatch & Kirk.**

Art Ivins said that the Hatch & Kirk EMD maintenance classes have been a great success. Hatch & Kirk is running the classes quarterly with a limit of 15 people per class. The next class is in December; this class is already filled up; the following class will be in March 2019; this is already filling up quickly. The classes are held at Hatch & Kirk's production facility in Alton, IL.

**c. SMART-TD.**

Ronald Sobel discussed the concerns about the recreational marijuana bill being promoted by Governor Phil Murphy and its effect on railroad employees. He thinks that older employees will recognize the risk of using it; he is worried about the younger employees who have grown up in this environment.

**If anyone wants to add to the Member Reports, please let me know. We can add them to the copy of the minutes which will be posted on the website shown on the cover.**

**9. New business.**

New business was handled under the previous items.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn-Raritan Center in Edison, NJ.** We thank Eyal Shapira and the Raritan Central in advance for hosting this meeting.

Elections of officers for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2019 will take place at this meeting. Proxy ballots for **paid** members unable to attend the meeting will be available in advance of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Kel MacKavanagh  
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609-472-8748 (cell)

