

## **NEBRASKA OPERATION LIFESAVER**

### **STATE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 21, 2017 [www.nebraskaol.org](http://www.nebraskaol.org)**

**[www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)**

**Find us on Facebook: Nebraska Operation Lifesaver**

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Carol Daley called the meeting to order and Billy Anderson gave the safety briefing.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Billy Anderson, BNSF Railroad

Deb Ashworth, Union Pacific Railroad

William Bivin, Nebraska Safety Center

Daniel Chapp, BNSF Railroad

Roger Figard, Lincoln/Lancaster Railroad Transportation Safety District

Hilda Gurwell, Union Pacific Railroad – Retired

Linda Kearns, NDOT – Highway Safety Office

Taylor Kelley, Nebraska Central Railroad

Marvin Kohout, Traffic Safety Plus

Richard Kotan, Omaha Public Power District

Pat Leahy, Union Pacific Railroad

Jeff Schmid, BNSF Railroad

Trevor Sindelar, NDOT – Highway Safety

Grace Snoke, News Link

Stu Sutherland, Sarpy Surveyor's – Retired

Jeri Willms, Presenter

### **Statistics:**

Trevor Sindelar discussed the following handouts (see attachments).

- Nebraska Traffic Fatality Toll Comparison as of September 21, 2017
- 2017 Nebraska Railroad Fatalities – Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities/Non-Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities

Carol Daley discussed the following handouts (see attachment).

- Nebraska Operation Lifesaver Statistics Worksheet (January-September 15, 2017). The worksheet has been revised to reflect previous years' data (2012 to 2017) for comparison and number of public crossings complete; with listings for passive and active numbers for Nebraska. The source for this data is from the Federal Railroad Administration.

### **Board and Officer Report:**

The NE OL Board of Directors met prior to the State Committee meeting. Those in attendance were: Carol Daley, Deb Ashworth, Marvin Kohout, Richard Kotan, Daniel Chapp, and Linda Kearns. The items discussed were: NE OL Budget, Carol's meetings at NAC, September 13-14, in Washington D.C., John Simpson's retirement from Union Pacific Railroad, John's replacement is Buck Russell, Amazon Smile, and the 2017 Raffle.

### **General Secretary/Supplies:**

If you are in need of supplies, including visuals for presentations, contact Carol Daley at 402-885-8572 or by email at [cadaley@nebraskaol.org](mailto:cadaley@nebraskaol.org). (NOTE: New email address for Carol)

**Treasurer:**

Balance on hand as of September 21, 2017 was \$8,001.27 checking.

**Old Business:****Nebraska (West End) Update – Pat Leahy**

Pat was busy with the Nebraska State Fair and Rail Days. During Rail Days (Sept. 15 – 17) a total of 800 passengers rode the train. Eight train rides were provided with six of them full; the other two 75% full. Pat worked the State Fair on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (August 25 – 27); which had nonstop traffic. He said Monday and Tuesday (August 28 – 29) were slow days.

**Nebraska OL Updates: (See Attached)****National Advisory Committee (NAC) Meeting – Carol Daley**

Carol reported the NAC will not be sponsoring a 2018 conference; instead there will be eight regional meetings held across the United States in 2018. The Region 6 meeting will be in Kansas City next year. Nebraska is part of Region 6.

**Lincoln's Children Museum** – NE OL gave 39 presentations to 301 people.

**Nebraska State Fair** – NE OL gave 221 presentations to 837 people. The NEOL trailer/booth received the “**Reserve Champion Outstanding Programming**” ribbon. See picture on left.

**Camp Creek Train Show** – NE OL gave 52 presentations to 335 people.

**Gretna Library Initiatives - Deb Ashworth**

The initiative was a success at getting our message into the school library. OLI made the news in the Gretna Breeze.

**2017 Fundraiser Update – Carol**

The raffle raised \$4,399.13. All of the 18 winners were very receptive of what they won. Last year we raised \$3,788. Deb ordered the Square Up and Carol received it. It attaches to the phone and we have a downloaded app; if someone wants to donate or purchase tickets they swipe their credit card/sign the

screen for their donation. We will be utilizing this for future fundraisers. A small charge will be assessed to NE OL when using it. This was very useful for our fundraiser.

**New Business:****National Railroad Safety Week is September 24-30<sup>th</sup>** – (See attached)

Information was provided on Rail Safety Week, September 24 – 30, 2017. Operation Lifesaver Inc. will be paying for PSAs across the States. See attached schedule for Nebraska and National OLI.

**Fundraising Opportunities:**

Deb Ashworth is working to get set up with Amazon Smile as a fund-raiser. Through Amazon Smile if anyone orders from Amazon they can assign Nebraska Operation Lifesaver as their charity to receive a donation. Amazon has given away \$54 million dollars to charities with this program. Carol is working with them directly as our organization was listed as “private”. Sandy Pfau Englund the attorney for OLI is working to get it changed to “public”.

**Google Calendar – Deb Ashworth**

Deb has set up a Google Calendar to schedule the two NE OL trailers to avoid double booking. See attached sample. The Gmail account is [NebraskaOperationLifesaver@gmail.com](mailto:NebraskaOperationLifesaver@gmail.com). Deb Ashworth, Dan Chapp, Megan Grimes, Pat Leahy and Carol Daley will have access to it.

**Open Discussion:**

Carol urges everyone who completed OL presentations to get them input into the OLI database.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned.

Linda Kearns took the minutes. Any corrections or additions will be noted at the next meeting.

**NE OL State Committee Meeting, Havelock Shops, 6600 Burlington Avenue, Lincoln, NE  
Next meeting will be Thursday, November 9, 2017**

# Nebraska Traffic Fatality Toll Comparison

## Daily Count Thru 8:00 A.M. Thursday September 21, 2017

COMPARISON TO DATE	THUS FAR		URBAN	RURAL	RURAL BY ROADWAY			URBAN BY ROADWAY			BY SELECTED ACCIDENT TYPES				
	BY MONTH	BY YEAR			INST.	OTHER HWYS.	CO. ROADS	INST.	OTHER HWYS.	LOCAL ROADS	MOTOR-CYCLE	ATV	TRAIN	PEDES-TRIAN	BIKE
<b>2012</b>	22	159	43	116	13	54	49	2	11	30	20	3	2	14	0
<b>2013</b>	21	166	43	123	14	63	46	2	11	30	13	4	3	11	0
<b>2014</b>	18	165	37	128	14	66	48	4	10	23	18	0	3	5	1
<b>2015</b>	17	170	62	108	13	61	34	1	18	43	24	2	1	12	4
<b>2016</b>	14	165	49	116	19	53	44	4	12	33	18	2	3	11	1
<b>2012 - 2016 Average</b>	18	165	47	118	15	59	44	2.6	12	32	19	2	2.4	11	1.2
<b>2017</b>	12	164	54	110	10	64	36	5	13	36	23	5	2	12	2
<b>% Change 2016 - 2017</b>	-14%	-1%	10%	-5%	-47%	21%	-18%	25%	8%	9%	28%	150%	-33%	9%	100%
<b>2017 Compared to 2012 - 2016</b>	-35%	-1%	15%	-7%	-32%	8%	-19%	92%	5%	13%	24%	150%	-17%	13%	67%

Prepared By: Highway Safety - Accident Records Section, Traffic Engineering Division  
Nebraska Department of Transportation

September 21, 2017

**2017 NEBRASKA RAILROAD FATALITIES  
MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC FATALITIES**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FATALITIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>LOCATION &amp; RAILROAD COMPANY</u>	<u>Alcohol-Related</u>
8/18/17	2	Lancaster	(City St) In Lincoln West South St & Folsom Bypass Amtrak Railroad	No

**Train Fatalities**

2006	4
2007	6
2008	1
2009	4
2010	2
2011	2
2012	3
2013	2
2014	3
2015	1
2016	3
2017	2

**Train Injuries**

2006	22
2007	21
2008	19
2009	18
2010	4
2011	13
2012	13
2013	18
2014	8
2015	6
2016	13
2017 (Jan-July)	3

**Train Crashes**

2006	37
2007	40
2008	39
2009	38
2010	20
2011	19
2012	23
2013	25
2014	28
2015	16
2016	25
2017 (Jan-July)	12

September 21, 2017

**NON-MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC FATALITIES  
2017**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>FATALITIES</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>LOCATION RAILROAD COMPANY ACCIDENT TYPE</b>
7-21-17	1	Hall	(City St) In Grand Island Third & Blaine St Union Pacific Railroad Train - Pedestrian



## Nebraska Operation Lifesaver Statistic Worksheet from 2012 – 9/15 2017

1. Most collisions occur with trains traveling under **30** mph.
2. Approximately **64%** of all collisions occur in daylight hours.
3. Most collisions occur within **25** miles of the driver's home.
4. Approximately every **3 hours** (some place in the United States) a collision occurs between a train and a vehicle or a train and a pedestrian.
5. You are **20** times more likely to die in a collision with a train than in a collision involving another motor vehicle.
6. At 55 mph, it may take a train up to a **mile** or more to stop.
7. Nearly **50%** of all collisions occur at crossings equipped with active warning devices.
8. Nearly **25%** of all collisions occur when the vehicle runs into the side of the train.
9. Nebraska has a total of **4,986** crossings. There are **2,969** Public and **2,017** Private crossings.  
2,961 Public Crossings: 689 have gates and 180 have activated warnings and 2,100 are Passive.

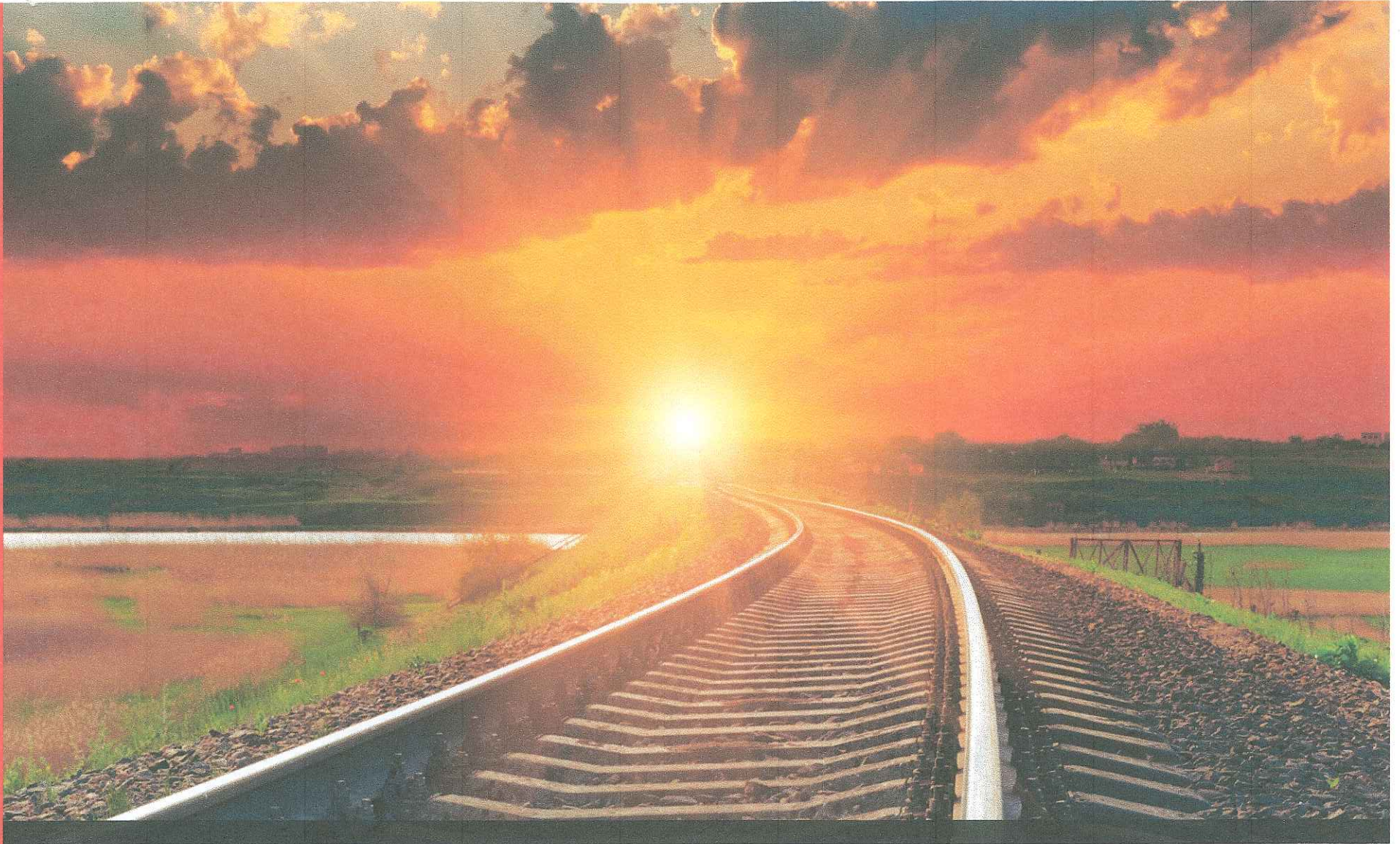
**Note: Statistics updated 9/15/2017**

National Crossing Collisions	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Collisions	1,015	2,039	2,077	2,297	2,104	1,989
Injuries	419	839	1,045	872	977	971
Fatalities	122	265	233	262	232	231
National Trespasser Incidents						
Injuries	247	489	418	425	434	410
Fatalities	294	491	451	468	425	410
Nebraska Crossing Collisions						
Collisions	6	35	27	37	41	28
Injuries	4	14	9	10	23	14
Fatalities	0	3	1	5	2	3
Nebraska Trespasser Incidents						
Injuries	0	4	1	3	2	3
Fatalities	0	4	0	1	1	4

Source – Federal Railroad Administration – [www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov) (FRA Data updated through 6/30/2017)

The Nebraska Operation Lifesaver information contact is Carol Daley – State Coordinator  
Email – [cadaley@nebraskaol.org](mailto:cadaley@nebraskaol.org) or call (402)-885-8572 and Nebraska website is [www.NebraskaOL.org](http://www.NebraskaOL.org)





## Nebraska Operation Lifesaver

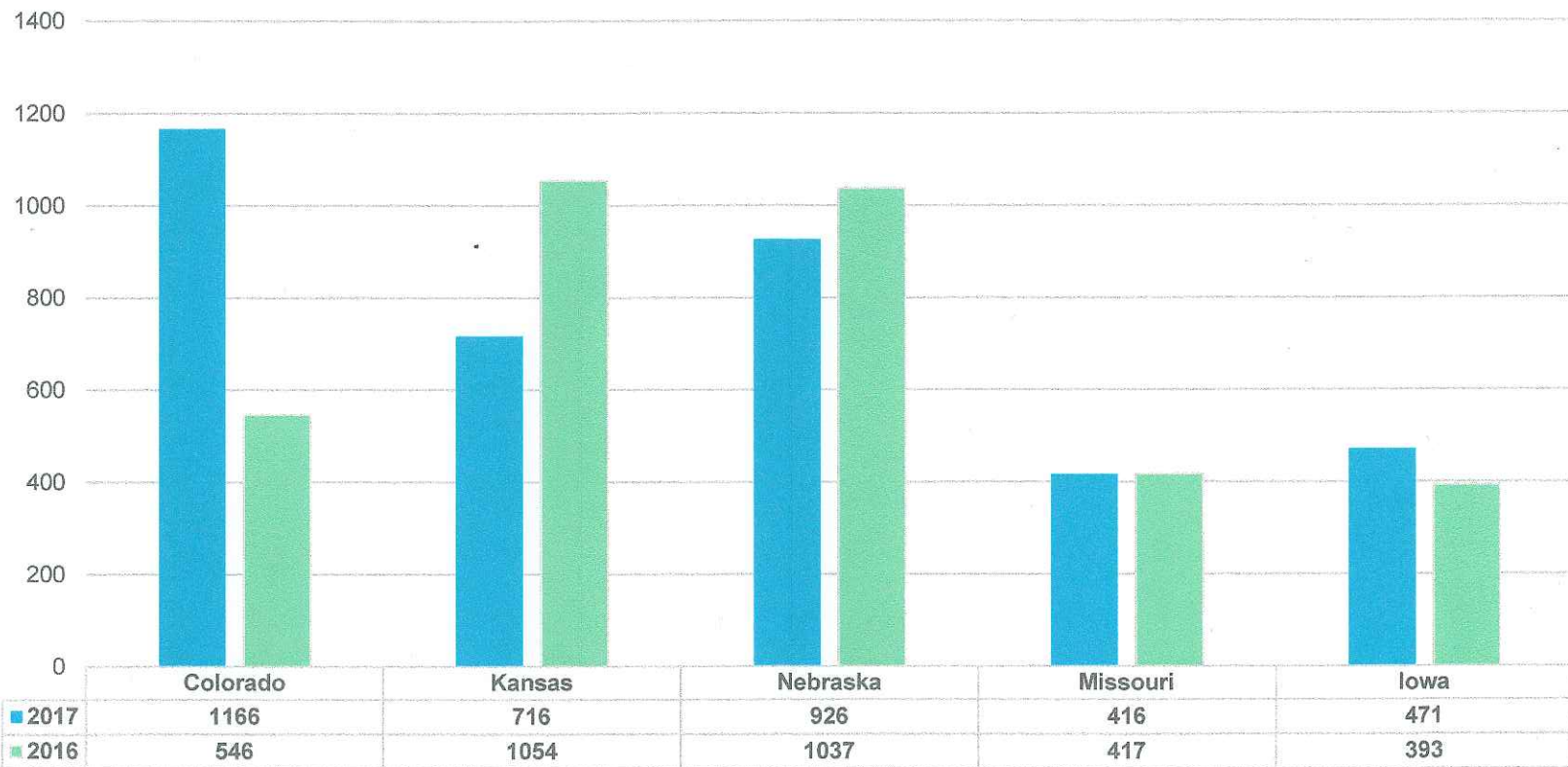
State Meeting September 21, 2017



# Presentation Statistics Region 6



## Region 6 Presentation Comparisons January 1st - September 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 vs 2016

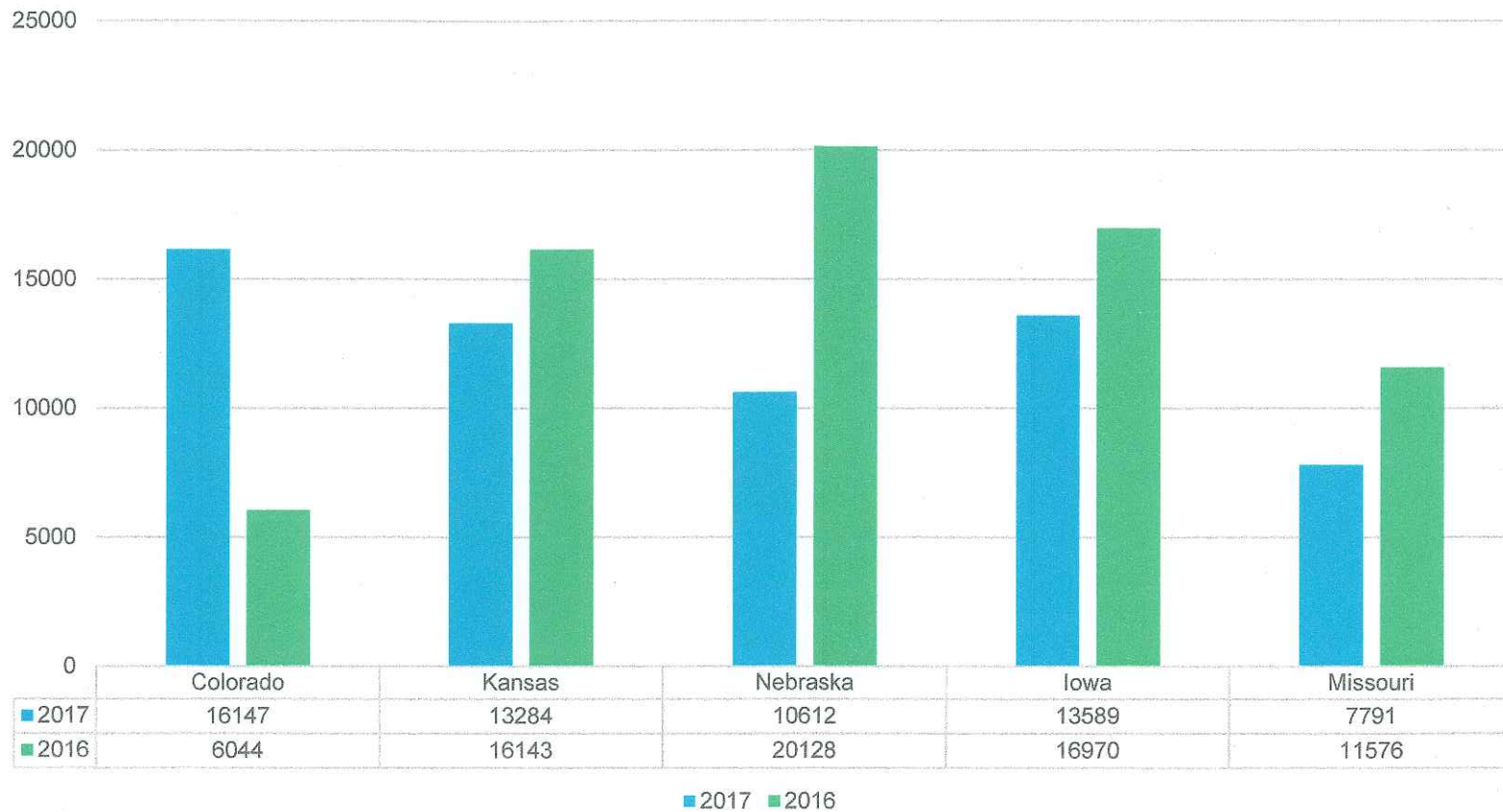


■ 2017 ■ 2016

# Audience Statistics Region 6



## Region 6 Total Audience Comparisons January 1st - September 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 vs 2016





# OLAV Activity 2017

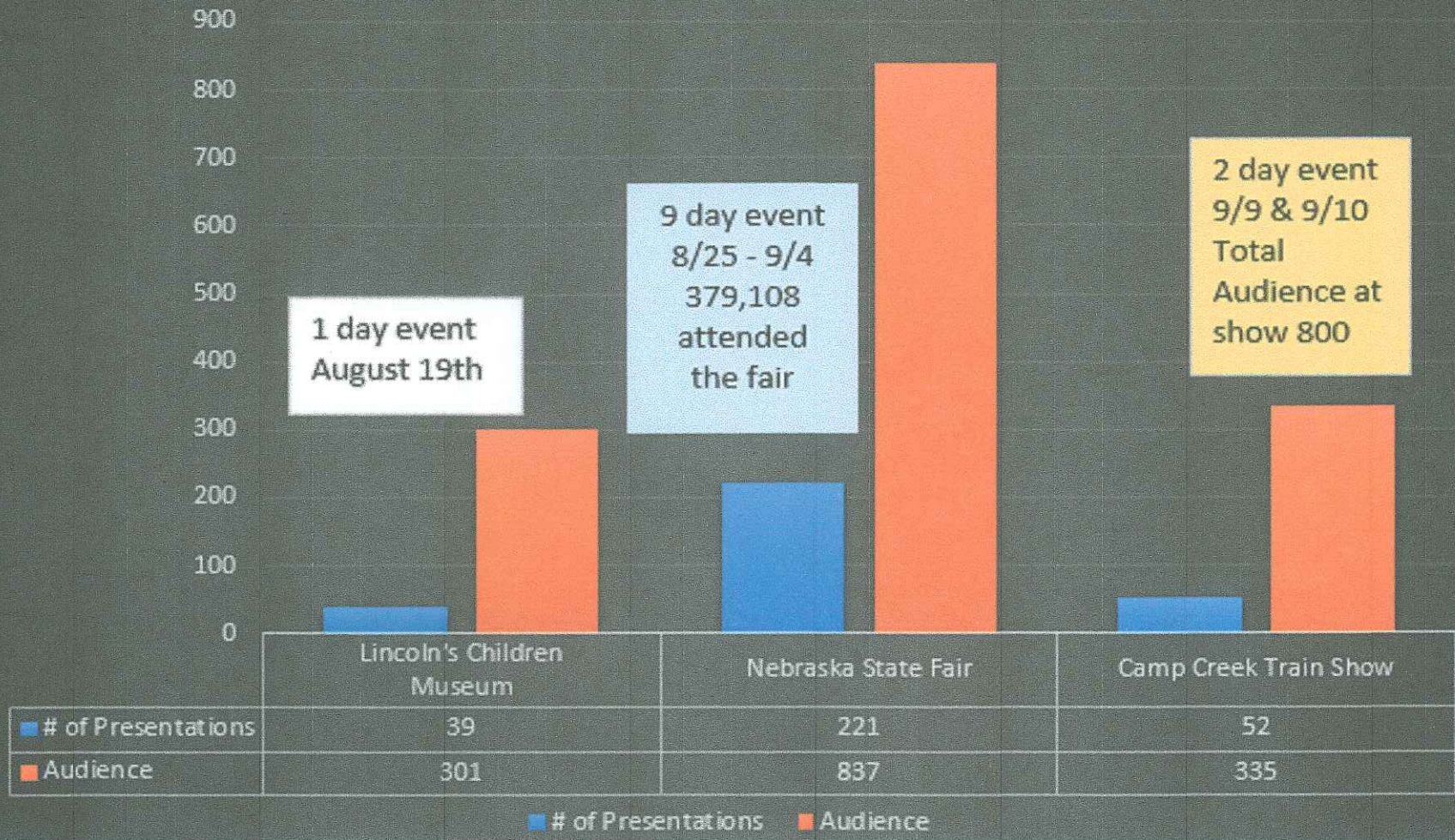
Updated as of 9/18/2017

OLAV Name:	Number of Presentations:	Audience Total:
Anderson, Billy	5	120
Ashworth, Deb	168	1178
Ashworth, Mark	18	152
Averell, Jean	8	39
Bruna, David	1	39
Chapp, Dan	185	2920
Cunningham, Don	10	197
Daley, Carol	51	275
Dorram, Marcy	5	35
Fogle, Pam	95	641
Grimes Megan	19	180
Grudzinski, Tim	28	323
Hagelstein, Tori	16	35
Hillyard, Tom	49	995
Kelley, Taylor	3	67
Kennedy, Rob	75	917
Leahy, Pat	181	3632
Saxon, Christine	48	180
Schmid, Jeff	36	627
Simpson, John	20	221
Sydzyik, Gary	38	188
Voogd, Gary	9	492
White, Lydia	3	54
Willms, Jeri	1	23
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>13530</b>

Total OLAVs in Nebraska	88
Total Active in 2017	24 OLAVs or 27%



## Nebraska Operation Lifesaver August September events







Union Pacific Police

9/25/2017	Ames, IA	Tresspassing Blitz
9/26/2017	Greeley, CO	UP Cares Blitz - Trooper on the Ground
9/27/2017	Council Bluffs, IA	UP Cares Blitz - Trooper on the Ground
9/28/2017	Fort Dodge, IA	UP Cares Enforcement
9/29/2017	Kearney, NE	UP Cares Blitz - Trooper on the Train

Burlington Northern Sante FE

9/29/2017	Lincoln, NE	SW 56th Positive Crossing Enforcement =
9/26/2017		Cornhusker & 33rd Street Adams St
		Aliance personnel will come to help with east & west traffic
		Gering, NE - Scotts Bluffs County Sheriff - 21st Ave Crossing - Pass out Car
		Hastings, NE - Hastings Police Dept-Location: Laird Xing(westside of Hasting near Middle School
		McCook, NE - Police Dept - 505 West C Street

Union Pacific Railroad Crossing Accidents Reduction Enforecemnt Safety

9/25/2017	Grand Island	UP Cares - Pass out visor cards at Crossings
9/26/2017	Fremont	UP Cares - Trooper on the Train
9/27/2017	Omaha	156th & Center - UP Cares - Pass out Visor Cards

Placement of Trailer Crash Car

Recreational Area Lake McConaughy  
Kearney, NE Highway 10 High Risk Area



[www.nebraskaol.org](http://www.nebraskaol.org)

Printed with State Highway Safety Funds







## Operation Lifesaver puts focus on saving lives as U.S. Rail Safety Week starts

BY LRECTORSNIFE 9-25-2017

[SHARE STORY](#) [PRINT STORY](#)

Washington, D.C. (September 25, 2017) – Saving lives by alerting people to the dangers of being inattentive at highway-rail grade crossings and along train tracks is the focus of a new campaign by national rail safety education nonprofit **Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI)** during the first **U.S. Rail Safety Week (RSW)**, September 24-30. Radio and digital public service advertising campaigns and other activities are underway in states across the country. Rail Safety Week is supported by the **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**, **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**, **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**, state Operation Lifesaver programs, **Amtrak**, **the Association of American Railroads (AAR)**, freight railroads, and other safety partners.

Participating in a press conference to kick off the week's activities were Operation Lifesaver, Inc. President and CEO **Bonnie Murphy**, Federal Railroad Administration Office of Program Delivery Director **Jamie Rennert**, Association of American Railroads Senior Vice President Safety & Operations **Mike Rush**, Amtrak Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer **Scot Naparstek**, Amtrak Chief of Police **Neil Trugman**, **Nancy Kenyon Richardson**, who lost her son in a trespass incident, and Richardson's 12-year-old daughter Kiki.

"While the number of highway-rail crossing collisions, deaths and injuries has dropped over the past five decades, it's still a startling fact that about every three hours in the U.S., a person or vehicle is hit by a train," said Murphy. "The goal of RSW is to raise awareness across the United States of the need for rail safety education and empower Americans to keep themselves safe near highway-rail grade crossings and railroad rights-of-way."

FRA's Rennert said, "For decades, the Federal Railroad Administration has striven to develop and successfully apply a wide range of safety engineering, enforcement and educational initiatives to prevent highway-rail grade crossing collisions and trespass events—which together, comprise nearly 96% of all rail-related deaths. The people involved in these tragic incidents are our neighbors, our friends, our family members. Let's make the most of this week and work together to raise awareness of the importance of safety around tracks and railway crossings within our communities."

"For the freight rail industry, there is no higher priority than safety," said the AAR's Rush. "While federal data shows that grade crossing fatalities have been trending downward, there are still far too many fatalities that occur in and around crossings."

Said Naparstek, "U.S. Rail Safety Week is important so that our customers understand the need for safety around tracks and grade crossings. Crossing collisions and trespass incidents are preventable tragedies that can be avoided by empowering people to keep themselves safe."

Chief Trugman announced, "Amtrak and our safety partners will conduct 'Operation Clear Track' tomorrow, with more than 230 sheriff's departments and police agencies stationed at top railroad grade crossing and trespassing incident locations across the lower 48 states to enforce the laws and educate the public about train safety. By mobilizing our forces, we hope to raise awareness, save lives and prevent injuries along the railroad rights-of-way from coast to coast."

Nancy Kenyon Richardson said "My son Kevin was just 24 when he was hit by a train and killed while taking a short cut on the tracks near our home. I hope I can help fix the lack of awareness of the danger of being on train tracks by sharing his story with you. The lesson here certainly did not come cheaply. Kevin paid with his life, and my family and I have paid with our hearts."

Kiki Richardson added, "The last time I ever saw Kevin was when he was in his coffin. I never expected my brother would be gone all because of a short cut."

Preliminary FRA data show **1,104 people were killed or injured in vehicle-train collisions in 2016**, a 13.7 percent drop from 2015. Trespass-related casualties rose in 2016; **980 pedestrians were injured or killed while walking on or near railroad tracks last year**, up 12.9 percent from 2015.

### Media Contact

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. understands the importance of the news media's role in helping the public make safe decisions around tracks and trains.

To request further information about Operation Lifesaver's activities, or for additional safety information, please contact our national headquarters office at **703-739-0308**. If you are a reporter on deadline, please contact:

• **Libby Rector Snipe** - email [news@oli.org](mailto:news@oli.org)

### About Operation Lifesaver

Operation Lifesaver is a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on or near railroad tracks. Our team consists of nationwide network of **volunteers** who work to educate people about rail safety, **state coordinators** who lead the efforts in states across the U.S. and a national office in Washington, D.C., that supports state programs, develops education materials, and creates public awareness campaigns for audiences of all ages.

#### National Office

Operation Lifesaver, Inc.  
425 Third Street SW, Suite 915  
Washington, D.C. 20024

703-739-0308  
Fax: 703-519-8267  
Email : [general@oli.org](mailto:general@oli.org)

Media Inquiries: [news@oli.org](mailto:news@oli.org)

Transit Inquiries: [sarah@skssolutions.net](mailto:sarah@skssolutions.net)

#### Our Staff

### Engage with OLI

*Let's Keep the Conversation Going.*





Activities will take place across the country each day during U.S. Rail Safety Week, including:

- **Tuesday, September 26** will feature "Operation Clear Track," where local, state, federal and railroad police will be stationed at the top railroad grade crossing and/or trespassing incident locations in states around the country to hand out safety materials to motorists and pedestrians, and issue warnings and citations to those violating state laws.
- **Wednesday, September 27** will focus on crossing safety, with events and ads to promote awareness of the Emergency Notification System (ENS) signs posted near all railroad crossings. The signs have an 800-number to call to report vehicles stuck on the tracks, signal malfunctions or other issues.
- **Thursday, September 28**, will be "Transit Safety Thursday," with events at transit, light rail and commuter rail stations and a digital ad campaign.
- **Friday, September 29**, will focus on trespass prevention, with Operation Lifesaver urging students, employees, and others to participate in "red out for rail safety awareness" by wearing red. Operation Lifesaver volunteers will be at sporting events and other activities to distribute materials and trespass prevention safety tips.
- **Saturday, September 30** will celebrate "community connections," with safety blitzes and other awareness events in communities across the U.S.

U.S. Rail Safety Week is funded by Champion sponsors FRA, FHWA, FTA and Amtrak (in-kind); Partners sponsor **Dupage Railroad Safety Council**; and Allies sponsor **National Safety Council**.

Visit the Operation Lifesaver website at [www.oli.org/RSWeek](http://www.oli.org/RSWeek) to learn more about Rail Safety Week events, find materials, and learn how you can become part of the Rail Safety Week team.

###

**About Operation Lifesaver** - Operation Lifesaver is a nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and preventing trespassing on or near railroad tracks. A national network of trained volunteers gives free presentations on rail safety and a public awareness campaign, "**See Tracks? Think Train!**" provides the public with tips and statistics to encourage safe behavior near the tracks. OLI will lead a national observance of U.S. Rail Safety Week, September 24-30, 2017. Learn more about **U.S. Rail Safety Week**; follow OLI on **Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest**.

## Sign Up for Updates

Sign Up Now

Receive periodic updates from Operation Lifesaver, Inc.

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HELPFUL LINKS



# Google Calendar



To use Calendar offline, upgrade to Chrome  
Chrome is a fast, secure browser with updates built in

NO THANKS

YES



Search Calendar



Calendar

Today



Friday, Sep 1, 2017

Day

Week

Month

4 Days

Agenda

More



CREATE

Expand All Collapse All



September 2017

Fri Sep 1, 2017

All day

Nebraska State Fair - Grand Island, NE

S M T W T F S

27 28 29 30 31 1 2

Sat Sep 2, 2017

All day

Nebraska State Fair - Grand Island, NE

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Sun Sep 3, 2017

All day

Nebraska State Fair - Grand Island, NE

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

Mon Sep 4, 2017

All day

Nebraska State Fair - Grand Island, NE

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

All day

Labor Day

My calendars

Sat Sep 9, 2017

All day

Camp Creek Train Show - Waverly, NE

Other calendars

Sun Sep 10, 2017

All day

Camp Creek Railroad Train Show - Waverly, NE 68462, USA

Add a friend's calendar

Fri Sep 15, 2017

All day

Rail Fest - North Platte, NE

Holidays in United St...

Sat Sep 16, 2017

All day

Rail Fest - North Platte, NE

Sun Sep 17, 2017

5:30am - 6:30am

Rail Fest - North Platte, NE