

NARR 2026 AGENDA

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

- 5:00 – 7:00 Wednesday Night Welcome Reception (Honore Room)
Join us Wednesday evening for the Welcome Reception, where you can reconnect with colleagues, meet new peers, and set the stage for an engaging and productive conference. Enjoy refreshments and an evening of camaraderie.

Thursday, October 1, 2026 (Empire Room unless otherwise indicated)

- 9:00 – 9:15 Opening Remarks
- 9:15 – 10:15 The RLA at 100: View from the Arbitrator's Seat
Arbitrator Sidney S. Moreland, IV discusses the history of the RLA, and how the unique place of the railroad in U.S. history shaped what continues to be a distinctive place in American labor law. Learn how various portions of the Act, working together, have withstood the test of time.
- 10:15 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 11:45 Signal and Train Communications and Control Systems
Work practices and procedures in railroad signal, train control, and communications systems have been revolutionized with the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC). This panel of expert advocates will trace the evolution of these systems in recent decades and explain how the work of signal employees has expanded and become more specialized. Panelists will enlighten referees on how to weigh these factors in resolving disputes before them for arbitral resolution.
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (Honore Room)
- 1:00 – 2:00 Case Law Updates in Rail Arbitration / The RLA at 100: View from the Bench
This session will provide an in-depth analysis of recent case law developments impacting rail arbitration. Panelists will review key arbitration decisions and judicial rulings that have shaped the interpretation of collective bargaining agreements, disciplinary actions, and claims resolution. Attendees will learn how these rulings may influence future dispute resolution strategies and arbitration outcomes in the railroad industry. Panelists will also touch on key historical judicial interpretations of the RLA.
- 2:00 – 3:00 Say What?
Advocates present a panel of experienced arbitrators with actual — but scarcely believable — scenarios that have arisen during arbitration and the challenge of sorting through the situation to reach an appropriate decision.
- 3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:30 The RLA at 100: View from the Game Show
Rick Radek brings back a conference favorite — NARR Trivia! Whether you're chosen to be a panelist or you're "just" an audience member, you'll enjoy this test of knowledge and memory, with a particular focus on the Railway Labor Act's Centennial.

5:00 – 7:00 Social Reception – Sponsored by Rail Management and Labor (Honore Room)
Unwind and connect at the Thursday Evening Reception, where good company, great conversations, and complimentary food and drinks set the tone for a relaxed and enjoyable evening to round out the day. The reception presents a perfect opportunity to network with colleagues, exchange insights from the day's sessions, and strengthen professional relationships in an informal setting.

Friday, October 2, 2026 (Empire Room unless otherwise indicated)

9:00 – 10:15 The RLA at 100: View from the National Mediation Board
The National Mediation Board (NMB) joins us for an informative session, providing key updates on the agency's activities and initiatives. Board Members share their perspectives on the Railway Labor Act turning 100. Also, Director for the Office of Arbitration Services, Terri D. Brown, will provide statistical insights on arbitration caseloads and funding, offering a comprehensive overview of the Board's role in supporting the railroad industry.

10:15 – 11:30 Sustain, Deny, or Modify? Arbitrators Decide
This interactive session will present case scenarios involving disciplinary actions in the railroad industry. Attendees will review the facts and arguments and hear from experienced arbitrators as they render their rulings – sustaining, denying, or modifying the discipline. This session provides valuable insight into the decision-making process, key factors arbitrators consider, and how different record interpretations can impact the outcome.

12:00 – 1:00 2026 Business Meeting (Members / Associate Members Only) (Crystal Room)