

NEBRAKSA OPERATION LIFESAVER STATE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 13, 2019

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Carol Daley called the meeting to order.

Safety Briefing:

Billy Anderson conducted the safety briefing.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Carol Daley, OL State Coordinator – Nebraska

Deb Ashworth, Union Pacific Railroad – Retired

Marvin Kohout, Traffic Safety Plus

Rich Kotan, Omaha Public Power District, Retired

Megan Grimes, Nebraska Associated Resources Districts

Christine Saxon, Union Pacific Railroad

Roger Figard, Lincoln/Lancaster Railroad Transportation Safety District

Stu Sutherland, Sarpy County Surveyor – Retired

Jeri Willms, Presenter

Hilda Gurwell, Union Pacific Railroad – Retired

Billy Anderson, BNSF Railroad

Jeff Schmid, BNSF Railroad – Retired

Mike Foster, Union Pacific Railroad

William Kovarik

Mike Meyer, NE State Patrol - Retired

Jan Voss, NDOT Railroad Liaison

Tim Welch – Guest Speaker

Statistics:

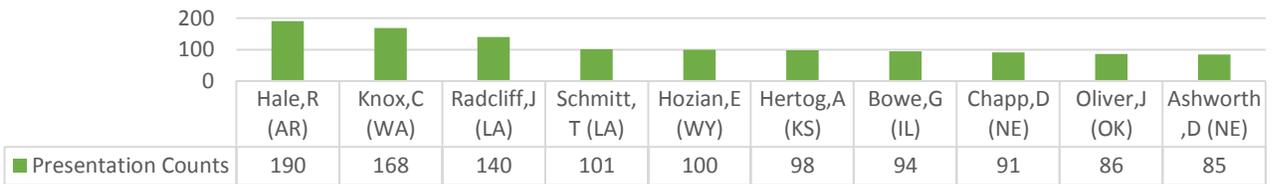
Jan Voss reviewed the following handouts (see attachments).

- Nebraska Traffic Fatality Toll Comparison as of April 11, 2019
- 2019 Nebraska Railroad Fatalities – Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities/Non-Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities

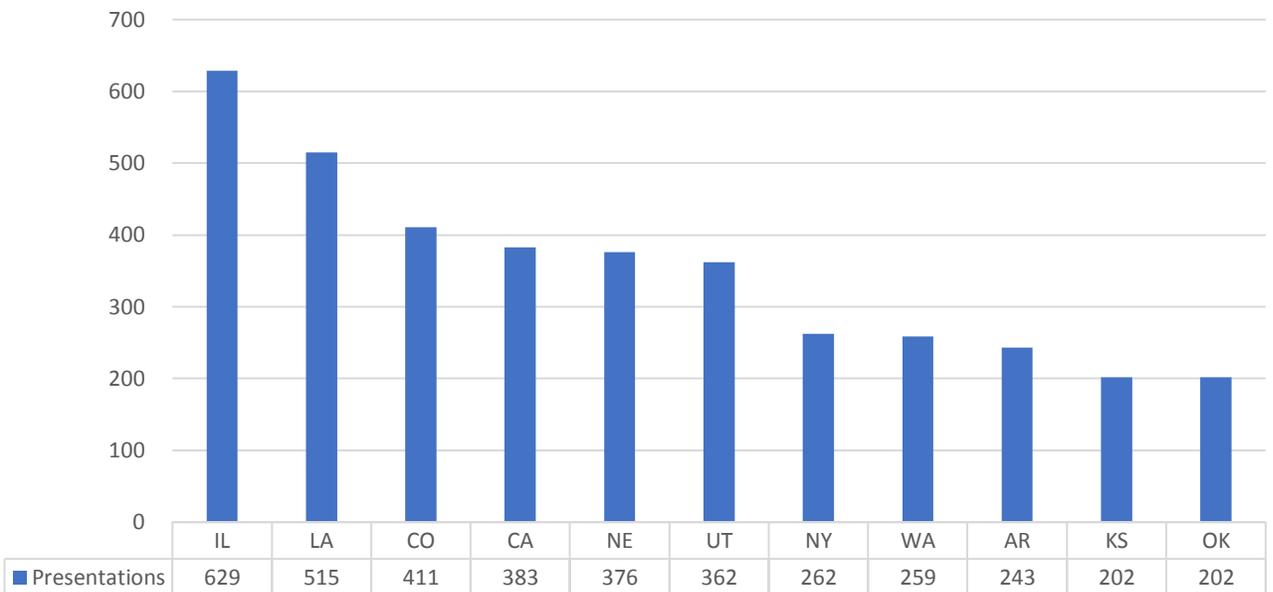
Deb Ashworth discussed the following handouts (see attachments).

- Nebraska Operation Lifesaver Statistic Worksheet (1/1/2012 – 3/31/2019) – The source for this data is from the Federal Railroad Administration.
- Presentation statistics shown below reflect the top 10 presenters in the United States as of June 11, 2019 (Nebraska had two presenters in this statistic – Dan Chapp presenting 8th and Deb Ashworth coming in 10th place for number of presentations given in 2019).
- Presentation statistics shown below also show the top 11 states with Nebraska being in 5th place. Region 6 states were Colorado in 3rd place, Nebraska in 5th place and Kansas tied in 10th place with Oklahoma.
- Statistics are from January 1st through June 11, 2019:

Top 10 OLAVs with highest presentation counts



Top 11 States on Presentation Counts thru 6/11/2019



Board and Officer Report:

The NE OL Board of Directors met prior to the State Committee meeting. Those in attendance were: Carol Daley, Marv Kohout, Deb Ashworth, Rich Kotan, Megan Grimes, Billy Anderson, and Christine Saxon. Not present were Dan Chapp and Dave Huntley. The items discussed were NE OL finances, 2019 fund-raiser and Carol advised that our 2019 fundraiser has earned \$1700.00 but our expenses are \$989.51 so we are currently \$719.82 in the green and everything from this point will be profit. Hilda and Carol are going to get Committee together to help sell tickets. Carol will have Megan enter the Nebraska OL trailer in Lincoln's Street Alive event on September 22nd. Deb will provide a presentation on Rail Safety Week and what we need to do to prepare for the week at the Committee meeting.

General Secretary/Supplies:

If you need supplies, including visuals for presentations, contact Carol Daley at 402-885-8572 or by email at cadaley@nebraskaOL.org

Treasurer:

Balance on hand as of June 13th was \$29,610.70

Old Business:

Carol's Update:

Carol and Pam Fogle attended Fathers Matter event in Council Bluffs. The location had been changed due to water issues and was relocated to Iowa Western, and although they had good signs to the event, there was not much of a crowd due to construction on the campus.

She advised that she will be going to the NAC Meeting which will be combined with OLI meetings September 10th and 11th.

By-Law Update

Rich updated that new By-Laws will be completed by next meeting to accommodate the additional Board Member voted in January due to the voting tie.

Enforcement Manual updates

Rich stated this was an ongoing project.

2019 Raffle

Carol updated that she had gone to the Maintenance of Way retirees' breakfast, Council Bluffs retirees' breakfast and Union Pacific headquarters. HDC will be scheduled for July. Hilda passed out raffle tickets to attendees at the meeting for future sales. Carol says we need to get out and SELL!

FRA Competitive Grant

Carol updated that Nebraska did not qualify for the 2019 grant. There were 26 states that applied for the grant. Rachel and Wende said they will work with us in the future to help Nebraska apply for future grants.

ENS Video from Amtrak

Deb made 15 thumb drives with the new ENS video from Amtrak (Critical Junction) and the old video (Cheating Death) along with PowerPoint presentations of Operation Lifesaver training and these were passed out to presenters at the meeting.

New Business

Omaha Storm Chasers Event

Carol reminded attendees that July 21, 2019 was the annual Omaha Storm Chaser event in Papillion. Carol will pay for ball tickets for participants that will help with the safety booth at the game.

Nebraska State Fair Update

Carol advised that the application was filed, and Deb updated that this year we have been given additional space to include one of the crash cars directly behind our mobile training trailer. The vendor in front of our trailer for fair attendees coming from the south will be smaller this year and as a result our trailer should be easier to see.

Rail Safety Week (see attached documents)

Deb presented an update on National Rail Safety Week (Sunday Sept 22nd through September 28th). The committee reviewed the daily themes from last year and the draft copy for 2019. Jeff Schmid and Deb presented a role play of the role of OLAVs and Law Enforcement in positive crossing initiatives for Operation Clear Track. Deb and Carol will be coordinating a committee on preparing for the week event. Law Enforcement need to be contacted and communicated on their role in this National event. The first event Nebraska will be celebrating will be Streets Alive in Lincoln with the Mobile Training Trailer. A presentation will be also given at the Safety Advocates meeting on 8/8/19 regarding National Rail Safety Week.

Streets Alive (document attached)

Megan provided the Committee an update that the event will be held in Cooper Park (5th and D Streets in Lincoln) in the South Salt Creek neighborhood on Sunday, September 22nd. Nebraska Operation Lifesaver will have the mobile training trailer available to the public, along with many other safety vendors. Exhibitors will be lining a two-mile route to encourage participants to walk the entire route. Megan will promote Operation Lifesaver with the promotional materials and social media badges for the 2019 event. Great opportunity for us to start Rail Safety Week.

Upcoming Events:

1. College World Series – June 14, 15, and 16
2. Fremont Fire Safety Day – July 6th at Fremont Lakes (Smokey the Bears 75th birthday)
3. Railroad Days – Home Plate July 12, 13th and 14th
4. Werner Park “Night out at the Ballpark” with Omaha Storm Chasers – July 21st - Papillion
5. R-Hero Camp 2019 in Kearney, NE (Mobile Training Trailer) – July 27th
6. Nebraska State Fair – August 23rd through September 2nd – Grand Island (Mobile Training Trailer)
7. Camp Creek Train Show Waverly, NE – September 14 and 15 (Mobile Training Trailer)

8. Opportunity to share a safety booth with Bill Kovarik and Roger Figard at one of the Nebraska Football games.
9. Carol has a contact at UNL, and we have been approved to go on their campus with a safety booth.

Guest Speaker – Tim Welch

Tim presented a very moving talk about a horrific rail incident he had on February 6, 1992. He had received a call from his mom to get downtown as soon as possible. He made the decision that since the railroad tracks were blocked that he would go between the cars, but unfortunately it was double track and on the other track was two engines pulling a box car. The engineer thought he had grabbed Tim, but he was dragged for over 300 feet and lost his arm at the elbow and his leg off at the knee at the scene. Fortunately for Tim his doctor was at the crossing waiting for the train and prepped him for his emergency helicopter ride to Omaha. His mother was a nurse and his stepdad a paramedic. He was life flighted to Creighton with a 7% chance of survival. He stated that even if he had the opportunity to go back and do it over, he wouldn't as it has made him the person he is today. Tim is now a motivational speaker, has written a children's book about bullying, and has starred in several movies as well. He has just joined Nebraska Operation Lifesaver as a presenter. As Tim stated when Deb provides a presentation it gives students one perspective with words, but when Tim tells the story it is heard as well as being visual as to what can happen at railroad crossings, and his goal is to get the important message he learned out to kids and he especially has a goal for his own community of Blair. We are very happy to welcome Tim to our team.

Deb Ashworth has moved to Grand Island:

New email: 52gilakers@gmail.com

(The old email service with Cox was discontinued February 1st!)

Same cell phone: 402-650-5885

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned

Any corrections or additions will be noted at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Ashworth

Next NE OL State Meeting: August 8th, 2019