

## **Minutes from Nebraska Operation Lifesaver Meeting – May 12, 2022**

Attendees: **Dustin Marvel** – BNSF Police and Nebraska OL Board, **Patrick Halsted** HDR Engineering and Nebraska OL Board, **Karen Majerus** – NDOT Railroad, **Megan Grimes** – Natural Resources and Nebraska OL Board, – **Billy Anderson** - BNSF Railroad and Nebraska OL Board, **Richard Kotan** – Nebraska OL Board, **Nancy Huston** – Community Volunteer, **Kent Grisham** - Nebraska Trucking Association, **Jeff Schmid** – BNSF Retired, **Roger Figard** – Lincoln/Lancaster County Railroad Transportation Safety District, **Deb Ashworth** – Nebraska OL Executive Director

**Safety:** Billy Anderson held the safety briefing

**Nebraska Statistics** – Deb provided a copy of the statistics provided by NDOT as Don Butler from Nebraska DOT was on vacation.

**Social Media Update:** Megan Grimes provided a update on the web page and Facebook Updates. (Please like our Facebook posts and be sure to send Megan pictures of your events and she will post on our Facebook page.)

**Guest Speaker** – Roger Figard from Lincoln/Lancaster County Railroad Transportation Safety District

Roger provided an excellent presentation on the RTSD on who and what they do for Lincoln, He provided the history and their mission statement which is closely aligned with Nebraska Operation Lifesaver’s mission as well regarding safety at railroad crossings. Please find attached the presentation on our website. Roger has been a great partner for Nebraska Operation Lifesaver, and we certainly appreciate his support.

**Enforcement Book Update:** Dustin Marvel and Rich Kotan are working together on updating the Nebraska Enforcement Book. Once the manual is updated, we will provide this to local law enforcement and others that need this important information.

**RISC Update:** Dustin and Taylor both stated that there wasn’t much requests for classes for RISC for Law Enforcement and First Responders. Some updates to the course will be completed soon for First Responders.

**Nebraska Operation Lifesaver’s goals for 2022:** Deb provided an outline of the 2022 goals:

1. Raise public awareness of Operation Lifesaver and Its Mission
  - a. The Whistle Stop Tour will provide a great foundation to bring this awareness into Nebraska in 20 counties.
  - b. Use of OLI created PSA materials and videos
  - c. Participating in Rail Safety Week
  - d. Focusing a state campaign on population groups that have a high proportion of vehicle and trespassing incidents – The Whistle Stop Tour is focusing on the top 20 highest counties in Nebraska.
2. Develop and maintain local and state partnerships with a goal of sharing rail safety messages with more people.

3. Target Operation Lifesaver's safety education activities by working with local media with state specific railroad crossing and trespasser safety statistics when FRA releases the preliminary 2021 safety data.
  - a. The State Coordinator and OLAV Coaches will ensure that at least three major education, enforcement, Authorized Volunteer classes or outreach events are held in a county or region of the state with higher numbers of crossing collisions or trespass incidents.
4. Increase use of social media and links
  - a. Megan utilizes scheduling and shares the OLI National posts as well as our own on Facebook.
5. Ensure professional administration of state program and engagement with OLI.

**2022 NEIAAKSMO Highway Rail Safety Conference** will be held June 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Graduate Hotel in Lincoln, NE. Attendees from Nebraska Operation Lifesaver will be Deb, Rich Kotan, and Jenifer Crumbliss.

**Innovation FRA Grant** was awarded Nebraska Operation Lifesaver in the amount of \$50,000. Nebraska Operation Lifesaver has identified the top 20 counties in Nebraska with the highest number of fatalities and injuries in the previous 5 years and will be conducting a Whistle-Stop Tour in those counties.

**NDOT Safety Advocate Safety Meeting:** Nebraska Operation Lifesaver will be presenting a rail safety presentation at the August 11th Meeting in Lincoln.

**ILCAD Conference** is being held in Denver, Colorado on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. BNSF Railroad is providing an education safety train trip for participants of the conference and Rachel Maleh - President of OLI is guest speaker.

**2022 Rail Safety Week – September 19-25<sup>th</sup>: More to come on this!**

**Presentation Opportunities:**

1. March 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> – Cosmo 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Train in South Sioux City, IA (Taylor Kelley with trailer)
2. April 23<sup>rd</sup> – UP Family Days at Homeplate Park, Omaha NE – want trailer
3. April 25<sup>th</sup> – North Platte, NE – LincUP presentation requested by Buck Russell – no trailer
4. April 27<sup>th</sup> – Norfolk, NE – Safe Driving Day Norfolk High School – Taylor Kelley
5. May 4<sup>th</sup> – Benkelman, NE – Benkelman Safety Day – Mark & Deb Ashworth
6. May 6<sup>th</sup> – Sidney, NE – Sidney Safety Day – Mark & Deb Ashworth
7. May 5-8<sup>th</sup> – Omaha, NE – Omaha Equestrian Show, Tom Hilliard & Rob Kennedy (trailer)
8. June 8<sup>th</sup> – Syracuse, NE – Syracuse Safety Day – Dustin Marvel – BNSF (trailer)
9. June 16-19<sup>th</sup> Omaha, NE – College World Series Home Plate Park – Tom & Rob – Trailer
10. June 18<sup>th</sup> Fremont, NE – Eastern Nebraska Fire Coop – Fire Safety Day – Deb & Diane

11. July 4<sup>th</sup> – David City, NE – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Barbecue & Safety Day – COULD NOT COMMIT TO THIS
12. July 28-31<sup>st</sup> Lincoln, NE – Lancaster Event Center Kids Zone – (trailer) NEED VOLUNTEERS
13. August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Grand Island, NE – Hall County Sheriff Dept National Night Out (trailer) – Deb
14. August 26-30<sup>th</sup> – Grand Island, NE – Nebraska State Fair – (trailer) NEED VOLUNTEERS – Deb
15. September 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> Waverly, NE – Camp Creek Train Show – (trailer) NEED VOLUNTEERS
16. Sept 7 – October 1<sup>st</sup> – 20 County Whistle-Stop Tour starting in Lincoln (trailer)

**Adjournment – Next Meeting: July 12th**