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2011 Region 4 Operation Lifesaver Conference

Well it is better late than never I always say. The OL Region 4 workshop was 6 months ago but it was so successful that I had to cover it on the front page. The biannual conference was held at the Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells September 13, 14 and 15th 2011. The event went off without a hitch. As the event was being organized the planning committee had many sleepless nights worrying that there wouldn't be enough money, there would not be enough interest, but in the end everything worked out very well.

It turned out to be the best attended OL Regional Conference in the nation. All the railroads and organizations came forth with generous donations and we had over 120 people in attendance. There were a couple of very nice social events along with some small groups that got together and enjoyed time together golfing, eating out, going to the water park and other social events were very enjoyable.

CN brought out their Little OB train and provided rides for participants and local school children in the parking lot of the resort. Health World had their Railroad Safety display in the lobby and the training programs were very educational. There were presentations on the use of power point, the GCCI program, presentation tools, suicide prevention and several others. Each class was presented twice, giving everyone an opportunity to attend each program.

Many different organizations and railroads also donated numerous items for the registration packets, door prizes

and raffle prizes. The planning committee also had T-shirts printed for everyone in attendance in either white or grey. I think everyone went home with information that they didn't have when they arrived, along with the mementos, memories and relationships that were built and will be very valuable in the years to come.

We would like to thank Susie Klinger, Jim Tracy, Wisconsin OL and the entire planning committee for putting together such a wonderful event.



Presenter Trainer Training / Welcome Banquet





Gifts that were presented to Adler Shelbourne at the Event

CN Helps Train Loving Kid Fighting Brain Tumor

The CN Railroad Police came up with a great idea to decorate the hospital room of a 3 year old boy named Adler Shelbourne who is battling a brain tumor. It just so happens that Adler loves trains. Soon the project gained steam and many different groups, police and fire departments joined the cause.

On the day of the event it started with the Adler Shelbourne Police and Fire Parade that was led by the Lake County Sheriff's Department Pipe

and Drum Core. They were followed by 20 police cars and fire trucks. Our own Eric Graf was heard telling Adler, "We are proud today to appoint you to the CN Police Department" as he issued Adler his very own CN Police jacket. Canadian National Police Chief Bobby Walker was also on hand for the celebration.

Adler's next few months will be hard ones. He has already had two surgeries for a malignant brain tumor. The next step is six weeks of radiation with

a month break before chemotherapy.

Hopefully the support Adler feels will help him through his ordeal. U.S. Steel employees and management donated a working, mounted locomotive bell inscribed with Adler's name. A member of the Pipe and Drum Core presented Adler with a Thomas the Tank Engine Train blanket that was handmade by his wife. Adler watches "Thomas the Magic Railroad" five times per day.

University of Wisconsin to Hold Safety Courses

The University of Wisconsin will be holding a Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Course at their Madison Wisconsin Campus on March 15th and 16th 2012. The course is being sponsored by the College of Engineering. The course will teach the basic principles of highway-rail crossing safety and will help apply these principles to new and existing projects.

- Warnings and Highway Signals
- Quiet Zones
- Wayside Horns

The University of Wisconsin holds many courses throughout the year at many different locations throughout the country related to railroads. Several of our local Illinois Operation Lifesaver members and partners teach portions of the program. For those that may be interested in registering, some future classes in our area are;

Railroad Track Construction Project Management – Course #N097
March 12-14, 2012
Madison Campus

Introduction to Railroad Engineering and Operations – Course #N246
May 7-9, 2012
Madison Campus

Understanding and Complying with FRA Track Safety Standards – Course #N301 May 22, 2012
Des Plaines, IL

For more information go to www.epd.engr.wisc.edu/webN098



Railroad Engineering and Safety Courses Being Offered

Topics to Include

- Traffic Control Devices
- Geometric Design and Grade Separations
- Grade Crossing Surfaces
- Crossing Closures and Consolidation Strategies
- Train Detection and Warning Systems
- Traffic Signal Preemption
- Interconnection of Grade Crossing
- Program Roles of State and Local Governments, Including Funding
- DOT National Grade Crossing Inventory
- Public Education and Outreach Programs
- Operation Lifesaver

Awards Handed Out at Year End Meeting

The Illinois Operation Lifesaver yearend Banquet was held on Tuesday December 13, 2011 at the Elmhurst City Hall. At the meeting the Enforcement Committee presented Achievement of Excellence Awards to 8 police officers and 3 prosecutors from around the State of Illinois. These individuals and agencies had done some exceptional work in the area of enforcement of either trespassing or crossing violations and promoted Operation Lifesaver throughout their community.

The following were recognized:

Sergeant Eric Munson of the Plainfield Police Department and their two prosecutors, Debra Abbott and Joan Meyers.

Officer Antonio "Tony" Reyes of the West Chicago Police Department and prosecutor William T. Belmonte

Sergeant William Devine, Officer Mark Fabiszak and Officer Tim Luke of the Tinley Park Police Department

Officers Steve Wright and Doug Rumick of the Elmhurst Police Department

We thank all of these individuals for the wonderful work they have done to help keep the public safe around railroad tracks.

Operation Lifesaver Goes Bowling for Safety

On Friday January 20, 2012 Illinois Operation Lifesaver ran what we hope is our first annual Bowling for Safe Rails fund raising event. Jennifer Hilko of the Union Pacific Railroad came up with this idea several months ago and ran with it. Jennifer, who is a two time Collegiate Bowling Champion thought this would be a great way for members and friends of Illinois Operation Lifesaver to get out and have some fun and raise some money for Operation Lifesaver at the same time.

The weather was not very cooperative but it was still a very successful outing. It turned out to be the first blizzard of the winter but several members of ILOL showed up to show their bowling skills and support.

The raffle prizes that were obtained by Hilko ranged from baseball tickets, autographed sports memorabilia, to show tickets and of course some railroad items. It was a great event and also very successful.

At a time when the economy is questionable,

even for Operation Lifesaver, the bowling event was able to raise over \$1,300.00 for Illinois OL.

This first bowling / fund raising event, which was held at the Stardust Bowl in Addison Illinois will be used as a model for future events. It gave way to many other creative ideas for other possibilities of fund raising. We must be creative to help support our safety efforts. Here is looking forward to next year and some more, great raffle prizes, pizza and bowling.



Upcoming Conferences

There are several very important dates that we should all keep track of and mark in our calendars in the upcoming months.

The first is the Operation Lifesaver International Symposium, which is being held in Denver Colorado this year. The planning committee is working very hard to bring this one together but the target audience and curriculum is still in the

planning stages. The dates of the event will be June 26, 27 and 28, 2012.

The next date to save is October 11, 2012. The DuPage Railroad Safety Council will be holding a one day safety workshop in Oakbrook IL. This is always a very well planned worthwhile event. It will be held at the McDonnell's Corporate Headquarters on Jorie Boulevard.



Illinois Operation Lifesaver

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See us at:

www.oli.org

or

www.icc.illinois.gov/LOL

Illinois Operation Lifesaver 2012 Meeting Schedule

Illinois Operation Lifesaver North:

June 5th, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst Police Dept.

Sept. 11th, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst Police Dept.

Dec. 4th, (8AM Board, 10:30AM general) Elmhurst City Hall

Illinois Operation Lifesaver South:

June 12th, (10AM general meeting) Municipal West Training Building

Sept. 18th, (10AM general meeting) Municipal West Training Building

Dec. 11th, (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

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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

2011 Operation Lifesaver Region 4 Conference

