

OPERATION LIFESAVER OF VERMONT, INC.

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. is a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and trespassing on or near railroad tracks.

Operation Lifesaver is comprised of programs in every state assisted by a National Office. They have developed proprietary system of training Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers (OLAVs) These volunteers make presentations to school groups, driver's education classes, community organizations and the like. The presentation materials vary depending on the audience or age group. Operation Lifesaver also encourages participation in community events and fairs. Operation Lifesaver has licensed giveaways such as pens, pencils, key chains. They also have coloring and activity books and stickers for young children.

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. also holds regional and national meetings of State Coordinators. I recently attended the National State Coordinators Summit in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Operation Lifesaver of Vermont Inc. was formed in 2016 to succeed a program that had lost its corporate status. A new nonprofit corporation, the most common structure for state programs, was formed and received 501(c)(3) status. The Board of Directors is:

Charles Hunter, President, New England Central Railroad

Dan Delabruere, Secretary, VTrans Rail & Aviation Director

Hon. David Allaire, Treasurer, Rutland Mayor

Chad Mowery, Central Maine and Quebec Railway

Rob Hanson, Amtrak Police

SGT Mark Perkins, Vermont State Police

Tom Winn, Pan Am Railways

Perry Martel, Vermont Rail System

Norma Jean Griffiths, Non-Voting Member, Federal Railroad Administration

Alan Franklin, VTrans, State Coordinator/Executive Director, *ex officio*

The Board generally meets quarterly with the next meeting scheduled for May 15.

In 2018, we made 91 presentations reaching 2,369 people. We participated in 14 special events including several multi-day events such as the Champlain Valley Fair (10 days), Glory Days of the Railroad in White River Junction (2 days) the Jingle Bell Express (2 days) reaching a total of 7,654 people reached between presentations and special events.

Other special events included exhibits at the Celebration of the Young Child in Castleton, The Northwest Model Train spring and fall shows, the Vermont Driver and Traffic Safety Association, St. Michael's College Safety Day, Burlington Kids' Day, and the Hartford Alumni Parade, Hartford Police Department National Night Out.

School presentations took place in Burlington, Essex Junction, Brattleboro, Rutland, Barre, Hartford, Newport, St. Albans, Enosburg Falls, Townsend. These included both elementary and high schools, driver's ed and general high school students.

We presented at private driver's ed classes in Putney, Norwich, Middlebury, Newbury, Berlin, Swanton.

Operation Lifesaver teamed up with the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance for the Vermont Municipal Highway Association's Equipment Show and Field Day and the Vermont Bike and Walk Summit, and the Champlain Valley Fair. We are a full partner of the Alliance and are planning some future events.

I have appeared on television, most recently in January on WCAX's "You Can Quote Me" with Darren Perron.

In November I trained and qualified 7 new volunteers at the Vermont Driver and Safety Association fall meeting, all driver's ed teachers. I am training and qualifying 2 more in March. This will assist us in reaching even more people, especially increase our participation in driver's ed classes.

Operation Lifesaver of Vermont is operating on budget of \$26,000.00 annually. Contributions have come from the State of Vermont, Genesee & Wyoming, the parent company of the New England Central Railroad, Vermont Rail System and the Central Maine and Quebec Railway. Other funding has been provided from Operation Lifesaver National. Much of the funding is used to purchase licensed Operation Lifesaver merchandise used to give away at presentations and special events.

In 2019, Operation Lifesaver of Vermont aims to build an online, digital, and social media presence to increase outreach.

In 2015, 4 persons died and 1 each in 2016 and 2017. After no fatalities in 2018, Vermont has already suffered one fatality in 2019. The need for education and awareness is obvious and important.

Alan Franklin, State Coordinator, Operation Lifesaver of Vermont.