

# New Jersey Short Line Railroad Association

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## Meeting Minutes December 14, 2001

# Celebrating Ten Years



## Of Working Together 1991-2001

The New Jersey Short Line Railroad Association is an organization made up of railroads serving the Great State of New Jersey. The purpose of the Association is to address concerns and problems which face Short Line Railroads and to find means of mitigating problems and finding solutions through collective effort and cooperation.

**Visit our website: [www.njshortline.com](http://www.njshortline.com)**

This month's meeting, Friday, December 14, 2001, was held at the Penn Club, New York City. The Association would like to thank **Gordon Fuller** of the **Morristown & Erie Railway** for providing the room and suggesting the location. Also, thank you to **CP, CR, CSXT, NS, and the PBNE** for their sponsorship of the luncheon.

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**Next Meeting:**                      **Friday, January 25, 2002 at 9:00am**

**Location:**                              **NJ DOT Headquarters  
1035 Parkway Avenue  
Trenton, New Jersey**

**NOTE MEETING LOCATION & TIME !**

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Members NJSLRRA:

As another year draws to a close, and we look back at all that has happened, one could say that it has been an eventful year.

And while the events of this year past have taken us to spectacular highs and unfathomable lows, we have made it through.

Best and safe wishes to all on the upcoming year.

S.R.F.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company/Organization</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Steven Friedland	M&E	973-267-4300
Judy Dynia	NYC Police Foundation	212-751-8170
Pam Delaney	NYC Police Foundation	212-751-8170
Jeffrey Sutch	SMS/Penn Jersey Lines	856-467-4800
Bill Phillips	M&E	973-267-4300
Wes Weis	M&E	973-267-4300
Elizabeth Griswold	M&E	973-267-4300
J R Wilson	NY & Greenwood Lake	973-743-5300
Gordon Fuller	M&E	973-267-4300
Bob Bailey	PJRR	201-434-8373
Joseph Iadanza	EJRR	201-339-4639
Matt Reilly	ASLRRRA	202-628-4500
Steve Sullivan	ASLRRRA	202-628-4500
Maggie Silver	Pinsly Railroad Company	413-568-6426
Robert Smith	Pinsly Railroad Company	413-568-6426
Arthur J Erdman	FRA	973-773-1903
Kel MacKavanagh	Consultant	609-704-1270
Fran Hennessy	Norfolk Southern	215-591-3653
Leon Shilton	Allen & Associates	732-936-9794
Rian Nemeroff	Housatonic RR	215-914-0392
Jerry Madden	Manageering Associates/JM Cain	215-545-3900 PA 856-866-0500 NJ
John McCreavy	CPR	610-832-9181
Dave Marsh	CPR	518-383-7214
Bill Wright	Union County	908-272-5968
John Scullin	Conrail	856-231-2010
Tom Collard	SRNJ	609-871-8699
Ron Batory	Conrail	856-231-2003
Bill Bloomfield	NYS&W	201-845-6818
Brian Dowd	CSXT	609-409-2048
John Heffner	NYCH/Attorney	202-737-4335
Ed Fink	Somerset Terminal RR	734-906-5654
Joe Scheide	Canton Agency	800-223-8098
Beth Garguilo	CREW/Lincoln Ins.	800-722-7722
Mike Allen	Allen Associates	732-936-9794
Roy Blanchard	Blanchard Company	215-985-1110
Michael Schaefer	Somerset Terminal RR	612-201-3646
Eric Strohmeyer	Somerset Terminal RR	734-906-5654
Ben Anderson	Anderson Consulting	212-249-1981
John Fiorilla	WSF&R	732-545-2250

The meeting commenced at 11:35am

### **September 11 fund donation**

The meeting was started with a moment of silence to remember those lost in the events of September 11th. We were honored to welcome Pam Delaney and Judy Dynia of the New York City Police Foundation to the meeting for the purposes of presenting a check for the funds raised following the attacks of September 11th. Pam accepted the check, and spoke to the assembled about the Police Foundation, which was founded over 30 years ago to help the families of Officers in need. The Association raised \$6300 to donate to the Police Foundation, and would like to thank the following for their contributions:

Port Jersey Railroad  
SMS-Penn Jersey Lines  
Morristown & Erie Railway  
Muller Bohlin Associates  
New York Susquehanna & Western Railway  
Assemblyman Alex DeCroce  
Watson, Stevens, Fiorilla & Rutter  
Southern Railroad of New Jersey  
Manageering Associates/ JM Cain (Jerry Madden)

### **ASLRRA Safety Training Presentation**

Following lunch, Matt Reilly and Steve Sullivan of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association gave a presentation on the new online training programs being offered to all members. There are currently three programs available at the moment, Basic Hazardous Materials Handling, Basic Safe Yard and Industrial Switching, and Personal Safety Around Rail Equipment. The courses are self paced, can be started and stopped as the user requires, and each takes about two hours to complete. At the end of each course, a 30 question test is administered, and 85% is considered a passing grade. The course material includes multimedia presentations and reference materials, and even after the course is completed, the attendee has access to the course materials for a year following the initial sign-up. The UTU is supporting the program, and the FRA has been given a demonstration, and Administrator Rutter is enthusiastic about the program. The cost is \$25 per course, and more information about the program can be found on the ASLRRA's website [www.aslrra.org](http://www.aslrra.org), or by contacting Steve Sullivan([sullivan@aslrra.org](mailto:sullivan@aslrra.org)) or Matt Reilly ([mreilly@aslrra.org](mailto:mreilly@aslrra.org)) at (202) 628-4500.

### **CREW Presentation**

Beth Gargulio of Lincoln Insurance and Joe Scheide of Canton Agency told the Association of a new health care program that has been established, called CREW. The program is currently open to companies with 10 employees or more, and is a comprehensive health care program providing 24 hour coverage for the employee and his dependents. The program is fully insured, and all benefits are fully guaranteed by reinsurance from Underwriters at Lloyds. The program uses preferred providers in the Beech Street Network, which is the third largest national provider network. If the railroad's employees do not have access to providers in the Beech Street Network, provisions can be made to have an alternate network available to them. The process starts with an evaluation of your company's current policy and a cost comparison to the CREW plan. Con-

tact Beth at 1-800-799-8785 ext 652 (bgarguilo@rjwltd.com) or Joe at 1-800-223-8098 ext 643 (jscheide@cantonagency.com) for more information.

## **Tax Update**

John Fiorilla updated the membership on the suggested way the State of N.J. could tax Class III Railroads on their real estate. He asked the effected members to respond to emails sent regarding how the short lines will respond to the state's request for a new formula to tax them. Fiorilla indicated that he hoped to have a letter to the State (after it is reviewed by everyone) shortly.

## **NYCH Situation**

John Heffner, at the behest of Ron Bridges, spoke to the assembled about a situation that has befallen the New York Cross Harbor. The New York EDC has sought STB approval to abandon the 51st St Yard, which is the tracks the NYCH operates on in Brooklyn. The EDC has made claims that the railroad has dumped carcinogens on the land, and are trying to evict the Cross Harbor. John asked for the Association's help in the matter, and Bob replied that we would take the matter under advisement. If anyone would like to speak with Ron on the matter, he can be reached at (718) 788-3690 or (201) 433-0360

Editor's Note: The following appeared in the Journal of Commerce a week after our meeting, and was sent in Matt Reilly's weekend update.

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE Online 12/21/01

New York files to abandon rail car float line

Updated 12:33 p.m. ET, Fri Dec 21, 2001

The City of New York wants to shut down the New York Cross Harbor Railroad, the last remaining operator of car float service across New York Harbor.

The EDC on Dec. 4 filed an application with the Surface Transportation Board on behalf of the city for "adverse abandonment" of Cross Harbor's First Avenue Yard and Brooklyn Army Terminal facility in Brooklyn.

The city agency in the filing claimed that the railroad "has caused and will continue to cause significant environmental damage to the tracks and facilities by dumping chemicals and pesticides used in the operation and maintenance of a railroad," and that it intends to sue in state court to evict the NYCH from its tracks and facilities.

The EDC also claims that the Cross Harbor has incurred \$20,107.61 in late fees since July 1995. The railroad leases its tracks and facilities from the city.

Cross Harbor executives did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

The EDC said in its filing that the railroad has breached its lease by violating local fire codes and state and Federal environmental law. The agency also said that it plans to continue to use the tracks and facilities as part of a planned re-development and expansion of nearby maritime terminals for water-to-rail cargo transport.

The Cross Harbor operates car float service from its Brooklyn terminal to Jersey City, N.J., where it connects with Conrail and the national rail network.

The filing was the latest setback for the railroad. In 2000, it failed to win an a city contract to operate the city's 21st Street rail facility in Brooklyn. The parent company was later delisted from the New York Stock Exchange after the Security and Exchange Commission raised questions about its financial reporting. The company's shares were fell to 5 cents Friday in over-the-counter trading.

- Stuart Chirls

## **CSX Short Line Meeting and NS-CSXT Resolution Process**

The CSX Short Line Meeting took place December 2-4, and a number of NJ Short Lines attended. CSX showed how it had improved service through their "Better is Cheaper" plan, and they are looking to the Short Lines to increase their business. One other item of note was that the management team basically remained the same from last year, which was seen as a big plus by the attendees. The one big change was the retirement of Mark Bennett, who's post has been filled by Len Kellermann. The Association wishes Mark a happy retirement, and welcomes Len to the Short Line Group.

One item that was not addressed was the resolution process for NS-CSXT issues on Conrail. The process is still under negotiation, and we might have an update at the next meeting.

## **NY & Philadelphia Traffic Club Dinners**

The 94th annual dinner of the Traffic Club of Philadelphia will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2002 at the Philadelphia Marriott Airport. The general reception starts at 6pm, followed by dinner at 7pm. Reservation forms can be found on the club's web site [www.TCPHILA.org](http://www.TCPHILA.org), or contact John McCreavy at (610) 832-9181.

The New York Traffic Club will be having their annual dinner at the end of February, and the Association is considering having table at this year's event. Contact Bob or Steven if you are interested in attending the event.

## **Meetings to Note**

ASLRRRA Railroad Day on the Hill And Legislative Dinner	March 13, 2002	The Washington Court Hotel
TransAction 2002	April 15-17, 2002	Tropicana Casino
2002 ASLRRRA Annual Meeting and Exhibition	April 28-30, 2002	World Center Marriott Orlando

## **Affiliate Members**

Starting with the next update of the website, all affiliate members who have paid their annual dues (\$100), will be listed on a page on the site. Contact Steven for details.