



Sunflower State Signal

Official Publication of Kansas Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

Director's Corner



I want to welcome our new OLAVs. We have recently held two face-to-face training classes and added 15 new volunteers. Thank you to our Board President Matt Vogt, for coaching these sessions.

This January, I attended the Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator Summit in Salt Lake City. It was my first chance to meet the staff from the national office as well as other State Coordinators. The theme of the conference was "Safety Elevated". Much of the discussion centered around the new State Partnership Agreement. At the time of the conference, all but nine states had signed the agreement. Detailed sessions were conducted about grant application strategies, fundraising, marketing, and volunteer training. Panel discussions were held with railroad and AASHTO representatives. Great things are happening with OLI across the country and much of it would translate well to Kansas. I hope to move forward with some new concepts soon.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at amays@kslegislature.org or on my cell 785-845-2911

Aaron Mays



this issue

News from OLI **P.2**

Volunteer Updates **P.3**

Kansas Legislature Proposes Change to Rail Safety Law

House bill 2225 is moving it's way through the legislative system. Introduced by Rep. Barbara Ballard (Lawrence) on behalf of Rep. Henry Helgerson (Eastborough).

HB 2225 would require a driver to stop a vehicle at least 15 feet but not more than 50 feet before crossing a railroad track under certain circumstances if other on-track equipment is present. The current crossing law for trains only and does not include on track equipment.

On-track maintenance equipment can not stop within a reasonable distance and this bill would clarify

Change will bring on-track equipment under same crossing laws as trains

motorists responsibility to stop at crossings.

HB 2225 has been passed by the House 121 to 3 and KS OL will be testifying in favor before the Senate Transportation Committee once a hearing is announced.

For more information or to read the bill go to www.kslegislature.org

Up Coming Events

May 4: Safe Kids' Day at the Topeka Zoo (OLAVs requested)

May 9: KS OL Board & Committee Meeting, Emporia

June 6: International Level Crossing Awareness Day <http://www.ilcad.org/>

July 20: Amelia Earhart Festival, Atchison (OLAVs requested)

Be sure to check ksoli.org events page periodically.

Board of Directors

Matt Vogt, President
Kansas Peace Officers'
Association

Mike Foster, Vice President
Member at-Large

Norbert Angell, Secretary
Member-at-Large

Adrian Hertog, Treasurer
BNSF Railway Proxy

Mitch Sothers
Kansas Dept of
Transportation

Chadd Thimesch
Watco Companies

Sgt. Tony Stewart
Kansas Highway Patrol

Ross Boelling
Member-at-Large

NEWS FROM OLI



OLI Recieves Donation from Posner Family Foundation

Funding for Suicide Prevention
Find the Blue & White National PSA
State Competitive Grant Program

Funding Supports Projects Designed to Help Save Lives

Washington, D.C. (February 7, 2019) – Millions of Americans will learn more about staying safe near trains from [Operation Lifesaver, Inc.](#) (OLI) thanks to a generous donation from the Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh.

OLI is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives by empowering the public to make safer choices near tracks and trains.

The funds will support four projects.

OLI will work with outside experts to understand, and appropriately communicate, suicide prevention initiatives. The goal is to effectively communicate about the sensitive subject with the public, partners and the media. The nonprofit will leverage the Federal Railroad Administration's Trespass and Suicide Dashboard to target locations throughout the United States and tailor prevention messages to those communities.

Henry Posner III, chairman of the Iowa Interstate Railroad and Railroad Development Corporation and a trustee of the Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh, stated that the Posner Foundation was

proud to support the work of OLI in both its traditional goals of reducing fatalities and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights-of-way, and the emerging field of suicide prevention.

The grant also funds the distribution of a [public service announcement](#) (PSA) about Emergency Notification System signs. The campaign will alert Americans to the existence of the newer, blue and white, signs posted at railroad crossings. They're designed to help those experiencing emergencies at railroad crossings. The signs offer a phone number to call to reach railroad dispatchers, as well as location information, so approaching trains may be stopped. The PSA will be digitally distributed to news outlets throughout the country.

Other projects supported by the gift include additional resources for a competitive grant program that funds public education activities conducted by Operation Lifesaver State Programs and a new program to further support rail safety volunteer efforts throughout the United States.

Social Media

Update

ksoli.org has been averaging 1,413 views a month.

We have reached 1,069 followers on Facebook. Keep sharing those posts!

“New” Initiative

We Need Your Help

KS OL is attempting to reach photographers in a new way. We are attempting to reach out to photographers that are leaders in their area. In hopes that they will help influence their smaller competition by example.

What we are asking from our volunteers is information. Please email us the names of the big photographers in your area, specifically those that do senior pictures, wedding photos, and other outdoor settings.

Please email Jessica at jmays@kscapitol.com with these names.



Volunteer of the Year!



Matt Vogt, Adrian Hertog, Aaron Mays

Adrian Hertog is our Volunteer of the Year!

Adrian is a retired BNSF employee who has dedicated 10 years to KS OL. In 2017 he gave 671 presentation was at 22 events and spoke with 8,787 people about rail safety! In 10 years Hertog has shared KS OL's rail safety message with just under 35,000 people!

Kansas Operation Lifesaver Out & About



Varsolona driving school

KS OL has already spoken to 1,090 people during presentations since 2019 started. 982 of which are teenagers, getting ready to head to the roads.



Schuetz Driving School for New Driver Education

It's Been Cold but KS OL is Still Out & About

New OLAVs



New OLAVs from Kyle Railroad (above), Midland Railway, Kansas City Southern Railway, and BNSF (right)

Welcome 15 New OLAVs

From Phillipsburg to Kansas City and South to Iola we are growing in our ability to save lives!

