

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS 2015
(In alphabetical order by title.)

No.	Topic
1.	<p>Audits of Employers</p> <p>This session will address both audits conducted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Audit and Compliance division of the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). You will receive advice on how to prepare for, and survive, an audit, as well as information on audit authority, objectives, and scope. Coordination of information between the RRB and IRS will be covered, along with disclosure, confidentiality considerations, and other issues which cross agency lines. The session will discuss some common findings and how you can be confident that you are in compliance.</p> <p>Presentation by: RRB and Internal Revenue Service Representative</p>
2.	<p>BIS Goals</p> <p>This session will provide the new CIO an opportunity to discuss his goals related to RRB computer/automation initiatives relevant to the railroad industry.</p> <p>Presentation by: Ram Murthy, Chief Information Officer, RRB</p>
3.	<p>CT-1 Tax Issues</p> <p>This session will address Form CT-1 reporting issues and the correction Form CT-1X. The session will also discuss the year-end reconciliation of tax deposits. Common CT-1 questions and errors will be addressed.</p> <p>Presentation by: CT-1 Liaison, Internal Revenue Service</p>
4.	<p>Debt Recovery Initiatives</p> <p>The Bureau of Fiscal Operations will provide information on the agency's debt collection initiatives. RRB staff will also introduce the new on-line processes the RRB implements to recover unemployment and sickness benefits under Sections 2(f) and 12(o) of the RUIA.</p> <p>Presentation by: Bureau of Fiscal Operations and Sickness & Unemployment Bureau, RRB</p>
5.	<p>Employer Coverage Issues</p> <p>Do you wonder why some railroads are not covered under the Railroad Retirement Act or why some employers segregate their railroad business from their non-railroad business? This session will provide the answers to these and many more coverage questions. The session will discuss what constitutes coverage under the RRA and RUIA for employers and individual employees, the use of contract services, and how decisions are coordinated between RRB, IRS, and SSA.</p> <p>Presentation by: Robert Perbohner, Management Member's Office, RRB</p>

6.	<p>Executive Session</p> <p>The Management Member of the Board along with his staff and with the Director of Programs will share their perspective on current issues facing the Railroad Retirement Board.</p> <p>Presentation by: Steven J. Anthony, Management Member, and Staff Dr. Michael A. Tyllas, Director of Programs</p>
7.	<p>Experience Rating and Pre-payment Verification</p> <p>This session will give you an overview of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) claims process and a complete look at the Experience Rating system from A to Z. You will learn how your contribution rate is calculated and how the payment and recovery of benefits impacts your rate. Finally, you will see what actions you can take to improve your contribution rate.</p> <p>Presentation by: Policy and Systems and Field Service, RRB</p>
8.	<p>Field Service Initiatives & RRB Internet for Employees <i>(New)</i></p> <p>This session will provide information on changes in the programs and services available to employees and employers through our Bureau of Field Service. This session will also provide an overview of employee applications and services currently available. Your input and ideas will be welcome!</p> <p>Presentation by: Policy and Systems and Field Service, RRB</p>
9.	<p>Future Internet Services for Employers</p> <p>This session will briefly cover all the current services available to employers on the Employer Reporting System (ERSNet) Internet site. The session will also highlight the benefits to employers in using this system; demonstrate new services and discuss future services that will be available to employers via the site.</p> <p>Presentation by: Policy and Systems, RRB</p>
10.	<p>Introduction to Internet Reporting for Employers</p> <p>This session will demonstrate the process for registering your employees for the various on-line reporting forms and services that are available in the Employer Reporting System (ERSNet). You will receive information on the services available; adding and removing users; access levels; and where to find instructions and receive help to navigate the system.</p> <p>Presentation by: Policy and Systems, RRB</p>

11.	<p>Master the Basics I - Creditable Compensation and Service</p> <p>Master the Basics is for anyone who is getting started in the world of railroad retirement. This session will give you a working knowledge of railroad retirement terminology and concepts and cover the various types of creditable compensation (i.e. back pay, separation allowances, pay-for-time-lost). It will also provide you with the foundational knowledge needed to better understand Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) annual reporting requirements. No question is considered too elementary.</p> <p>Presentation by: Policy and Systems, RRB</p>
12.	<p>Master the Basics II – Filing Reports via ERSNet</p> <p>This session covers how to effectively complete and file the service and compensation reports (BA-3, Annual Report; BA-6a, Address Report; BA-9, Separation Report; and BA-11 Gross Earnings Report) via the Employer Reporting System (ERSNet) and how to prepare a prior year adjustment (BA-4, Adjustment report). In addition, alternate filing methods for reports will be discussed, including FTP and secure e-mail.</p> <p>Presentation by: Policy and Systems, RRB</p>
13.	<p>Retirement and Survivor Annuities I & II</p> <p>This session is intended for those individuals covered under the Railroad Retirement Act, and for individuals who work in the human resources area and handle employee questions about benefits. The session will discuss eligibility for RRB annuities, calculation of retirement and survivor benefits, and factors that affect benefits. Educate yourself before making the all-important retirement decision!</p> <p>Presentation by: Joseph Waechter, Management Member's Office, RRB</p>
14.	<p>Short Line and Regional Railroad Issues</p> <p>This session is facilitated by Eric O'Neill from the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. This session is an informal discussion which offers attendees a chance to voice their opinions and make suggestions for changes they would like to see. Attendees will also learn about new payroll accounting and reporting opportunities available to Short Line employers.</p> <p>Presentation by: American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association</p>
15.	<p>SSA Reporting Issues</p> <p>This session will highlight new services for employers available through the Internet, common errors in filing Forms W-2 and W-3 and how to avoid them, and how discrepancies between taxes and earnings are reconciled. The session will explain the options for employers to verify social security numbers of their employees and other enumeration issues.</p> <p>Presentation by, Social Security Administration</p>
16.	<p>Verdicts and Liens</p> <p>This session will discuss the structure of FELA awards and the issues and effect these awards will have on covered employees.</p> <p>Presentation by: Office of General Counsel, RRB</p>

17.

Watching Out for the RRB Trust Funds

Learn the role that RRB's IG has in investigating fraud and abuse and hear about some of the schemes they have encountered, and cases they have pursued in the interest of protecting the RRB's trust fund resources.

Presentation by: Office of the Inspector General, RRB