

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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**David Beach, Chair**

Utah Highway Safety Office

**Clint Ashmead**

Utah Railway Company

**Eric Cheng**

Utah Department of Transportation

**Nick Jones**

Utah LTAP Center

**Peggy Lyda**

Union Pacific Railroad

**Linda Mayne**

Utah State Office of Education

**Matt Riffkin**

Community Volunteer

**Michael Rapich**

Utah Highway Patrol

**Terry Smith**

Utah Trucking Association

**Roland Stanger**

Federal Highway Administration

**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 – Capitol Hill Veteran Joyce Rose Named President, CEO of Operation Lifesaver

I want to personally welcome Joyce Rose to the Operation Lifesaver organization. We look forward to working with her. She brings a wealth of experience having worked on transportation bills and is a long-time Congressional staff member. We know that she will have success just as past Presidents Helen Sramek and Geri Hall did before her. Below is the press release about the announcement.



WASHINGTON, DC, October 31, 2012 – Joyce Rose, staff director for the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, will become President and CEO of Operation Lifesaver Inc. (OLI), on December 3, 2012, OLI Board Chair Reilly McCarren announced today.

“Joyce’s expertise in railroad, transit, highway and safety policy will be a tremendous asset to Operation Lifesaver as we continue our work educating drivers and pedestrians about safety around tracks and trains,” McCarren said.

Rose is a veteran Congressional staffer with over 20 years of experience in transportation policy. She became staff director for the Railroads Subcommittee in 2008, after serving as a professional staff member on the Highways and Transit Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

As staff director, Rose drafted, negotiated, and helped secure passage of MAP-21, the surface transportation authorization bill covering fiscal years 2013 and 2014. She also worked on the passage of Amtrak authorization and Rail Safety bills in 2008, and helped draft the transit provisions of the 2005 surface transportation authorization bill, SAFETEA-LU. In 2009, she was named one of “10 Staffers to Know” in transportation by *Roll Call*.

Before joining the House T&I Committee staff, Rose worked for the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations from 1988 to 2001 as the professional staffer responsible for Federal transit and rail funding issues, pipelines and hazardous materials, and transportation research.

Helen M. Sramek, Operation Lifesaver's President since January 2007, who had earlier announced her plans to retire, said, "Under Joyce's leadership, Operation Lifesaver will continue to be a prominent force in rail safety education."

## **Wende Corcoran Promoted to OL Vice President**

Before Helen Sramek's retirement, Wende Corcoran was promoted to the position of Vice President at OL.

This promotion will enable Wende to continue managing the development of Operation Lifesaver's new volunteer programs and educational products, while also working closely with Joyce Rose.

This move will assure continuity at the national office, something that the Board and past President Helen Sramek felt was important. Wende's expertise in the training and e-Learning fields and her longtime role in developing OL educational

materials make her a valuable asset to the organization. Her skills, experience, and passion will ensure that OL will be stronger than ever as we look to the future.

## **Darin Duersch, OL Utah Presenter Passes Away**

With extreme sadness, we learned that Darin Duersch unexpectedly passed away at his home on Monday, December 3, 2012. Darin was a long-time safety advocate and worked for the Utah Department of Transportation. He had been a presenter since 2009. It was always fun to see Darin photographing trains and having his wife Julie and his five children on the Safety Trains. Darin will be missed on so many different levels including saving lives as an Operation Lifesaver presenter. The photo below is of Darin on a Safety Train. Photo provided by fellow Operation Lifesaver presenter and Darin's friend Vic Saunders.



## **Final Reporting of Presentations and Booths**

Please remember to report all of your Operation Lifesaver presentations and booths for 2012 by December 31, 2012. These reports help us and our safety partners show where and how often our community outreach occurs.



## Operation Lifesaver Utah Attends Transportation Open Houses in American Fork and Orem

With UTA's FrontRunner Commuter Rail starting up on December 10, 2012 from Provo to Salt Lake City, the Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) invited Operation Lifesaver to attend their transportation open houses to share rail safety information to the public. The first photo below is MAG Executive Director Andrew Jackson sporting an OL's engineer hat. The second photo below is Lehi City Planning Director Kim Struthers and Mayor Bert Wilson also wearing OL engineer hats.



## FrontRunner Commuter Rail Service Begins from Provo to Salt Lake City

Congratulations to Utah Transit Authority for its successful completion of FrontRunner South. FrontRunner commuter rail began service from Provo to Salt Lake City on Monday, December 10, 2012. Photo below is of UTA's FrontRunner commuter rail train at Provo Station on its inaugural run on December 6, 2012.



## OL Utah Booth Out and About

Special thanks to all of you working at the OL booths. The photo below is Vic Saunders working the booth. Operation Lifesaver Utah has attended the following during the fourth quarter of 2012:

- October 4, 2012, Mill Creek Elementary Safety Fair, Salt Lake City
- October 13, 2012, South Davis Preparedness Fair, Woods Cross
- October 18, 2012, MAG Transportation Open House in American Fork
- October 24, 2012, MAG Transportation Open House in Orem
- October 25-26, 2012, Zero Fatalities Safety Summit in Sandy
- October 26-28, 2012, Wasatch Rails Model Train Show, Salt Lake City
- Westlake High School Traffic and Safety Fair on December 3, 2012 in Saratoga Springs



## Operation Lifesaver Utah Runs Ads on KJZZ TV and Movie Theaters

During the week of Thanksgiving, Operation Lifesaver Utah ran advertising on KJZZ in the evening during the Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy hour.

Four other advertisements ran 900 times at the Megaplex Theaters at The District in South Jordan and another 600 times at the Megaplex Theater at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi.

Please look for these advertisements during the week of Christmas and again in January.

## KBYU Channel 11 to Showcase OL Utah

State Coordinator Vern Keeslar pre-recorded a special Operation Lifesaver segment on KBYU Channel 11 Community Connection. This episode will be coming forth in early 2013. However, you may see the show now on YouTube at the following address:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aH5p93MiP2Q&feature=g-upl>



## Union Pacific Railroad Celebrates 150 Years

One of America's iconic companies, Union Pacific celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2012. Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act of July 1, 1862, creating the original Union Pacific. Today, Union Pacific Railroad links 23 states in the western two-thirds of the country by rail. Since 1972 Union Pacific Railroad has been a voice for rail safety education at highway-rail grade crossings and around railroad property. Operation Lifesaver Utah congratulates Union Pacific Railroad on 150 years. For more information about the Union Pacific Railroad, visit [www.up150.com](http://www.up150.com) Photo shows Walt Webster, Assistant State Coordinator, delivering UP congratulation cakes to six locations in Utah.



## Last Presenter Training Class Held

Operation Lifesaver Utah held its last new presenter training class on Thursday, October 18, 2012. Six new presenters went through the training instructed by presenter trainers Kathy Bessinger and Walt Webster. Beginning sometime in 2013, a new "Approved Volunteer" training program will be unveiled.

Pictured at the training class from left to right Becky Bruce, Sheldon Shaw, Kathy Bessinger, Jody Jones, Cathy Heaton, Walt Webster, Andrea Clarke and Tim Becker.

