



Sunflower State Signal

Official Publication of Kansas Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

Director's Corner



What a year for Kansas Operation Lifesaver. In the last 12 months we have added 23 new OLAVs and one new coach. Many of these new volunteers are located in parts of the state that were in dire need of rail safety advocates. Thank you to Adrian Hertog and Matt Vogt for helping to complete the Face to Face training sessions. These new volunteers are already doing a great job educating the public at large events and presentations.

OLAVs are the backbone of our organization. We couldn't survive without your time and efforts. Unfortunately, we still need more volunteers. The best way to recruit them is by referral. If you know someone who you think would be a good OLAV, please have them contact me or send them to the website and I will be in touch.

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

Aaron Mays



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The Year in Review

Kansas Operation Lifesaver has had a busy year educating Kansas citizens. From January 1 to October 31st KS OL has made 1,100 presentations and have been at or hosted 54 special events. Each presentation and special event is a chance to educate and save a life. This year our amazing volunteers have been in contact with over 24,938 Kansas citizens, warning about the dangers of trespassing and the importance of rail safety. This is a 25% increase from last year.

KS OL has been out and about all over Kansas at car shows, festivals, children's events, trade shows, safety conferences, state and county fairs. And let's not forget our officers on the train, or those at positive enforcement lanes. All of these events make an impact and raise awareness.

This year KS OL has met with Kansans of all ages, making sure our message is heard by the young and old alike - especially by new drivers. Of the 11,047 Kansas residents to whom we gave presentations, 50% were drivers education classes. KS OL is equipping our next generation of drivers with the knowledge they need to Listen, Look, & Live!

Even before they begin driving, KS OL is educating the next generation that if they see tracks, think train. KS OL volunteers gave presentations to 8,173 children and teens of Kansas, focusing 74% of our volunteer efforts on the future of our State!

Many thanks to our fantastic team of volunteers for making this another successful year. If you know someone who would like to join our team have them contact us at ksoli.org

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Rail Safety Week Big Success

KS OL educates 1,881
Kansans, statewide in
one week!



Positive Enforcement Lane. Wichita Police Officers Atondo and Burnett, with BNSF Police Special Agent Terry Tauai and KSOL President Matt Vogt



Rail Safety Week, September 22-28 was a great success we made direct contact with over 1,881 Kansas citizens. This is a thousand more than last year! In one week, KS OL hosted eleven presentations, was at six events including; a multi-force officer on the train event in Sedgwick County, a toy train show, a booth at a car show, and two positive enforcement lanes. KS OL was also on the news in Wichita and had PSAs running all week in the Topeka area.



Clearwater, KS Police Chief Bill Hisle helping with positive enforcement lanes



Rail Safety Week Proclamation signing with Governor Kelly



Valley Center Police Captain Matt Vogt and officers from the **Wichita Police Department**, **Kansas Highway Patrol** and the **Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department** handed out citations to pedestrians and drivers during a multi-force officer on the train event.

Governor Approves Rail Safety Bill

SB 63 Became Law on July 1.

Motorists and pedestrians must now yield to on-track equipment the same way they would if a train were approaching. They will also be subject to the same fines and penalties.

The bill requires 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, in addition to a railroad train as in continuing law, is nearby. The circumstances under which such a stop is required are the same as those for which a stop is required for a railroad train:

- A clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of the train or other on-track equipment;
- A crossing gate is lowered, or a human flagman gives a signal that a train or on-track equipment is approaching or passing;
- The railroad train or on-track equipment approaching within approximately 1,500 feet emits a signal audible from such distance and is, by reason of speed or proximity, an immediate hazard; or
- The approaching railroad train or on-track equipment is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to such crossing.

Dangerous Crossings Near You?

To streamline our PSA's, volunteer efforts, signage, and other ways of reaching the general public KS OL needs your help.

No one knows your hometown like you do. Is there a crossing near you that people consistently violate crossing laws? If so, we want to know about it. If you have an idea for how to deter this behavior, we want to know that too!

KS OL Looking for Dangerous Crossings in Kansas

Help us target specific areas that we may not know about. Email Jessica at jmays@kscapitol.com with your thoughts.



Kansas Railroad Facts

Kansas has 4,675 miles of active tracks.

There are only five other states that have more tracks than KS.

KS has 7,382 at-grade, public, and private crossings

5,158 of these are public crossings

Only 1,860 crossings have gates

There are 14 Railroads in Kansas

Kansas Railways employ more 4,800 employees in KS

The first railroad in KS was built in 1859 and was 5 miles long

1859 is also the year the Topeka, & Santa Fe Railway was founded in Topeka



CAN U BEAT A **TRAIN** TO SAVE TIME?

FRA Statistics Initial Release

The FRA has released partial statistics for 2019

This time last year

Incident	30
Injury	17
Fatality	4

2019 so far

Incident	23
Injury	11
Fatality	2

News from OLI New Website

OLI launched a new website design on November 4th. It will have a new look and features for public visitors.

The OL password protected Community area will have the same functions and navigation with a new look.

The biggest change other than the look and feel of the site is that the Education Resources page will only be accessible if you are logged in.



KS OL Begins Photographer Initiative

KS OL Has begun distributing information to Kansas photographers. By partnering with the Kansas Professional Photography Association (KPAA) we are getting our message in front of those that set the trends in Kansas portrait photography.

"I keep my clients off the tracks" window clings are being distributed by KPAA.

If you know a photographer that would like on contact us and we will get it mailed. A [new web page](#) has been created on [ksoli.org](#). At the bottom of the page you will find a pdf link to an [OLI approved fact sheet](#). Please feel free to print and use.



Kansas Operation Lifesaver Out & About



Students at Frontenac High School interacting with KS OL Volunteers during a safety assembly



The crash car on display in Halstead, KS, for Old Settlers Days.



Varsolona driving school, Saturday morning learning

Welcome to the Team!



New OLAVs from South East Kansas! Front L-R: Jenifer Little, Joely Gath, Jana Austerman, Kelli Frazier, Amber Brown Back: Jay Benedict, Afton Lundy, Crystal Arnold, Shea McLaughlin, and Adrian Hertog (OLI Coach)