



Staying On Track

State Coordinator

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The “Another Train Warning System”

A new pedestrian grade crossing warning system is being activated at eight stations on the Union Pacific West Line on March 1, 2011. The “Another Train Warning System” (ATWS) is part of a \$132 million project that aims to improve the flow of commuter and freight traffic on the heavily used train line, as well as to allow freight trains to safely operate past a station when a commuter train is stopped there.

Metra and Union Pacific

improvement initiatives across the country and the West Line safety infrastructure is incorporating the best practices, creating the most comprehensive safety system of any commuter rail operation in the U.S.

The ATWS uses audible and visual alerts to warn pedestrians at crossings near the stations that a second train – in addition to the one that is stopped at the station – is approaching or present. It remains active

until only one train or no train is present. The system enhances other grade crossing warning devices, includes new paths that safely guide pedestrians to a gated crossing, and has more pedestrian gates and fencing to discourage pedestrians from crossing at unsafe and unauthorized locations.

Go to the below listed web site to see an instructional video.

http://www.metraupwest.com/media/videos/metra_up_west_flash.shtml

The Union Pacific Railroad and Metra have worked together to create safer interaction between pedestrians and rail traffic by installing these new warning devices at several crossings along the UP West Line. The equipment includes an illuminated sign warning of the danger that another train is in the area while an audible voice warns of the same information.

See image at right.



“Meet a Presenter” Jewel Pickett of Amtrak



Jewel Pickett, Sr. Safety Coordinator for Amtrak

Jewel Pickett is an Operation Lifesaver presenter from Chicago, Illinois. He has been working in the field of railroading for over 34 years. Jewel has worked for two different railroads, currently working for Amtrak. Jewel works out of the West VanBuren office of Amtrak on the second floor, and holds the position of Senior Safety Coordinator.

Jewel has been married to his wife Cynthia for 28 years and they have one son named Matthew.

Jewel has many different hobbies and interests, but his two favorites are photography and working in the yard.

Many years ago, Jewel was drawn to Operation Lifesaver by a need within himself to help eliminate needless crossing and trespass collisions, incidents, injuries and fatalities. He does many different types of Operation Lifesaver presentations each year, but the ones that are the most rewarding are those that he does for the waste

haulers. They seem to get a lot out of the message that he brings and they always invite him back. Of course the presentations he most enjoys giving are those to the grade school kids because they always get so excited about the program.

Jewel has also been an instrumental part of coordinating transportation through Amtrak for OL presenters so they could travel to either the regional or international conferences.

Region 4 to Hold Training Conference in the Dells

The State Coordinators and other Operation Lifesaver members of Region 4 have formed a committee to put together a training conference that will be held in September of 2011. The conference will be held at the Chula Vista Resort and Water Park in the Wisconsin Dells, on September 13, 14 and 15th, 2011. When the committee first started discussions, their goal was to provide worthwhile, valuable training at a location that would promote a high level of participation at a reasonable cost. With the Wisconsin Dells being centrally located, the allure of the water parks and scheduling the event after the time most families take summer vacations, the committee is hoping for above average participation.

After attending the International Symposium in Baltimore and the DuPage Railroad Safety Council's conferences in 2010, the Region 4 committee was formed to discuss putting together a conference with the thoughts that annual training and interaction between Operation Lifesaver and its members was very important to keep everyone up to date and motivated.

Some of the possible agenda items being discussed are:

Using Power Point, Finding or Securing a Group / Organization / Location for a Presentation, Looking Outside the Box for Material / Props, Non Traditional OL Events, Increasing Member Participation, GCCI / RSER Update, Trainer's Update, Internet / Social Networking, Best Practices for Enforcement and Education.

Some of the activities discussed:

Dinner Cruise, Water Park Activities, Golf Outing, Train Activities

Of course some of the work and preparation has already been done, but there is a lot more that needs to be done. We want to make sure this event is valuable and well attended. If you are willing to help or you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact the chairperson of that specific area to offer input. A list of the committees, chairpersons and e-mail addresses are at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter.

Amtrak will again be offering complimentary round-trip coach transportation for Operation Lifesaver Volunteers to and from the conference. Call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL to arrange.



The Chula Vista Resort and Water Park in Wisconsin Dells, WI

Illinois Operation Lifesaver

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P.O. Box 183
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Operation Lifesaver Inc.

See us at:

www.oli.org

or

www.icc.illinois.gov/LOL

Illinois Operation Lifesaver 2011 Meeting Schedule

Illinois Operation Lifesaver North:

June 14th, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst Police Dept.

Sept. 20th, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst Police Dept.

Dec. 13th, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst City Hall

Illinois Operation Lifesaver South:

June 7th, (10AM general meeting)

Municipal West Training Building
Sept. 27th, (10AM general meeting)

Municipal West Training Building
Dec. 6th, (10AM general meeting)

Municipal West Training Building

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

Elmhurst City Hall, 209 N. York Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126 (630) 530-3000

Municipal West Training Building, 200 Potomac Blvd., Mount Vernon, IL 62864

Next Presenter Training April 5

Tri Town Safety Village,
1350 Eagle Ridge Drive in Schererville, IN

Contacting Your Illinois Operation Lifesaver Board By Email

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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 by email. We also like to share in the successes of our volunteers

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

Operation Lifesaver Region 4 Conference Committee and Areas of Responsibility

Committees	Committee Chairs	Contact Information
Agenda / Schedule	Chip Pew	cpew@icc.illinois.gov
	Jim Kveton	james.kveton@elmhurst.org
Transportation	Jessica Allen Feder	jfeder@inol.org
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