

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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[www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)

## State Coordinator's Message – Annual Update Training Meeting Held

Approximately 40 Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers attended annual update training on Friday, December 15, 2017 at the Utah Trucking Association in West Valley City.



Kathy Bessinger presents new slides for kindergarten through second grade (ages 5-8).

After a safety briefing and introductions, Vern Keeslar, State Coordinator, reported on the results of Rail Safety Week held September 24-30, 2017. Walt Webster, Assistant State Coordinator, reviewed high school assignments across the state. After meeting with their areas, the Area Coordinators gave a brief report about the presentations and work being done. Kathy Bessinger, Area Coordinator for Box Elder, Cache, and Daggett Counties, presented the new Kindergarten through Second Grade (ages 5-8) slides. There was a lot of discussion from the presenters about the slides. OLI has also created new presentation material for Third Grade through Fifth Grade Slides (ages 8-11) and Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade Slide (age 11-13). Future training and review of those slides will occur at future update training meetings.

Vern then discussed how to update contact information, report presentations, special events, and volunteer hours on the OLI website.

After a prize drawing and distribution of presentation supplies, everyone enjoyed networking over lunch catered by Café Rio.



## OL Utah Booth Update

Thanks for all those who participate in the booths sharing the Operation Lifesaver safety messages. Operation Lifesaver Utah attended the following events during the third and fourth quarters of 2017.

- The Davis Hospital Prevention Fair in Layton on September 9, 2017.
- The Discovery Gateway Children's Museum Train Day in Salt Lake City on October 7, 2017.
- The Kaysville Fire Safety Open House in Kaysville on October 11, 2017.
- The Intermountain Train Expo in Sandy on November 11 & 12, 2017.



## Operation Lifesaver President Bonnie Murphy tapped for position with Dallas Area Rapid Transit

WASHINGTON, DC, October 27, 2017. Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI) President Bonnie Murphy announced that she will complete her term with the nonprofit on November 1 to join Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) as Vice President Commuter Rail & Railroad Management. Murphy, who has more than 30 years of rail industry experience and 10 years of executive-level government experience, joined the rail safety education organization in January of 2016.



OLI Board Chairman Bob VanderClute said, "The Operation Lifesaver board is grateful to Bonnie for her leadership of the organization. Under her guidance, OLI further stabilized its funding sources, strengthened safety partnerships, and raised its prominence as a leading rail safety education nonprofit by spearheading the first U.S. Rail Safety Week, held last month. We wish her well as she continues her rail safety-oriented career with DART."

Said Murphy, "I am thrilled by the success of the first U.S. Rail Safety Week, and grateful to Operation Lifesaver's board, state program directors, federal safety partners, freight, passenger, transit and commuter rail companies, law enforcement agencies, and others who worked so hard to spread the rail safety message across the nation. I am extremely proud of the important work we've done together, and I look forward to continuing to support Operation Lifesaver's mission of reducing incidents, deaths and injuries near tracks and trains in my new position."

Murphy's previous positions included serving as general manager with the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail, as deputy associate administrator for safety compliance and program implementation with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in Washington, DC, as FRA regional administrator in Texas, and as director and chief operating officer of Trinity Railway Express in Texas. She began her career with Amtrak.

VanderClute said that OLI Vice President Wende Corcoran will serve as Interim President while the Operation Lifesaver board of directors conducts a search for Murphy's successor.

## New State Coordinators

New state coordinators have been appointed in the following states: Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Kevin Burns, Connecticut Operation Lifesaver (CT OL); Scott Allbritton, Florida Operation Lifesaver (FL OL); Tara Mays, Kansas Operation Lifesaver (KS OL); Steve Kreins, Oregon Operation Lifesaver (OR OL); Brock Kerchner, Pennsylvania Operation Lifesaver (PA OL); and Jessica Devorsky, Texas Operation Lifesaver (TX OL).