Speaker Bureau FAQs

What is the LRW Speakers Bureau?
The LRW Speakers Bureau is a curated directory of League of Railway Women members who are interested in speaking at industry events. It highlights the depth of expertise within LRW and makes it easier to match members with speaking opportunities.

Who can participate?
Participation is open to current LRW members only.

Do I need prior speaking experience?
No. The Bureau includes speakers with all levels of experience. If you are new to public speaking, LRW can pair you with an experienced speaker for informal mentoring and support.

What kinds of opportunities will be available?
During Phase 1, the directory will be used for LRW-managed and LRW-sponsored events, including conference panels, webinars, fireside chats, and partner forums. As participation grows, LRW may expand the program to include external organizations seeking subject-matter experts in the rail industry.

Will I be paid for speaking?
No. LRW does not compensate speakers. However, some conferences waive registration fees for speakers.

Will LRW or the event organizer pay for my travel?
No. LRW does not fund travel for speaking engagements. If travel is a concern, you may indicate on your form that you are interested only in local, regional, or virtual opportunities.

Am I speaking on behalf of my company or myself?
It depends on the event and topic. If your comments relate to your employer's operations, policies, or proprietary information, please confirm you have appropriate permission or authority to participate. Many opportunities invite speakers to contribute in a personal capacity on leadership, career development, or general industry topics.

How do I join the Speakers Bureau?
Complete the short intake form and provide your bio, areas of expertise, speaking preferences, and relevant experience. Your application will be reviewed and you will be notified that you are registered to the bureau.

What information does the form collect?
The form includes:

- Contact information
- Current role and background
- Areas of expertise
- Preferred speaking formats
- Comfort level with public speaking
- Travel preferences
- Past speaking engagements (optional)
- Bio or CV upload or link

What if I don't have a bio or CV?
A bio or CV is not required to participate in the Speakers Bureau, and you're welcome to submit the form without one. If you're interested in growing your public-speaking presence, however, developing a short professional bio can be helpful down the road; many events request one for programs or promotional materials.

Who reviews and categorizes submissions?
Submissions will be reviewed and categorized by LRW leadership to ensure accuracy and consistency across the directory.

Who selects the speakers for events?
Selections are made by LRW leadership based on event needs and alignment with speaker expertise.

Can I update my information?
Yes. Members may update their information at any time and are encouraged to do so when roles or experience change. LRW will also send an annual reminder.

The directory will initially be used internally for LRW-sponsored opportunities only. As the program grows, members may have the option to be considered for external speaking requests, subject to member permission.

Is there a deadline to participate?
No. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis.

Who can I contact with questions?
Please direct all questions to: staff@railwaywomen.org