

NRETS 2021 BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
(In alphabetical order by title.)

No.	Topic
1.	<p>Audits of Employers 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 become confident that you are in compliance.</p>
2.	<p>BA-15 “Report of Stock Options and Other Payments” (New) The session will explain the purpose for reporting this information and will go over the Form BA-15 and what is included on this report.</p>
3.	<p>Employer Coverage Issues Do you wonder why some railroads are not covered under the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) 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 the RRB, the IRS, and SSA.</p>
4.	<p>Executive Session The Senior Executive Officer will share his perspective on current issues facing the RRB.</p>
5.	<p>Experience Rating and Pre-Payment Verification 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 will affect your rate. Finally, you will see what actions you can take to improve your contribution rate.</p>
7.	<p>Master the Basics I - Creditable Compensation and Service “Master the Basics I” 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 understand Railroad Retirement Board’s (RRB) annual reporting requirements.</p>

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8.	<p>Master the Basics II – Filing Reports via ERSNet This session covers how to effectively complete and file the service and compensation reports (BA-3, Annual Report of Creditable Compensation; BA-6a, Form BA-6 Address Report; BA-9, Report of Separation Allowance or Severance Pay; and BA-11, Report of Gross Earnings) via ERSNet and how to prepare a prior year adjustment (BA-4, Report of Creditable Compensation Adjustment). We will also present alternate filing methods for reports</p>
9.	<p>IT Modernization This session will provide details on RRB’s IT modernization efforts to develop new systems and improve the efficiency of existing applications. The session will also present the various automation services available to employees on www.rrb.gov (i.e. Rail Net, Login.gov) and to employers, respectively. In addition, it will cover the new platforms in the implementation stage the agency is looking to rollout.</p>
10.	<p>Retirement and Survivor Annuities I & II This session is intended for those individuals covered under the RRA and for individuals who work in the human resources areas and handle employee questions about eligibility of benefits. The session will cover how retirement and survivor benefits are calculated and review factors that affect benefits. This session will also educate you the attendee before making the all-important retirement decision!</p>
11.	<p>Pay for Lost Time and Recent Cases This session will discuss the structure of Federal Employer’s Liability Act (FELA) awards and the Supreme Court ruling on stock options and the effect these types of awards will have on covered employees.</p>
12.	<p>Watching Out for the RRB Trust Funds Learn the role RRB’s IG has in investigating fraud and abuse. Also, hear about some of the latest schemes they have encountered and cases they have pursued in the interest of protecting the RRB’s trust fund.</p>