



This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah (OL Utah)**, a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on railroad tracks.

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State Coordinator's Message – 2017 OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Banquet

This quarterly message is about the people and safety partners that made 2017 a successful year. OL Utah held its 2017 Appreciation and Awards Dinner at the Centennial Room at the Maverik Center in West Valley on Monday, March 26, 2018. 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 Banquet.

2017 Operation Lifesaver Utah Safety Partners

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

- Union Pacific Railroad

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

- Utah Board of Education
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah Highway Safety Office
- Utah Transit Authority

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

- BNSF Railway
- Genesee & Wyoming (Utah Railway and Salt Lake City Southern Railroad)
- Operation Lifesaver, Inc.
- Salt Lake, Garfield & Western Railway

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

- David Beach
- Hostlers Model Railroad Club
- 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. In attendance to help distribute the awards was Dave Goeres, Chair of the Board, Operation Lifesaver Utah. The following awards were presented.

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

The Outstanding Media Award went to **Danica Lawrence**, Fox 13 News for a story during Rail Safety Week. The story aired on Tuesday, September 26, 2017

during two news broadcasts and on the Fox13Now website. Congratulations to Danica Lawrence!

The **Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Awards** are given to presenters whose employers provide time for the presenters to participate in the Operation Lifesaver 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 Operation Lifesaver.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award was **Vic Saunders**, Utah Department of Transportation. He gave 86 presentations to 2,646 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Mark Gallegos**, Federal Railroad Administration. He gave 33 presentations to 1,211 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Sheldon Shaw**, Utah Transit Authority. He gave 23 presentations to 1,130 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 Operation Lifesaver program. This high activity is demonstrated through one's activity in the number of presentations given, booths worked, or other involvement with the Operation Lifesaver.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award was **Cindy Meiser**. She gave 45 presentations to 1,335 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Terri Fontaine**. She gave 36 presentations to 674 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Norman Nelson**. He gave 35 presentations to 647 people.

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

The State Coordinator's Award of Excellence was awarded to **Terri Fontaine**. Terri has been a dedicated Operation Lifesaver presenter since 1994. She has given more than 800 presentations to over 18,000 people and has worked over 50 booths reaching more than 25,000 people! She has served as past Secretary/Treasurer for the OL Utah Board of Directors for four years. Terri is a dedicated presenter to West High School, which is the most targeted high school in Utah. Terri currently serves as Presenter, Area Coordinator, and a member of the OL Utah State Advisory Council. This is not the first time Terri has been recognized for her efforts. She is a two time Volunteer Presenter of the Year. Congratulations to Terri Fontaine and thanks for your lengthy participation in Operation Lifesaver and your dedication to rail safety education in Utah!

In addition, the **Union Pacific Railroad Employees Club** recognized the **Salt Lake City Club #12** with first place for "Most Outstanding Activity Charity" and as an "Operation Lifesaver 100 Club." **President Beverly Thrall** received the award for the Salt Lake City Club #12. Congratulations to Beverly Thrall and Salt Lake City Club #12!

The **Union Pacific Railroad Employees Club** recognized **Walt Webster** as "Presenter of the Year 3rd Place" by presenting 218 Operation Lifesaver presentations to 6,851 people. Congratulations to Walt Webster!



Pictured from left to right: Sheldon Shaw, Terri Fontaine, Cindy Meiser, Dave Goeres, Danica Lawrence, Vic Saunders, and Walt Webster.