



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 – 2012 OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Dinner

This quarterly message is about the people and safety partners that made 2012 a successful year. OL Utah held its 2012 Appreciation and Award Dinner at the Gathering Place in Gardner Village's in West Jordan on Monday, March 25, 2013. 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:

2012 Operation Lifesaver Utah Safety Partners

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

- Utah Highway Safety Office
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Utah Transit Authority

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

- Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (National Office)
- Utah Department of Transportation

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

- BNSF Railway
- InterPlan
- Utah Railway (Genesee & Wyoming)

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

- Outdoor Promotions, Inc.
- Utah Local Technical Assistance Program at Utah State University
- Utah Trucking 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 **KBYU TV and BYU Broadcasting** for the story about rail safety education that aired November 13, 2012 on KBYU Channel 11 Community Connection and on YouTube. **Rob Sibley**, Producer, BYU Broadcasting, was there to receive the award. Click the following link to view the story.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aH5p93MiP2Q&feature=g-upl>

The **Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Awards** are given to presenters whose employers provide time for the presenters to participate in the OL Utah 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 **Walt Webster**, Union Pacific Railroad. Walt gave 191 presentations to 6,153 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Kent Jorgenson**, Utah Transit Authority. Kent gave 68 presentations to 2,011 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Steven Pollock**, Stacey and Witbeck, Inc. and Commuter Rail Constructors. Steven gave 63 presentations to 1,110 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 OL Utah program. This high activity is demonstrated through one's activity in the number of presentations given, booths worked, or other involvement with the OL Utah.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award was **Andy Glad**. Andy gave 106 presentations to 3,424 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Phil Lavorgna**. Phil gave 65 presentations to 2,053 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Terri Fontaine**. Terri gave 30 presentations to 527 people.



Pictured from left to right: Terri Fontaine, Phil Lavorgna, Andy Glad, Rob Sibley, Chad Saley, Walt Webster, Kent Jorgenson, and Steven Pollock.

OL Utah also recognized three Boy Scouts of America that earned their Eagle Scout awards by distributing rail safety education materials along select locations for the opening of UTA's FrontRunner commuter rail. They included **Jordan Brandon**, BSA Ventures Crew 119, Spanish Fork, **Jacob Keeslar**, BSA Troop 1081, Lehi and **Tyler Sperry**, BSA Troop 1081, Lehi. Special thanks for their help in spreading our rail safety message.



Pictured from left to right: Jacob Keeslar, Jordan Brandon, and Tyler Sperry.

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

The State Coordinator's Award of Excellence was awarded to the **Utah Transit Authority (UTA)**. **Michael Allegra, UTA General Manager**, received the award on behalf of UTA.

UTA partnered with Operation Lifesaver Utah beginning in 1999 (Opening of first TRAX line). They have provided dozens of presenters over the years to give rail safety presentations to the public. UTA produced three rail safety TV commercials that are the envy of the industry. They produced UTA/OL Utah rail safety video. UTA provides billboards, signs, and other graphics promoting rail safety education and provides personnel to serve on National and State Operation Lifesaver Boards of Directors. Finally, UTA contributes financially to the Operation Lifesaver Utah program on an annual basis. Congratulations to UTA and thanks for all you do in promoting rail safety in Utah!



Pictured above is Michael Allegra, General Manager, Utah Transit Authority, thanking his staff for their support and participation with Operation Lifesaver.



UTA employees pictured from left to right: Ed Buchanan, Steve Allnat, Eric Vance, Chad Saley, Kent Jorgenson, Dave Goeres, Sheldon Shaw, and Martin Cocker.

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!