

This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah**, a highway-railroad grade crossing safety program and a railroad trespass prevention program. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact Vern Keeslar at [utaholi@comcast.net](mailto:utaholi@comcast.net) or call 801-310-1035.

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## State Coordinator's Message

During this Holiday Season, I want to express my appreciation for our volunteer presenters, safety partners, and members of our Board of Directors. We currently have approximately 74 volunteer presenters, 59 safety partners, and 11 members of the Board of Directors. Yes, we are continuing to increase in our numbers. Hundreds of hours are donated every year volunteering with Operation Lifesaver Utah. We truly have a great organization!

However, even with such a great organization, we do have some challenges. Our top three challenges include retaining our trained presenters by having them give four presentations a year, maintaining current and new funding sources, and spreading our message about safety at highway-railroad grade crossings and around railroad property. I will be relying on your help this upcoming year to meet the challenges that we have as an organization. Jennifer and I say THANK YOU for all that you do for Operation Lifesaver Utah and HAPPY HOLIDAYS! We look forward to working with you in 2007.

## Operation Lifesaver Utah and Union Pacific Railroad Conduct "Officer on the Train" Event

Union Pacific Railroad and Operation Lifesaver Utah, in cooperation with several local law enforcement agencies, conducted an "Officer on the Train" event in Nephi, Provo, American Fork, Lehi, Sandy, South Jordan, Salt Lake City, and North Salt Lake City on October 25, 26, and 27, 2006.



Approximately 31 citations were issued to

drivers who failed to yield the right-of-way to the train. We had wonderful media coverage from KUTV Channel 2 News, Channel 4's At Your Leisure, and three local newspapers. This was a very successful event!

A special thank you to our safety partner Union Pacific Railroad for the special Heritage locomotives and the Zephyr vista dome car and sleeper car leased from California Zephyr Railcar Charters. Also, thanks goes to our local law enforcement partners for their continued cooperation. Included below are photos of the train that Union Pacific Railroad provided.



## Train Artist Gilbert Bennett Donates Holiday Cards

Renowned train artist Gilbert Bennett donated Holiday greeting cards to Operation Lifesaver Utah. Gilbert is Utah grown and is a very talented artist. For more of Gilbert's work, check out his website at [www.trainz.cc](http://www.trainz.cc)

## Utah Delegation Attends 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium and Training Seminars

Operation Lifesaver Utah was able to send several presenters to the 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium and Training Seminars in Anaheim, California July 9-12, 2006. Presenters were able to attend classes on light rail, crossings – closures and separations, trespassing, law enforcement, bilingual presentations, communication, bus driver presentations, driver's education presentations, and suicide issues.



From left to right Vern Keeslar, Paul Hawker, Jerry Hardesty, Bev Thrall, Kathy Bessinger, Terri Fountaine, Phil Lavorgna, Andrew Glad, and Janet Glad.

## Area Coordinators Contact Information

The Area Coordinators and their phone numbers are listed below. The Area Coordinators can schedule presentations and support presenters with materials or other Operation Lifesaver needs.

### Area

1. Kathy Bessinger – (435) 279-8130 home
  - Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties
2. Walt Webster – (801) 295-5633 home
  - Davis, Morgan, and Weber Counties
3. Terri Fontaine – (801) 596-1889 home
  - Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele Counties
4. Paul Hawker – (801) 798-1718 home
  - Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch Counties
5. Garry Bringhurst – (435) 835-3431 home
  - Carbon, Emery, Grand, Juab, Millard, Sanpete, and Sevier Counties
6. Vacant – Need Volunteer
  - Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne Counties