

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 – 2011 OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Dinner

This quarterly message is about the people and safety partners that made 2011 a successful year. We were finally able to hold the OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Dinner without weather impacting the event. OL Utah held its Appreciation and Award Dinner at the Gathering Place in Gardner Village's in West Jordan on Monday, March 19, 2012. First, I would like to recognize and thank our wonderful safety partners. Without their financial and in-kind support, we would not have a program. The following safety partners were recognized at the Appreciation and Awards Dinner:

2011 Operation Lifesaver Utah Safety Partners

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

- Union Pacific Railroad
- Utah Highway Safety Office

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

- Utah Department of Transportation

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

- BNSF Railway
- Hostler Model Railroad Club
- InterPlan
- Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (National Office)
- Utah Railway (Genesee & Wyoming)
- Utah Transit Authority

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

- Outdoor Promotions, Inc.
- Utah Local Technical Assistance Program at Utah State University
- Utah Trucking Association
- Wasatch Division of Rocky Mountain Region of the National Model Railroad Association

There were several awards presented to volunteers and others associated with the OL Utah program. The following awards were presented:

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

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award was **Kent Jorgenson**, Utah Transit Authority. Kent gave 98 presentations to 3,255 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Vic Saunders**, Utah Department of Transportation. Vic gave 62 presentations to 2,662 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Kent Brown**, Utah Central Railway. Kent gave 24 presentations to 1,041 people.

The **Volunteer Presenter 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 OL Utah program. This high activity is demonstrated through one's activity in the number of presentations given, booths worked, or other involvement with the OL Utah.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award was **Andy Glad**. Andy gave 106 presentations to 3,408 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 1st Runner-up was **Phil Lavorgna**. Phil gave 78 presentations to 2,195 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 2nd Runner-up was **Walt Webster**. Walt gave 70 presentations to 2,363 people.

The **State Coordinators Award of Excellence** is given to an individual or an organization that has demonstrated excellence in participating in or supporting the OL Utah program through activity, in-kind support, and/or financial contributions.

The State Coordinator's Award of Excellence was awarded to the **Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)**. Ahmad Jaber, UDOT

Operations Director received the award on behalf of UDOT. UDOT managed the Operation Lifesaver Utah program from 1976 (year started in Utah) to 1996. They provided a full-time person as the first state coordinator, who was Lillian Witkowski. UDOT still provides personnel to give Operation Lifesaver presentations to the public and contributes financially to the Operation Lifesaver Utah program on an annual basis.

The **Outstanding Media Award** is given to an individual or organization that has reported a story, either in print, on radio or television about safety at highway-rail grade crossings, or trespass prevention on railroad property, or about Operation Lifesaver's mission of the three E's – Education, Engineering, and Enforcement.

The Outstanding Media Award went to **John Hollenhorst**, Reporter – KSL TV-5. The outstanding story about Operation Lifesaver was aired on KSL TV-5 and the KSL Website on October 17, 2011.



Vern Keeslar, John Hollenhorst, and Dave Beach after John Hollenhorst received the Outstanding Media Award.

On behalf of the Operation Lifesaver Utah Board of Directors and the State Advisory Council, please accept our sincere appreciation for the wonderful work that you do to support this very important safety message. You really do save lives!



Pictured from left to right: Kent Brown, Vic Saunders, Kent Jorgenson, Ahmad Jaber, Andy Glad, Phil Lavorgna, and Walt Webster.