

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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## State Coordinator's Message – 2016 OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Banquet

This quarterly message is about the people and safety partners that made 2016 a successful year. OL Utah held its 2016 Appreciation and Awards Dinner at the Centennial Room at the Maverik Center in West Valley on Monday, March 6, 2017. 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 Banquet.

**2016 Operation Lifesaver Utah Safety Partners**

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

- Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (National Office)
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah Highway Safety Office

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

- Utah Transit Authority

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

- BNSF Railway
- Genesee & Wyoming (Utah Railway and Salt Lake City Southern Railroad)
- Hostlers Model Railroad Club
- Salt Lake, Garfield & Western Railway

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

- Safety Awareness for Everyone (S.A.F.E.)
- Utah Local Technical Assistance Program at Utah State University
- Utah Trucking Association

There were several awards presented to volunteers and others associated with the OL Utah program. In attendance to help distribute the awards was James Jordan, Regional Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration and Dave Goeres, Chair of the Board, Operation Lifesaver Utah. The following awards were presented.

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

The Outstanding Media Award went to **Rod Zundell, Journalist, KSL** for two live interviews about rail safety education on September 27, 2016 and November 8, 2016 during a high school football radio show. Congratulations to Rod Zundell.

Pictured from left to right is James Jordon, Rod Zundell, and Dave Goeres.



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

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award was **Vic Saunders**, Utah Department of Transportation. He gave 66 presentations to 2,166 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up was **Mark Gallegos**, Federal Railroad Administration. He gave 54 presentations to 1,927 people.

The Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up was **Kent Jorgenson**, Utah Transit Authority. He gave 25 presentations to 667 people.



Pictured from left to right is James Gordon, Vic Saunders, Mark Gallegos, and Dave Goeres.

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

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award was **Terri Fontaine**. She gave 46 presentations to 1,234 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up was **Cindy Meiser**. She gave 31 presentations to 908 people.

The Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up was **Norman Nelson**. He gave 27 presentations to 291 people.



Pictured from left to right is James Jordan, Cindy Meiser, Terri Fontaine, and Dave Goeres.

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

The State Coordinator's Award of Excellence was awarded to **Walt Webster**. Walt has been a dedicated Operation Lifesaver presenter since 1996. He has given more than 1,600 presentations to over 62,000 people and has worked over 300 booths reaching more than 200,000 people! He has trained more than 100 people. Walt has served as a Presenter, Trainer, Area Coordinator, and presently serves as Assistant State Coordinator. Retired from Union Pacific Railroad as a locomotive engineer, Walt knows from first-hand experience the dangers that exist at highway-rail grade crossings. This is not the first time Walt has been recognized for his efforts. He is a two time Volunteer Presenter of the Year and a two time Safety Partner Presenter of the Year. Congratulations to Walt Webster and thanks for your tireless efforts for rail safety education in Utah!



Pictured from left to right is James Jordan, Walt Webster, Vern Keeslar, and Dave Goeres.