



This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah (OL Utah)**, a highway-rail grade crossing safety program and a railroad trespass prevention program. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact Vern Keeslar at olut@digis.net or call 801-310-1035.

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State Coordinator's Message – 2010 OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Dinner

This quarterly message is about the people and safety partners that made 2010 a successful year. We were finally able to move the OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Dinner to the first quarter of the year. OL Utah held its Appreciation and Award Dinner at the Gathering Place in Gardner Village's in West Jordan on Monday, March 28, 2011. First, I would like to recognize and thank our wonderful safety partners. Without their financial and in-kind support, we would not have a program. The following safety partners were recognized at the Appreciation and Awards Dinner:

2010 Operation Lifesaver Utah Safety Partners

Gold Spike Safety Partners (\$20,000 and above)

- Utah Highway Safety Office
- Union Pacific Railroad

Silver Spike Safety Partners (\$10,000 to \$19,999)

- Utah Department of Transportation

Iron Spike Safety Partners (\$1,000 to \$9,999)

- BNSF Railway
- InterPlan
- Operation Lifesaver (National Office)
- Ophir, Tintic & Western Model Railroad Club
- Utah Railway (Genesee & Wyoming)
- Utah Transit Authority

Laurelwood Tie Safety Partners (\$100 to \$999)

- Outdoor Promotions, Inc.
- Utah Local Technical Assistance Program at Utah State University
- Utah Trucking Association
- Wasatch Division of Rocky Mountain Region of the National Model Railroad Association

There were several awards presented to volunteers and others associated with the OL Utah program. The following awards were presented:

The **Outstanding Media Award** is given to an individual or organization that has reported a story, either in print, on radio or television about safety at highway-rail grade crossings, or trespass prevention on railroad property, or about Operation Lifesaver's mission of the three E's – Education, Engineering, and Enforcement.

The Outstanding Media Award went to **Jennifer Stagg**, Reporter – KSL TV-5. The outstanding story about OL was aired on KSL TV-5 and the KSL Website on September 27, 2010 and the Deseret News on September 28, 2010.

The **Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Awards** are given to presenters whose employers provide time for the presenters to participate in the OLUT program while on company time. Safety partner presenters demonstrate high activity in the program by the number of presentations given, booths worked, or other involvement with OL Utah.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award was **Erika Burback**, Utah Transit Authority. Erika gave 76 presentations to 3,745 people.

We had two presenters for the Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Vic Saunders**, Utah Department of Transportation. Vic gave 49 presentations to 1,622 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Ken VanMoorhem**, Union Pacific Railroad. Ken gave 49 presentations to 1,620 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Kent Jorgenson**, Utah Transit Authority. Kent gave 36 presentations to 989 people.

The **Volunteer Presenter of the Year Awards** are given to presenters who are true volunteers, not being compensated for their time, and have demonstrated high activity in the OLUT program. This high activity is demonstrated through one's activity in the number of presentations given, booths worked, or other involvement with the OLUT.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award was **Andy Glad**. Andy gave 92 presentations to 3,145 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Phil Lavorgna**. Phil gave 72 presentations to 2,754 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Walt Webster**. Walt gave 33 presentations to 1,141 people.

The **State Coordinators Award of Excellence** is given to an individual or an organization that has demonstrated excellence in participating in or supporting the OLUT program through activity, in-kind support, and/or financial contributions.

The State Coordinator's Award of Excellence was awarded to **Bev Thrall**. Bev has been volunteering with Operation Lifesaver since it first started in Utah in 1976. Bev has volunteered countless of hours greeting the public while working the Operation Lifesaver booth at model train shows, city, school, and organizational safety fairs, state fairs, and other public arenas. She has served as the Materials Coordinator since 1996 and is Utah's only recipient of the F. Tom Roberts Memorial National Volunteer of the Year Award from Operation Lifesaver.

On behalf of the Operation Lifesaver Utah Board of Directors and the State Advisory Council, please accept our sincere appreciation for the wonderful work that you do to support this very important safety message. You really do save lives!



Photo above from left to right: Jennifer Stagg, Andy Glad, Kent Jorgenson, Vic Saunders, Walt Webster, Phil Lavorgna, Bev Thrall, and Erika Burback.