



**OPERATION  
LIFESAVER®**  
North Dakota

# Operation Lifesaver News

Summer 2008

## Save the Date!

Quarterly Meeting

December 10, 2008

10:00am

Fordville, ND

## OL Volunteers Inspired

by Leann Wallin

I had the pleasure of attending the 15<sup>th</sup> International Symposium this past July in Cincinnati, Ohio. Also in attendance from North Dakota was Cheri Bonebrake and Steve and Cindy Mark. It was an informative and inspiring symposium offering various classes covering all of the 3 E's – Education, Engineering and Enforcement.

One of my favorite sessions was a hands-on class entitled "Upgrading Your Presentation with Props" that facilitated the sharing of many great ideas from presenters all across the United States. Each table was given a prop and had a few minutes to come up with ideas on how to best use the prop to incorporate/reinforce an Operation Lifesaver safety message.

Props are a great way to help get your message across and captivate your audience at the same time. Here are just a few ideas that transpired from the activity:

### **Prop: Mirror** (audience: driver's education)

Who's responsibility is it to keep you safe at railroad crossings? (Face mirror in front of student(s).) The answer is obvious – it is your own actions and the choices you make at every highway-rail grade crossing that determine the outcome. Make smart choices that will keep you safe at every crossing, every time.

### **Prop: Toy Train** (audience: children)

It's fun to play with toy trains, but when it comes to real trains you have to play it safe!

*Tip: Use in your opening and repeat again in your closing.*

### **Prop: Empty picture frame**

(Audience: professional drivers)

Don't let a picture of you be all that's left behind for your family – always obey highway- rail grade crossing signs and signals at every crossing and

## 2008 ND Crossing Stats

	2007	2008
Highway-Rail Incidents	13	9
Highway-Rail Injuries	4	4
Highway-Rail Deaths	4	1
Trespasser Injuries	1	3
Trespasser Deaths	0	2

Source: \*Preliminary January-September 2008 Statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration

## Attention Presenters!

### Continuing Education Quiz

If you have not yet taken this quiz, you need to ASAP!

**All presenters who do not complete this quiz will be considered inactive presenters and removed from the OLI database.**

Just follow these links to the quiz:

<http://www.oli.org>

Click on:

>Presenters

>Presenter Login

>Scroll down until you see

**Presenter Continuing Education Test**



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# Operation Lifesaver News

## New Rail Safety Bill

**WASHINGTON, October 2, 2008**— Congressional passage of rail safety legislation Wednesday emphasized the need for public rail safety education, said Helen Sramek, President of Operation Lifesaver, a national non-profit organization focused on this important effort.

“The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 recognizes the key role that public awareness and education play in a comprehensive effort to improve highway-rail grade crossing safety and pedestrian rail trespass incidents,” said Sramek.

The legislation authorizes the Federal Railroad Administration to provide grants that will assist Operation Lifesaver’s mission of reducing vehicle-train collisions and pedestrian rail trespassing incidents through public information and education programs in communities across the U.S.

“Congressional recognition of Operation Lifesaver’s public education efforts will enable Operation Lifesaver to continue to work with our State Coordinators across the country and target areas where significant need occurs,” Sramek said.

The Rail Safety Improvement Act also authorizes states with the highest number of vehicle-train and pedestrian-train crashes to craft a community-based pilot program to address these incidents. Operation Lifesaver will work with its state programs, community leaders, school districts and private partners to identify the communities at greatest risk, develop appropriate measures to reduce these risks and coordinate with state grade crossing action plans.

## OL Volunteers Inspired

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make it home safe every time. *Tip: Use for a dramatic closing.*

If you are not currently using props in any of your presentations, I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and try incorporating a prop into your presentation. I’m confident that once you try it you’ll be pleased with the results and you’ll be looking for more.

If you have any questions or would like more ideas, please don’t hesitate to contact me via e-mail at [leann.wallin@ci.moorhead.mn.us](mailto:leann.wallin@ci.moorhead.mn.us).

## Congratulations!



Levi Andreas, Serena Schmit, Erin Irgens, Matt Fossum, Jeff King, Leann Wallin, Tanya Wisnewski and Cheri Bonebrake

A new presenter training class was held at the North Dakota Safety Council in Bismarck on September 29th. In attendance were Levi Andreas with the City of Minot Fire Department, Serena Schmit, NDSC and Erin Irgens, Matt Fossum and Jeff King with BNSF. Presenter Trainers were Cheri Bonebrake, BNSF and Leann Wallin, City of Moorhead. We are pleased to welcome these new presenters to the OL family.

## Presentation Reporting

Just a reminder to all presenters:

**DON'T FORGET TO LOG YOUR PRESENTATIONS ON THE OLI WEBSITE.**

JUST FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

>[www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org) >Presenters >Presenter Login  
>Submit Presenter Report

*If you are missing your login or password, call Serena at 701.223.6372 or email her at [SerenaS@ndsc.org](mailto:SerenaS@ndsc.org).*