



**OPERATION
LIFESAVER®**

Utah

**Newsletter
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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 – 2013 OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Dinner

This quarterly message is about the people and safety partners that made 2013 a successful year. OL Utah held its 2013 Appreciation and Award Dinner at the Gathering Place in Gardner Village's in West Jordan on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. 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:

2013 Operation Lifesaver Utah Safety Partners

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

- Union Pacific Railroad
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah Highway Safety Office
- Utah Transit Authority

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

- Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (National Office)
- Utah State Office of Education

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

- BNSF Railway
- Hostlers Model Railroad Club
- InterPlan
- Salt Lake, Garfield & Western Railway
- Utah Railway (Genesee & Wyoming)

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

- Outdoor Promotions, Inc.
- Safety Awareness for Everyone (S.A.F.E.)
- 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 presented 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 **Alex Cabrero**, Reporter KSL TV for the story about the worst school bus/train collision in American history. The story aired on November 27, 2013 on **KSL TV Channel 5** and in the **Deseret News** on December 2, 2013. Alex is our first two-time media winner. Click the following

link to view the story on KSL <http://www.ksl.com/?sid=27814442> and in the Deseret News on <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865591696/Victims-of-school-bus-train-crash-remembered-75-years-later.html?pg=all>

The **Safety Partner Presenters 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 134 presentations to 4,380 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Kent Jorgenson**, Utah Transit Authority. Kent gave 95 presentations to 2,032 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Vic Saunders**, Utah Department of Transportation. Vic gave 46 presentations to 1,886 people.

The **Volunteer Presenters 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 116 presentations to 3,472 people. Andy retired from volunteering in February 2014. We very much appreciate the wonderful work that Andy Glad has done for Operation Lifesaver over the past 18 years. THANK YOU ANDY!

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Phil Lavorgna**. Phil gave 62 presentations to 1,948 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Terri Fontaine**. Terri gave 36 presentations to 620 people.



Pictured from left to right: Vic Saunders, Kent Jorgenson, Walt Webster, Katherine Bessinger, Alex Cabrero, Phil Lavorgna, Andy Glad, and Terri Fontaine.

The **State Coordinator's Award of Excellence** is presented to an individual or an organization that has demonstrated excellence in participating in or supporting the Operation Lifesaver Utah program through activity, in-kind support, and/or financial contributions.

The State Coordinator's Award of Excellence was awarded to **Katherine Bessinger**. Katherine started volunteering with Operation Lifesaver in 1996 when she was employed as an officer with the Tremonton Police Department. Katherine has served in many positions with Operation Lifesaver including presenter, trainer, and area coordinator. Even though she retired from the Tremonton Police Department in 2008, she continued to volunteer with Operation Lifesaver and currently serves on the OL Utah State Advisory Council and as an area coordinator for Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties. Congratulations to Katherine Bessinger and thanks for all you do in promoting rail safety in Utah!

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!