



Please join the Western Railway Club, along with Railway Age, honoring Norfolk Southern Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, John Orr.

Complimentary Cocktails from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Union League Club of Chicago / 65 West Jackson Blvd.

March 10, 2026

Mr. John Orr, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Norfolk Southern as well as Railway Age's 2026 Railroader of the Year, is an accomplished fourth-generation Railroader who began his career as a craft railroader and union leader, bringing decades of hands-on experience to his leadership. He has held a range of operational and management roles throughout his career and is known across the industry as a proven transformation leader with a strong track record of implementing scheduled railroading to achieve safety and service excellence.

Since being appointed Norfolk Southern Executive Vice President and COO in 2024, John has led railway operations - including safety, transportation, network planning, engineering, and mechanical - with a clear focus on performance, accountability and culture. John's positive impact can be seen in multiple key performance metrics. These include the lowest FRA Personal Injury ratio at NS in a decade; a double-digit improvement in FRA Reportable Train Accidents; leading the rail industry in FRA Main Line Train Accident rates for 2024; improved car miles per day, decreased dwell, and increased velocity across the network. Building on this momentum, NS recently reached its all-time quarterly record for fuel efficiency and continues to deliver network and service enhancements to help customers win in their markets.

John's "PSR 2.0" approach has driven rapid and sustainable improvements in service reliability and operating efficiency. He is committed to building long-term leadership capability across the organization, championing the launch of the Thoroughbred Academy, which is helping embed a culture of safety, service, and operational excellence across all levels of the railroad. By investing in people and process, he is developing the next generation of railroaders benefitting employees, customers and rail-served communities.

2025 – 2026 Western Railway Club Officers

President

Mr. Gary Rogers
New York Air Brake

First Vice President

Mr. Jeff Wood
Trinity Industries

Second Vice President

Mr. Donley Forrest
Greenbrier Companies

Western Railway Club Board of Directors

Ms. Tina Beckberger
AITX

Mr. Andrew Fox
ARH (retired)

Mr. Nicholas Kelly
National Steel Car

Mr. Rob Sech
Wells Fargo Rail

Mr. Steve Cork
Metra

Mr. Michael Franke
Amtrak (Retired)

Mr. Mike Ring
Strato, Inc.

Mr. Herbert Smith
Norfolk Southern

Ms. Heather Disabato
Railway Age

Mr. Carl Graziano
S.C.S. Consulting

Western Railway Club 2025- 2026 Members

AECOM	GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD	OMNITRAX
AITX	GREENBRIER COMPANIES	POWER RAIL, INC.
ALLEANZA RAIL	HANSON	PPG
AMTRAK	ILLINOIS RAILROAD ASSN.	PROGRESS RAIL
ANACOSTIA RAIL HOLDINGS	JAMACIA BEARINGS	QUANDEL CONSULTANTS, LLC
ANDREW FOX *	JIM MESSMORE *	R & W MACHINE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS	JOHN LIPPERT	RAILWAY AGE (SIMMONS BOARDMAN)
BILL LYMAN *	JOSEPH SHACTER	RAILWAY SUPPLY GROUP (<i>Unity Railway Supply Co., IRECO LLC</i>)
BRUCE MARCHESCHI	JOE SZABO	RELAM, INC.
BULKMATIC SOLUTIONS, LLC	LEJAK & ASSOCIATES, INC	RJ CORMAN RAILROAD GROUP
CARL GRAZIANO	MEP & A,R & M SUMMIT	STANDARD STEEL
CLARK INDUSTRIAL	MERRITT CANFIELD	STRATO, INC.
CN	METRA	THE BELT RAILWAY OF CHICAGO
DAVE DEALY III	MICHAEL W. FRANKE *	TIMKEN CORPORATION
DEBBIE TAYOR	MIE GLOBAL	TRINITY INDUSTRIES
DR. DANIEL BEHR	MINER ENTERPRISES, INC.	UNION TANK CAR COMPANY
ENGINEERING SYSTEMS, INC.	NATIONAL STEEL CAR LTD.	V3 COMPANIES, INC.
FREIGHTCAR AMERICA, INC.	NEW YORK AIR BRAKE	WELLS FARGO RAIL
FULCRUM RAIL	NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORP.	WILLIAMS – HAYWARD PROTECTIVE COATINGS, INC.
GANNETT FLEMING TRANSYSTEMS	NORMAN CARLSON	WI-TRONIX
GATX	NORTHERN INDIANA COMMUTER	
GEORGE ALLEN CONSTRUCTION CO.	TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT	

* Retirees

To make reservations, call Lorie Mochel at 847-877-1514, or email wrclub13@comcast.net

Your personal or company check can be mailed to:

Western Railway Club
3572 W. State Rd 10, Lot #13
Lake Village, IN 46349

To pay by credit card ~ please call Lorie
There will be a 4% processing fee for all credit card transactions

If you or any of your guests require a special meal, please let us know and we will take care of that for you!

Dinner cost for Members is \$165.00 pp

Non-members : \$210.00 pp ~ Non-members payment must be received before March 10

Please respect our cancellation policy: No cancellations after March 2, 2026