

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

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Executive Director's Message – Utah Operation Lifesaver 2021 Awards

This quarterly message is about the people and safety partners that made 2021 a successful year, even with COVID-19. After a two-year interruption due to COVID-19, Utah OL was able to hold its Annual Appreciation and Awards Dinner once again to recognizing our outstanding volunteers. The Annual Appreciation and Awards Dinner was held on Monday, March 28, 2022 at the Utah Trucking Association building in West Valley City. I would also like to recognize and thank our wonderful safety partners. Without their financial and in-kind support, we would not have a Utah rail safety education program. The following safety partners are recognized for their support during 2021.

2021 Utah Operation Lifesaver Safety Partners

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

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

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

- None

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

- Genesee & Wyoming (Utah Railway and Salt Lake City Southern Railroad)

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

- Safety Awareness for Everyone (S.A.F.E.)
- Utah Trucking Association

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

The Outstanding Media Award goes to **Nick McGurk**, ABC 4 News for a story that aired live on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 shortly after Utah Rail Safety Week. The story featured two, seven and one-half minute interviews with Sheldon Shaw of Utah Transit Authority and Vern Keeslar of Utah Operation Lifesaver. Congratulations to Nick McGurk for his story on rail safety! The story is about 20 minutes long and can be found at the following link: [IN FOCUS Discussion: National Rail Safety Month \(abc4.com\)](https://www.abc4.com/story/news/local/2021/09/29/utah-rail-safety-week-abc4/7011117001)

The following is a list of awards recognizing the great work of our volunteers for Utah OL during 2021.

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

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year is **Travis Shingleton**, Utah Transit Authority. He gave 31 presentations to 807 people. Travis gives many of his presentations at Layton, Roy, and Syracuse high schools. Travis is also a member of the State Advisory Council and Area 2 Coordinator for Utah OL.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year 1st Runner-up is **Tina Bartholomew**, Utah Transit Authority. She gave 30 presentations to 625 people. Tina gives many of her presentations at Copper Hills, Herriman, and Hunter high schools and at Utah Transit Authority.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year 2nd Runner-up is **Jim Golden**, Utah Department of Transportation. He gave 21 presentations to 801 people. Jim gives many of his presentations at American Fork, Cedar Valley, Pleasant Grove, and Westlake high schools. Jim is also a member of the Utah OL Board of Directors and leads by example!

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Honorable Mention is **Martin Cocker**, Utah Transit Authority. He gave 20 presentations to 583 people. Martin gives many of his

presentations to Corner Canyon High School and at Utah Transit Authority. Martin retired from Utah Transit Authority on March 31, 2022 and plans on continuing teaching rail safety as a volunteer. Thanks Martin and best wishes on your retirement!

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 Utah 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 Utah Operation Lifesaver.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year is **Ed Buchanan**. He gave 46 presentations to 1,303 people. Ed retired from the Utah Transit Authority in 2020 and stayed with the program as a volunteer. Ed gives many of his presentations at Brighton, Cottonwood, Mountain Ridge, and Olympos high schools.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year 1st Runner-up is **Kent Holbrook**. He gave 23 presentations to 608 people. Kent gives many of his presentations at Ben Lomond, Bonneville, Mountain, and Freemont high schools.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year 2nd Runner-up is **Vic Saunders**. He gave 14 presentations to 207 people. Vic gives many of his presentations at the Ogden Weber Technology College.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Honorable Mention is **Kent Jorgenson**. He gave 12 presentations to 180 people. Kent gives many of his presentations at the Ogden Weber Technology College. In fact, Kent and Vic switch off every other week giving presentations at the Ogden Weber Technology College.

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

The Executive Director's Award of Excellence is awarded to **Audra Urie**, Utah State Board of Education. Audra has been a mentor to the executive director and assistance director of Utah Operation Lifesaver on education. She assists and reviews in the development of Utah Operation Lifesaver educational materials and assisted in the development of Utah Operation Lifesaver's and National Rail Safety Alliance's online rail safety course. Audra serves as Utah State Board of Education Driver Education Specialist and serves on the Utah Operation Lifesaver Board of Directors. Thanks Audra for your driver education expertise, participation in Utah Operation Lifesaver, and your dedication to rail safety education in Utah!

Please see the photos of the award recipients on the next page.



Photo: Sheldon Shaw and Malia Hite with the Utah State Board of Education receiving the Executive Director's Award of Excellence on behalf of Audra Urie.



Photo: From left to right is Sheldon Shaw and Safety Partners Presenters of the Year Martin Cocker, Jim Golden, Tina Bartholomew, and Travis Shingleton.



Photo: From left to right is Sheldon Shaw and Volunteer Presenters of the Year Ed Buchanan, Kent Holbrook, Vic Saunders, and Kent Jorgenson.