



**Railroads Get Win on PUC Assessment Issue:
Will Receive a \$770,000 Reduction in 2007-08 Assessments**

At a June 5th public meeting of the PUC, Chairman Wendell Holland introduced a motion which was passed on a 4-0 vote to reduce the 2007-08 Railroad assessments by one-third. This action resulted in a savings of \$770,000 for Pennsylvania railroads but still left assessments higher than the 2006-07 assessment levels.

At a meeting immediately following the public meeting between PUC staff (including the Executive Director, Chief Legal Counsel and the Legislative Liaison) and KSRRRA President Michael Fesen, KSRRRA Executive Director, Joe Gerdes, and KSRRRA Lobbyist Mike Long, the PUC informed KSRRRA representatives that they have accepted our request for a collaborative process moving forward in determining next year's assessments.

While not a total win, one-third reduction is a substantial savings for Pennsylvania railroads. The Board of KSRRRA has conferenced to determine additional steps that need to be taken to address the unresolved issues regarding this matter. A meeting with the PUC is planned as well as discussions with legislative leadership.

To achieve this victory, many people played a role including the KSRRRA Board and officers, KSRRRA staff and lobbyist, as well as member railroads who filed legal briefs in the PUC proceedings and those who contacted their legislators. A series of meetings with legislative leaders and PUC officials also took place. Special thanks goes to those mentioned and member railroad lobbyists including, Chip Brightbill, Tony Crisci, Pete Gleason and Dan Beren who participated in the legislative and PUC meetings. The results to date show that KSRRRA members collective voice will be heard if we proceed in a unified and well-planned manner.

New Keystone State Railroad Association Website Launched

The Keystone State Railroad Association website, www.ksrra.com, is now up and running—please visit often. A listing of officers, members, associate members, a mission statement, photo section, calendar of events and legislation we are tracking is listed. A members-only portion of the website is forthcoming; we will keep you informed when this section is available. If you have any suggestions or information for the KSRRRA website, please contact Joe Gerdes, Executive Director.

Elizabeth Bonini Accepts New Position

Elizabeth Bonini, Manager, Planning Division, Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports & Waterways has accepted a new position with PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation effective June 2, 2008. In this position she will be the Planning Manager responsible for managing capital-funded transit projects. We all wish Elizabeth well in her new position.

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On May 20, 2008, Norfolk Southern held a special Operation Lifesaver train ride. The train left the Norfolk Southern Conway Terminal for the Fort Wayne Line eventually crossing onto the Conemaugh Line to Kiski Jct and return. On board were approximately 100 rail enthusiasts from various agencies including: the Beaver County District Attorney's Office, PennDOT, police departments from the surrounding area, the FRA, Norfolk Southern, Homeland Security, and the FBI as well as a few other railroads and agencies. The main purpose of the train ride was to promote rail safety awareness around trains and tracks. For more information about Operation Lifesaver, contact Lugene Bastian, PA Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator at 717-783-8763 or lbastian@state.pa.us.

Grossman to Retire from Genesee & Wyoming at Month's End

A long-time mover and shaker in the short-line industry is calling it quits. Genesee & Wyoming Inc. announced Robert Grossman, vice president of government and industry affairs for the Oregon Region, will retire June 30th. Grossman, having helped establish the Keystone State Railroad Association, is a past President of KSRRA and a long-time member.

Last year, Jerry Vest succeeded Grossman as VP of government and industry affairs and Grossman assumed a part-time role as head of government affairs for the region, which includes the Portland & Western Railroad.

Grossman joined GWI's government and industry affairs department in 2002 after the holding company acquired Emons Transportation Group, which he co-founded and led as chairman, president and chief executive officer for more than 20 years. Emons owned the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Co., St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad (Quebec) Inc., York Railway Co, Penn Eastern Rail Lines and an Auburn, Maine, intermodal terminal. Grossman also has been an active member of several American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association Committees.

"Robert represented GWI in Oregon with the same drive, determination and professionalism that he demonstrated throughout his career at GWI, and he will be missed," said Vest in a prepared statement.

GWI owns and operates 51 regionals and short lines in the United States, Canada, Australia and the Netherlands, and owns a minority interest in a Bolivian railroad.

Legislation

The legislation currently being tracked for the KSRRA membership is now listed on the KSRRA website, www.ksrra.com, under the page entitled "Legislation." If you have any questions or comments, please contact either Mike Long or Joe Gerdes. Much effort is currently focused on the budget process in an effort to secure additional state money for railroad projects. An update will be provided to members after passage of the state budget.

Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Collisions—Top 15 States

(Based on Preliminary 2007 Federal Railroad Administration Statistics)

According to FRA statistics, 2,728 highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred in 2007. A total of 65% of all Year 2007 highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred in these states:

1. Texas	294	2. California	161
3. Indiana	161	4. Illinois	151
5. Georgia	137	6. Louisiana	121
7. Ohio	117	8. Alabama	104
9. Florida	92	10. Iowa	81
11. Pennsylvania	81	12. Kentucky	75
13. Tennessee	71	14. Arkansas	70
15. Mississippi	69		

Trespass Fatalities by State—Top 15 States

(Based on Preliminary 2007 Federal Railroad Administration Statistics)

According to FRA statistics, 486 pedestrian rail trespass fatalities occurred in 2007. A total of 74% of all Year 2007 trespass fatalities occurred in the 15 states listed below:

1. California	82	2. Texas	49
3. Florida	36	4. Illinois	27
5. Pennsylvania	23	6. North Carolina	21
7. Ohio	20	8. New York	18
9. New Jersey	17	10. Georgia	14
11. Indiana	13	12. Arizona	11
13. Massachusetts	10	14. Washington	10
15. South Carolina	9		

As you can see, trespass fatalities are of great concern to our membership. To help build awareness, Executive Dir. Joe Gerdes sent a letter to the editors of the Commonwealth's newspapers, urging Pennsylvanians to stay off railroad property. Quite a few papers helped by publishing it. A copy of the letter can be viewed on the KSRRA website.

KSRRA Calendar—Important Dates

July 1, 2008	2008 Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP) Grant Application period opens	
July 22, 2008	KSRRA Summer Board Meeting, golf outing & reception	Harrisburg, PA
July 23, 2008	RFAC Quarterly Meeting	Harrisburg, PA
July 31, 2008	2008 Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP) Grant Application period closes	
August 1, 2008	2009 Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Rail Funds Application period opens	
August 29, 2008	2009 Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Rail Funds Application period ends	
September 18, 2008	Tri-State Rail Freight Economic Development Conference	Cooperstown, NY
October 13-15, 2008	ASLRRA Eastern Regional Meeting	Williamsburg, VA
May 13—15, 2009	18th Annual PA Rail Freight Conference & Seminar	Harrisburg, PA

Mark Your Calendar: Tri-State Rail Freight Economic Development Conference

The Otesaga Resort Hotel

60 Lake Street, Cooperstown, New York

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Noon	Lunch buffet in the beautiful Dining Room of the Otesaga Hotel	
1 p.m.—5 p.m.	Joint Meeting, TBA	
Suggested speakers:		
Bob McNary, Rochester Regional Director for the Empire State Development Corp.		
Eric Madden, Deputy Secretary for Aviation and Rail Freight, PennDOT		
5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception on the Otesaga Porch	
6:30 p.m.	Dinner in the Otesaga Dining Room	*Gentlemen, Jackets required

Friday, September 19, 2008

9:00 a.m.	Golf – Leatherstocking Golf Course—
**Rated by Golf Magazine as #5 best golf and #5 best lodging in Northeast Region in 2008.	

Please note—There are only 25 rooms available at the Otesaga on a first-come, first-serve basis. Golf is also available on a limited basis. Please contact Melanie Boyer at 607-547-2555 ext 250 or by email at mboyer@nysw.com if you would like a room reserved and/or would like to play golf.

Contacting the KSRRA Staff

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If you have information to submit for upcoming monthly newsletters, please contact Emily Luckenbill. Her contact information is below:

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