

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 – Operation Lifesaver International Symposium Held in Baltimore, MD

Operation Lifesaver's 16th International Symposium and Training Seminar was held in Baltimore, MD on August 30, 31 and September 1, 2010. The theme for this conference was "Navigating Rail Safety, It's Common Sense." This was an excellent symposium and Operation Lifesaver Utah was represented by two Board of Director's members – Dave Beach and Gail Johnson, two Area Coordinators – Kathy Bessinger and Terri Fontaine, the Materials Coordinator – Bev Thrall, and State Coordinator – Vern Keeslar. The symposium had many great speakers from the government, education, and private sectors.

Operation Lifesaver Utah has many wonderful presenters and volunteers. One outstanding volunteer is Philip Lavorgna, who was nominated for a national award – the F. Tom Roberts Award. The F. Tom Roberts Memorial Award honors an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to safety by the number of volunteer hours committed to Operation Lifesaver annually, the nature of volunteer activities performed, and other personal contributions to the Operation Lifesaver program. Phil was mentioned as Utah's nomination and received a Certificate of Recognition for his service. The following contains a portion of what the nomination application contained about Phil.

Phil has been a faithful ambassador for Operation Lifesaver and rail safety education for more than 14 years. Phil has dedicated his presentations to one of Operation Lifesaver's primary target audiences – new drivers. In 2009, Phil gave 75 presentations to approximately 2,385 drivers' education students from five Utah high schools. During the last three years (2007-2009), Operation Lifesaver records show that Phil has given 221 presentations to approximately 6,398 students.

It is estimated that during Phil's time as an Operation Lifesaver Certified Presenter during the past 14 years, he has given more than 1,000 presentations to approximately 30,000 drivers' education students! I want to thank Phil for the great volunteer work that he has performed. Congratulations Phil for being nominated for the F. Tom Roberts Award! The photo to the right is David Beach, Chair of the OL Utah Board of Directors, Philip Lavorgna, and Paul O'Brien, Operation Lifesaver, Inc. Board of Directors and Utah Transit Authority.



New Area Coordinators Appointed

Kent Jorgenson, UTA Marketing Specialist, has been appointed Area Coordinator for Davis, Morgan, and Weber Counties. Kent replaces Walt Webster who was appointed Assistant State Coordinator last year. Thanks Walt for all the work you did to coordinate the Operation Lifesaver activities that area. We welcome Kent to the Area Coordinator position!

Also, Mason Haycock of the Utah Highway Patrol has been appointed Area Coordinator for the Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch Counties. Mason replaces John Cyrus of the Utah Railway. John is relocating to Oregon. He has been a presenter, Area Coordinator, Presenter Trainer, and a Board of Director's member. Thanks to John for serving so well in many capacities. We welcome Mason to the Area Coordinator position.

OL Utah Booth Update

Operation Lifesaver Utah was busy as ever attending public events all over Utah and displaying our booth. Operation Lifesaver Utah has attended the following for the third quarter of 2010:

- Roy Safety Fair in July
- South Salt Lake City Community Preparedness Fair in September
- Sunset Safety Fair in September
- Woods Cross Elementary Safety Fair in September
- Lehi Meadow Elementary School Safety Fair in September
- Glendale Community Safety Fair in September

Safety Train Event held in September

Operation Lifesaver Utah and Union Pacific Railroad teamed up to bring the safety train to Utah on September 27 and 28, 2010. Enforcement operations were held both mornings. Target areas included the Grants Tower area for trespass and the Woods Cross Industrial Lead for grade crossing enforcement.

From the educational perspective, more than 300 Cub Scouts enjoyed a ride on three train trips. Each Cub Scout received an Operation Lifesaver presentation and a bag of Operation Lifesaver materials about being safe at railroad crossing and around railroad property. Several students from West High School and the Assistant Principal also received an Operation Lifesaver presentation while enjoying a train ride west of Salt Lake City. Many safety partners, presenters, and other volunteers rode the train out to the shores of the Great Salt Lake on Tuesday. The following photo shows Mayor Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City and Dan Harbeke, Director of Public Affairs for Union Pacific Railroad.

We had elected officials on a couple of trains and the media who attended included KSL Radio, KSL TV, Fox 13 TV, and the Deseret News. The internet homepages from these news sources also contained stories of the event. Special thanks to Union Pacific Railroad for bringing the "Heritage Fleet" out to Utah to help educate the public about Operation Lifesaver!



Area Coordinators Contact Information

The Area Coordinators and the Materials Coordinator and their phone numbers are listed below. These Coordinators can support presenters with Operation Lifesaver materials, 90-day evaluations, or other Operation Lifesaver needs.

Area

1. Kathy Bessinger – (435) 279-8130 home
 - Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties
2. Kent Jorgenson – (801) 626-1248 work
 - Davis, Morgan, and Weber Counties
3. Terri Fontaine – (801) 596-1889 home
 - Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties
4. John Cyrus – (801) 356-9163 work
 - Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch Counties
5. Garry Bringham – (435) 835-3431 home
 - Carbon, Emery, Grand, Juab, Millard, Sanpete, and Sevier Counties
6. Jackie Hardman – (435) 652-4721 work
 - Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne Counties

For OL materials for presentations and booths, contact Bev Thrall at 801-359-4569.