



**OPERATION  
LIFESAVER®**  

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**Utah**

**Newsletter  
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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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[www.utaholi.org](http://www.utaholi.org)

**OPERATION LIFESAVER**

**WEBSITE**

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

## State Coordinator's Message

After 12 years as President of Operation Lifesaver, Inc., Gerri Hall has stepped aside. I have personally worked with Gerri Hall for several years and watched her professionalism, leadership, and creativity lead the Operation Lifesaver organization to great heights. She will be very much missed. Thank you Gerri for all that you have done for us personally, for our state program, and for Operation Lifesaver. Enjoy your time traveling and relaxing knowing that Operation Lifesaver is a better organization because of you!

I hope that Gerri does not mind me sharing her farewell message to us. Gerri says, "Finally, thank you for all of your support and dedication. Serving all of you and this great organization has been my pleasure. It has been a wonderful adventure, beyond anything I could have imagined. You have been, and hopefully will continue to be, a very real family to me. I hope that part of our relationship will never end, no matter where our paths lead us. I really do love you guys!"

## Next OL Utah Quarterly Meeting

Utah Operation Lifesaver will meet on Wednesday, March 28, 2007 for the first quarterly meeting of the year. This meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Utah Transit Authority (UTA) in Ogden located at 135 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden, Utah. Because lunch will be served compliments of Utah Transit Authority, please RSVP with Jennifer Keeslar at 801-473-1444 or with Vern Keeslar at 801-310-1035. Please plan on attending this important training meeting.

## Sramek Named President of Operation Lifesaver

WASHINGTON (December 12, 2006) Helen M. Sramek, current Director of Federal Relations for the American Automobile Association (AAA), will become President of Operation Lifesaver Inc. (OLI), a national nonprofit rail safety organization, on January 8, 2007, OLI Board Chair Otto Sonefeld announced today.

"We are very pleased to have attracted someone with her legislative and management experience," Sonefeld said, citing her nine years' experience heading federal legislative and regulatory advocacy for AAA and a decade as Chief of Staff for former Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-NE). "We look forward to starting 2007 under her leadership."

Gerri L. Hall, Operation Lifesaver's President since fall 1995, announced her plans earlier in the year to leave the organization at the end

of 2006. “After spending more than a decade at the helm of Operation Lifesaver, personally I want an opportunity to branch out into new areas.

“This provides an excellent opportunity for someone with Helen’s qualifications to step in,” Hall said. “She will join our state coordinators and safety partners to find new ways to help motorists and pedestrians make safe decisions around tracks and trains.”

Sramek, a Nebraska native, also brings executive branch experience to her new position. From 1990-1993 she served as Executive Assistant to the Administrator of the Agency for International Development (1990-1993) supporting initiatives with the private voluntary community that delivers foreign assistance programs, international training activities, and what was then the developing program of assistance to Eastern and Central Europe. Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Sramek managed a range of legislative issues for several Nebraska congressional members before joining Bereuter’s staff. She was instrumental in helping him deliver federal funding for a major highway-rail crossing in the state’s capital city of Lincoln.

Operation Lifesaver’s 3,000 certified presenters throughout the U.S. and Canada are trained to give free safety talks to community groups, schools,

school bus drivers, truck drivers, and community organizations to raise awareness of the need for caution around railroad tracks and trains. More information can be found at [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org) or call the national office at 1-800-537-6224.

## OL Utah Attends Model Railroad Shows

Operation Lifesaver Utah has once again been attending all of Utah’s model railroad shows. Railroad fans are natural safety partners and each of the model railroad shows has given us booth space for free to attend their shows and share our safety message with the public. Below are two photos of our booth at two different model railroad shows in Lehi and Salt Lake City. Notice Andy Cheng, Bev Thrall, and Katy Keeslar working the booth in Lehi and Jacob Keeslar working the booth in Salt Lake City.



## 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