

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](mailto:olut@digis.net) or call 801-310-1035.

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**STATE COORDINATORS**

**Vern and Jennifer Keeslar**

**Operation Lifesaver Utah**

2867 North 675 East

Lehi, UT 84043

(801) 310-1035 Vern

(801) 473-1444 Jennifer

[olut@digis.net](mailto:olut@digis.net)

**MATERIALS COORDINATOR**

**Beverly Thrall**

(801) 359-4569

**OPERATION LIFESAVER**

**UTAH WEBSITE**

[www.olut.usu.edu](http://www.olut.usu.edu)

## State Coordinator's Message – 2008 OL Utah Appreciation and Awards Dinner

Last quarter I discussed some statistics as it related to our OL program in Utah. This quarterly message is about the people and safety partners that made 2008 a successful year for us. OL Utah held an Appreciation and Award Dinner at the Gathering Place in West Jordan on May 4, 2009. First, I would like to recognize and thank our wonderful safety partners. Without their financial support, we would not have a program. The following safety partners were recognized at the Appreciation and Awards Dinner:

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

- Utah Highway Safety Office
- Union Pacific Railroad

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

- Utah Department of Transportation

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

- BNSF Railway
- InterPlan
- Operation Lifesaver, Inc.
- Utah Transit Authority

**Laurelwood Tie Contributors (\$100 to \$999)**

- Utah Trucking Association
- Mark Desobeau – Artist of the Rails
- Utah LTAP Center

There were several awards presented to volunteers and others associated with the OL Utah program. The following is a list of the awards presented that night.

The **Outstanding Media Award** is given to an individual or organization that has reported a story, either in print 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.

**Outstanding Media Award to Alex Cabrero, Reporter – KSL TV-5. The outstanding story about OL was aired several times on KSL TV-5 on June 17 and 18, 2008.**

Right: Photo of David Beach, Chair of the OL Utah Board of Directors, Alex Cabrero, and Vern Keeslar, OL Utah State Coordinator.



The **Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award** is given to a presenter whose employer provides time for the presenter to participate in the OL Utah program while on company time. The safety partner presenter demonstrates high activity in the program by the number of presentations given, booths worked, or other involvement with OL Utah.

**Safety Partner Presenter of the Year Award – Kent Jorgenson, Utah Transit Authority. Kent gave 71 presentations to 6,760 people.**



Above: Photo of David Beach, Chair of the OL Utah Board of Directors, Kent Jorgenson, and Vern Keeslar, OL Utah State Coordinator.

The **Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award** is given to a presenter who is a true volunteer, not being compensated for their time, and has 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 program.



**Volunteer Presenter of the Year Award – Walt Webster. Walt gave 153 presentations to 6,325 people.**

Left: Photo of David Beach, Chair of the OL Utah Board of Directors, Walt Webster, and Vern Keeslar, OL Utah State Coordinator.

**First Runner-up was Andrew Glad. Andrew gave 87 presentations to 2,901 people.**

Right: Photo of David Beach, Chair of the OL Utah Board of Directors, Andrew Glad, and Vern Keeslar, OL Utah State Coordinator.



**Second Runner-up was Philip Lavorgna. Philip gave 84 presentations to 2,320 people.**

Left: Photo of David Beach, Chair of the OL Utah Board of Directors, Philip Lavorgna, and Vern Keeslar, OL Utah State Coordinator.



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.

**State Coordinator's Award of Excellence – Union Pacific Railroad. Union Pacific has contributed more than \$350,000 since 1996 to OL Utah, provided Heritage Passenger Railroad cars for safety train events, provided presenters to give presentations on company time, and provided storage space for OL materials from 1996 to 2009. Kenneth Schleiger, Deputy Chief, Union Pacific Railroad accepted the award on behalf of Union Pacific.**

Right: Photo of David Beach, Chair of the OL Utah Board of Directors, Kenneth Schleiger, and Vern Keeslar, OL Utah State Coordinator.



## OL Utah Booth Update

Operation Lifesaver Utah is busy as ever attending public events all over Utah and displaying our booth. Operation Lifesaver Utah has attended the following for the second quarter of 2009:

- Midvale's Youth Peer Court Child Protection Fair in Midvale in April.
- Utah Driver and Traffic Safety Education Conference in Sandy in April.
- Heber Valley Railroad School Days in Heber in April and May.
- Weber-Morgan Health Department Safe Kids Day in North Ogden in May.
- UPS Safety Fair in West Valley in May.
- Union Pacific Steam Train 844 in Ogden in May.
- Clearfield Safety Fair in Clearfield in May.
- Utah Asian Festival in Sandy in June.
- Disney Train in Ogden in June.
- Granite Credit Union Safety Fair in Riverton in June.