

**NRETS 2024 BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(In alphabetical order by title.)**

No.	Topic
1.	<p><b>Audits of Employers</b>            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 you are complying.</p>
2.	<p><b>Employer Coverage Issues</b>            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>
3.	<p><b>Executive Session</b>            The Executive Board’s Chair will introduce new members, allow them to give some background about themselves and share their individual perspective on current issues facing the RRB.</p>
4.	<p><b>Experience Rating and Pre-Payment Verification</b>            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>
5.	<p><b>IT Modernization</b>            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 <a href="http://www.rrb.gov">www.rrb.gov</a> (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>
6.	<p><b>Master the Basics</b>            “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 cover how to effectively complete and electronically file service and compensation reports and adjustments for prior years via the ERSNet system.</p>

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7.	<b>National Railroad Investment Trust (NRRIT)</b> – A management trustee will present on the status of the NRRIT trust funds.
8.	<b>Pay for Lost Time and Recent Cases</b> 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.
9.	<b>Retirement, Survivor and Disability Annuities</b> 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!
10.	<b>SSA Reporting</b> – This session will highlight online reporting services; review errors commonly found in Forms W-2 and W-3 and explain how discrepancies in taxes and earnings are reconciled. We will also discuss verifying employee social security numbers and other enumeration issues.
11.	<b>Watching Out for the RRB Trust Funds</b> 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.