

Staying On Track

State Coordinator

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Getting On Track

Illinois is one of the states with the most railroad track miles and railroads. We are a leader in the rail industry. Unfortunately with this comes railroad involved collisions, injuries and deaths. That is where Illinois Operation Lifesaver and all our volunteers and partners come in. We are very fortunate to have many more Operation Lifesaver Presenters, Trainers and Volunteers than most other states if not all. One of the things

we have talked about for years is having a Newsletter that would help keep everyone in the state up to speed with all that is going on in the world of Illinois Operation Lifesaver. As most of you know this is not an easy task. There are a lot of activities, events, classes, programs, training sessions, updates and meetings happening all the time. I can't tell you how many times I have heard from someone that

didn't know about something that was happening. Well I think this newsletter will help keep everyone involved in Illinois OL, in the loop. We will try to cover all the happenings in the state but we will also depend on all of you OL members to feed us information for this document. Let's use "Staying on Track" to stay informed and to celebrate our successes. We need pictures, information and articles. Let's start sending and sharing.

County Wide Enforcement on UP West Line

Union Pacific Police Officer Jim Magner, who is also a member of Illinois Operation Lifesaver Enforcement Committee organized a DuPage County Wide Enforcement Day for all communities along the UP West Line on October 20, 2009 from 3:30 PM until 6:30 PM. Officer Magner initiated these county wide enforcement projects a couple of years ago and they have been very successful on many levels. Not only do these projects spread the OL

safety message throughout all the communities along the UP Railroad, they also target the OL message to the people that it matters to the most, the commuters. A by product is also the relationships that are built between police officers of all the different communities that participate in the enforcement and the support given by each of the cities that the tracks run through. Last week's event was very successful.

Total Officers	19
UP RR Officers	1
Total Citations	54
Total Warnings	18

Participating Departments

Elmhurst, Villa Park, Lombard, Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Geneva, and West Chicago

State Coordinator Travels to Baltimore



In mid October Chip Pew the State Coordinator of Illinois Operation Lifesaver (ILOS) traveled to the OL State Coordinator Summit in Baltimore, Maryland. Chip currently holds the position of Region 4 representative to the National Advisory Council (NAC) for OLI. Baltimore Maryland will also be the sight of the 16th International Operation Lifesaver Symposium

which will be held August 29, 2010 thru September 1, 2010. During the State Coordinator Summit, OL administration and the participating State Coordinators discussed topics such as the on going process of updating Presenter Trainers and Presenters throughout the organization, and how this project is progressing. Participants also reviewed the list of videos that are

currently approved for use during Operation Lifesaver Presentations and some possibilities were discussed for additions or deletions to the list. It was also discussed that a procedure should be put in place so that individuals would be able to submit pictures to OLI for possible future use in the presentation charts.

“Elmhurst Police Officers, Elmhurst Firefighters, Metra and UP Employees and Police.”



Railroad Station Safety Blitz Held in Elmhurst

The Elmhurst Police Department in conjunction with their Fire Department, Metra Railroad Police, OL Presenters, Union Pacific Police and their OL Presenters all worked together on a Railroad Safety Blitz at the downtown Elmhurst Train Station one early morning in early Summer. During this event OL Presenters were conducting OL condensed presentations to the commuters, while

other participants handed out pens, coffee mugs, pedestrian safety flyers and pins. Other police officers used unmarked squad cars with in car video cameras to video tape and then ticket crossing violators at the two crossings adjacent to the train station. During this event which drew a lot of attention many citizens learned about the dangers of violating railroad warning gates, flashers

and bells. They also learned about the hazards of Trespassing on Railroad Property. In the picture to the left Larry Green, Lynn Howell, Trish Vascik, and Sheldon Soldwisch prepare mugs and other handouts for commuters. **During the event 725 people were contacted, 575 mugs and pens were given out, 530 people watched an OL presentation.**

Illinois Collision Stats Lower Than Ever

Steve Laffey, Railroad Safety Specialist works for the Illinois Commerce Commission out of Springfield, has always been our go to guys when it comes to statistics, graphs and any other related information that

you would need for a presentation when it comes to collisions. Recently he was talking about the statistics in Illinois for 2009 and they are looking very favorable compared to previous years.

As of August 2009 Illinois is showing a 28.6% reduction in Fatal Collisions, and a 35.5 % reduction in all collisions for the same time frame in 2008. Illinois is on track to have its “safest” year ever.

PEERS Program Highlighted at Conference

We have been very fortunate in Illinois for many years to have grant money available from the PEERS Program for Railroad Safety Programs. PEERS stands for Public Education and Enforcement Research Study. PEERS is a program that provides federal funds through the FRA that are disbursed through the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Commerce Commission. It has been recognized that the PEERS Program is a very successful approach to

reducing railroad involved collisions, injuries and deaths.

On November 15-18, 2009 the Texas Transportation Institute will be hosting the 2009 National Highway-Rail Crossing Safety Training Conference in New Orleans LA. Although that title is a mouth full it is a conference that promises to be full of state of art information and speakers that are leaders in railroad safety from all over the country.

Jessica Franklin, the Conference Coordinator,

has invited both Steve Laffey, Illinois Commerce Commission Railroad Safety Specialist and Jim Kveton, Cmdr with the Elmhurst Police Department to speak to conference participants on Monday November 16, 2009 and share information related to implementation and the successes of the PEERS Program in Illinois. For more information on the conference go to;

<http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/rail09/>

Or contact Jessica at;

j-franklin@ttimail.tamu.edu



Railroad Safety Banner Paid for With PEERS Funds

Upcoming Classes Being Offered

2009 has been a very busy year for Illinois Operation Lifesaver Presenter Trainers. Along with all the new presenter classes that are taught each year, Illinois Presenter Trainers had to hold update classes for all Illinois presenters throughout the state. OLI had re-written the OL curriculum in 2008 and it was set to be rolled out to presenters in 2009. This project was not only a way to get the new books DVDs and information to presenters on the new

curriculum and policies, it has been a way for OLI to clear up the presenter data base of volunteers that are no longer actively teaching. Illinois OL has also started teaching classes for those presenters who have not kept up their required 4 classes per year. These classes are being called recertification classes. Although many classes have already been held throughout the state several are still planned.

Elmhurst Police Dept,
125 East First Street,
Elmhurst, IL 60126,
(630) 530-3050

Re-cert Class
October 30, 2009
8:30AM to 12:30 PM

Update Class
October 30, 2009
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

New Presenter Class
November 5, 2009
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Northwest Indiana
New Presenter Class
February 16, 2010
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

“For more information on upcoming classes or to sign up contact a board member or the state coordinator.”

Kveton Attends GCCI Training In Texas

Grade Crossing Collision Investigation (GCCI) is a course that has been a part of Operation Lifesaver for some time. Over the last several years OL has been working on re-writing the curriculum of the program to make it more up to date. The program now follows video based instruction rather than power point slides. One

of our own, Officer Bill Lyons of the Villa Park Police Department, starred in segments of the new video. Over the last year the curriculum was completed and training of new instructors began. Commander Jim Kveton of the Elmhurst Police Department was selected to attend the training and become an instructor in early October. Funds to

send Jim to Texas were provided by IL OL, PEERS and the Elmhurst Police Dept. Kveton completed the class and was certified during the three day course that was held Oct. 6-8, 2009 in Ft. Worth. UP Officer Jim Magner is also a certified GCCI instructor in Illinois. For information on holding a GCCI class contact Jim Kveton at (630) 530-6406

"A Train Can Come From Any Direction, At Any Time, On Any Track"

"Any Time Is Train Time"

Illinois OL Produces New Safety Video

"A Knock on the Door", ILOL's latest video effort following "Final Answer" and "You Don't Know Tracks", will be shot in Highland Park. The two main characters are ILOL presenter Officer Bill Lyons and Ray Fischer of the Villa Park Police Department. The film titles, "The Knock on the

Door", deals with the period of time when police officers travel to the home of someone killed in a train vs. vehicle collision and make that notification to family. The goal is to have a reality show shooting style that today's audience relates to, with an emotional and somewhat dramatic tone

to it. The camera shots and angles will help to create drama and interest putting the viewer right in the scene s if they are a part of it. The video will emphasize the impact of the driver's fatal choice in trying to beat the train. Filming will take place on November 12.

Illinois Hits Home Run at Minor League Home Games

State Coordinator Chip Pew had submitted a PEERS Grant Proposal for 2009 to included holding Operation Lifesaver Promotional Days at Illinois Minor League Baseball Stadiums. The first event was held at the Schaumburg Flyers Stadium on June 6, 2009 at 1999 S. Springinsguth Rd. in Schaumburg. The event included Pew throwing out the first pitch at the game, safety signage on all the bathroom doors, OL safety

messages being announced during the game, display tables, both in the park and at the entrance. The Elmhurst Police also participated by displaying squad cars at the game. The second OL Day was held at the Windy City Thunderbolts Stadium on August 29, 2009 at 14011 S. Kenton Ave., Crestwood. During this event display tables were set up, banners were posted, radio PSAs were broadcast and they had the safety door

raips on the bathroom doors. This event was attended by police from Crestwood, Elmhurst and the ICC, along with the Crestwood Fire Dept. who all brought vehicles for participants to see. Volunteers from the UP Railroad also assisted. Both events were very successful in getting out the message of Railroad Safety. The message was brought to several thousand people at the games and through radio broadcasts.

Chip Pew with Schaumburg Flyers Mascot Bearon at the Flyers Game in June



Next Illinois Board and General Meeting

The next Illinois Operation Lifesaver Meetings will be held in December 2009. Normally the end of the year meetings in the north and south portions of the state are a significant celebration with a catered meal, soft drinks, and desert. This year's north meeting will be held at Elmhurst City Hall, 209 North York Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126 on December 8th. There will be a Board of Directors Meeting preceding the General Meeting from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. The General Meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers and will run from 10:00 AM to Noon. Lunch will be served at Noon. During this event important year end OL information will be shared with the membership along with a promotional item for all OL members that attend. One of the items that will be provided this year will be a video DVD of all OL class videos. Please RSVP to Jim Kveton at james.kveton@elmhurst.org

if you plan on attending the north year end meeting so appropriate seating and food can be ordered.

The south meeting will be held on Tuesday December 1, 2009 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the Municipal West Training Building, 200 Potomac Blvd., Mount Vernon, IL 62864. Again important OL information will be shared, food will be provided after the meeting and promotional items will be handed out. Please RSVP to Chip Pew for the south meeting at cpew@icc.illinois.gov

For more information, directions or any volunteers to assist with either meeting contact Chip Pew, ILOL State Coordinator.



16th International Symposium

The 16th International Operation Lifesaver Symposium has been set for August 29 thru September 1, 2010. The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor in Baltimore Maryland. The International OL Symposium is held every two years in different parts of the country and includes training sessions for Presenters, Presenter Trainers, GCCI Instructors, State Coordinators and other

OL volunteers. Topics include seminars on best practices in Railroad Safety, Enforcement and Engineering from National and International sources. Special social events are normally arranged to assist in team building in the evenings after a day of seminars and break out sessions. The two prior Symposiums have been held in Los Angeles and Cincinnati respectively. You can view a general

overview of the 16th International Symposium and a draft agenda on the OLI web page www.oli.org under the News & Events tab, sub category Events. For further inquiries, send an e-mail with a subject line of "16th Symposium" to general@oli.org

Elite and Morton Suggestions along with other vendors of safety equipment normally attend

Members of Illinois Operation Lifesaver attend the session on Training Tools at the 15th International Symposium in Cincinnati Ohio in 2008



Illinois Operation Lifesaver

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PEERS Phase 6 Grant Applications Submitted

Public Education and Enforcement Research Study, (PEERS) is a grant program that Illinois has been very fortunate to be a part of for the last several years. Notice was sent out in late August by the ICC that Phase 6 of the program was open for the submission of grant applications that were due

back to the Illinois Commerce Commission by Noon on September 15, 2009. The ICC had received 37 applications totaling \$1.1 million dollars of grant requests when there was only \$475,000 available. On October 21, notices were sent to applicants advising them of the awards that they

had been granted. The grants which normally include salaries and supplies for education and enforcement events throughout the applicant community will run from January 2010 to December 2010. For more information on PEERS contact Steve Laffey (217) 785-9026.

Contacting Your Illinois Operation Lifesaver Board By Email

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Board Member Gordon Bowe,	Gordo400ol@yahoo.com
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Submitting Articles, Pictures or Information For The Newsletter

Illinois Operation Lifesaver is always looking for information, articles, and pictures to be added to and shared through our Newsletter. If you have any information about up coming

events, classes, conferences or anything else that would benefit other OL volunteers please forward them in by email. We also like to share in the successes of our volunteers

and OL at large, so include things we can celebrate also. We will include as many as we can. Forward all submissions to james.kveton@elmhurst.org

Collisions, Fatalities & Injuries at Highway Rail Crossings in Illinois: 1980 - 2008

