

**NEBRASKA OPERATION LIFESAVER
STATE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 12, 2012
www.nebraskaol.org
www.oli.org**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Carol Daley called the meeting to order and Gary Sydzyik gave the Safety Briefing.

INTRODUCTIONS

Deb Ashworth, Union Pacific Railroad
Marshall Barth, Nebraska Safety Center
Richard Bennett, NDOR Retired
Trooper Randy Bybee, Nebraska State Patrol
Daniel Chapp, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad
Carol Daley, Executive Director – NEOL
Chip Frazier, HDR, Inc.
Hilda Gurwell, Union Pacific Railroad, NEOL – Secretary
Tom Hagert, Union Pacific Railroad
Harold Jones, BN Mini Train
Linda Kearns, Nebraska Office of Highway Safety
Richard Kotan, Omaha Public Power District
Mike Meyer, Nebraska State Patrol
Cindy Littrell, Union Pacific Railroad
Sean Owings, Nebraska Department of Roads
Bill Saxton, Road Ready Driver Training
Ron Scholz, Husker Sports Network
Matt Silverman, Union Pacific Railroad
Stu Sutherland, Sarpy Surveyor Retired
Gary Sydzyik, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad
Bev Vonasek, Nebraska Department of Roads
Jeri Willms, OL Presenter

Statistics:

Sean Owings provided the following handouts. (See attached).

- Nebraska Traffic Fatality Toll Comparison as of January 12, 2012
- 2012 Nebraska Railroad Fatalities
- 2012 Non-Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities

Carol reported that the FRA lists Nebraska with 4 fatalities and 1 trespassing fatality for the months of January thru October 2011.

Board and Officer Report:

Board:

The NEOL Board of Directors met and discussed the following items: Budget Overview, BNSF Trailer Grant, Marketing OL, Board of Director Elections, Presenter Training, Insurance, Goals and the NEOL Raffle. Those in attendance were: Carol Daley, Trooper Randy Bybee, Ron Scholz and Linda Kearns.

Carol received a suggestion to have a conference line available at the meeting for those who are unable to attend in person.

General Secretary/Supplies:

If you are in need of supplies contact Hilda Gurwell at 402-544-3465 or by email at hildagurwell@UP.com.

Treasurer:

Balance on hand as of December 31, 2011 was \$1,289.84. NEOL received \$2,355.00 for the raffle of the NEOL quilt and three signed footballs by Ndamukong Suh. This money will be added to the savings for the NEOL trailer making a total of \$15,007.66 designated for this project. Carol Daley has sent out 61 letters to various

organizations requesting contributions to the NEOL program.

East Co-Coordinator:

Hilda Gurwell continues to book presentations.

West Co-Coordinator:

Matt Silverman would like presenters to address the senior living facilities, especially since the latest motor vehicle/train fatality in Gering on January 11, 2011.

Old Business:

Nominations for 2012:

Larry Johnson, Marvin Kohout and Chip Frazier were on the ballot for the election of two new board members. Rich Kotan provided ballots to the committee members for the election. Larry Johnson and Marv Kohout won the election and will continue to serve on the nine member board. Congratulations.

The railroads have made the following changes regarding their Board Members:

BNSF has recommended Gary Sdzyik to replace Tom Micek. UPRR has replaced Bob Resch with John Simpson.

New fund raising ideas for 2012:

A fund raising suggestion was made to have silent auctions at the NEOL booths at the fairs, train rides, Railfest, etc. Possibly get a picture and/or the DVD of the North Platte Canteen program produced by NET TV to be donated for the Railfest auction.

Grant – PSA’s Ron Scholz – Think Before You Haul” - \$10,000:

Ron Scholz and several committee members submitted and received an Ag Safety grant through Operation Lifesaver Inc. for the Nebraska Operation Lifesaver Campaign – “Think Before You Haul.” The purpose of the campaign is to encourage farmers and ranchers over the spring planting season and well into fall of 2012, to understand what they are hauling and what rail crossings they may encounter. During the spring season there are many farmers who are traveling the rural roads hauling large amounts of hazardous materials. When traveling to and from the Cooperatives and back to the individual farms, farmers and ranchers may use alternative routes to transport these materials and more than likely to travel past private crossings. This public awareness campaign will launch March 5 thru April 27, 2012. The total budget is \$10,000 and includes statewide radio, PR, print and Internet. Learfield Communication Inc. will donate \$5,200 of airtime.

Newspaper Ad in Gering Courier/Sun Herald in Gering/Scottsbluff

In December 2011, Carol placed two NEOL safety ads in the western part of the state, one with the Gering Courier and the other in the Scottsbluff Sun Herald for \$95.00.

Fairs – Events:

Railfest 2012, North Platte – September 14, 15, 16. This would be a great opportunity to set up a booth and have items available for a silent auction. This will be the 150th anniversary for the Union Pacific. At last year’s activity there were people from 7 different countries in attendance.

Other events include:

Nebraska State Fair – August 24 thru September 3rd

BNSF/OL Train – Fremont – May 5. It was suggested to set up a booth and have a silent auction.

New Business:

Carol reported that National OLI has been working with a \$500,000 a year budget with an office staff comprised of 6 people. OLI is losing their funding from the Department of Transportation and are continuing to seek funding for the National organization to continue the program. This is the 40th year for Operation Lifesaver.

OL Symposium 6/26 thru 6/28 – Denver:

Carol read the following statement from Helen Sramek from Operation Lifesaver Inc. in regard to the Symposium:

“As much as we hoped to have the traditional symposium that brings the entire OL community together,

budget issues have forced us to pull back from the idea. We cannot afford to - from a financial standpoint and from the point of view of the staff resources necessary to produce a symposium. It takes 6-9 months to plan a symposium, and the National Office staff now has to focus on the future of the entire program, including how we train our volunteers. We will not have the time to prepare a full symposium agenda.

Rather, we (OLI) are now designing the Denver program into a small OL Leadership Summit. Fewer people will be invited, and we will have sessions focused entirely on the future of the program, how we train volunteers, and where we're headed."

Certification Classes:

Helen Sramek from Operation Lifesaver Inc. provided the following statement in regard to the OL Training. Carol read the following:

"Lots of rumors have been circulating about OL and our training programs.

- Current presenters are encouraged to continue their efforts to reach as many audiences as possible with our safety message in 2012. There is no change here.
- We're (OLI) asking everyone to continue reporting their presentations, trainings, and special events into the national database. This has become a very important tool for us and our partners to track volunteer activity. Keep doing it!
- You do not have anything to worry about in 2012!

Looking to the future, however, some things must change, and that relates to our certification program. What once allowed us to have a professionally trained base of volunteer presenters, with relatively few requirements imposed on us, has changed. The issue for us is trying to maintain a system that is becoming more complicated because industry standards for certification programs are becoming tougher. For example, in 2013, all certified presenters and trainers will need to be evaluated, in person, every year – along with yearly testing and quarterly updates. These standards are simply too labor intensive for a program without modest resources. We can't do it. And failing to do it will increase the liability we assume for presenters. Our insurance will not cover us UNLESS we do all these things.

That is why we (OLI) are re-examining our training programs, searching for a new approach that preserves our volunteer outreach programs without all those costs associated with a certification program. We have some ideas how to do that...and if you have ideas, get them to us.

While we go through this process over the course of this year, the National Office has placed a moratorium on training new presenters. It makes no sense to train new presenters, if the program is going to change."

Operation Lifesaver Trains:

The OL trains will not be available this year. The Union Pacific will be using the trains for their 150th anniversary celebration.

Big Red (Operation Lifesaver Express)

Carol Daley reported the Big Red Express activity is still being pursued and we will see if Amtrak would be interested.

Projects:

United Way Funding – Deb Ashworth/Carol Daley

Thanks to Deb Ashworth NEOL has been approved by United Way to receive non-profit funding in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. This will begin at the end of each quarter.

Ethanol Plants – Tom Micek, Larry Johnson

No additional information available at this time.

Professional Drivers – Larry Johnson, Tom Micek

No additional information available at this time.

Trucking/Insurance Company Contacts – Tom Micek

No additional information available at this time.

Ag Safety Campaign – Ron Scholz
See Ag Safety Campaign – Ongoing.

Open Discussion:

Photography on the track

Mike Meyer presented a picture of a family on the tracks. He said one bad photo continues to solicit more bad ads. He will be contacting the Photography Association regarding this matter to see if we can get safety information put into their newsletter. They need to know they are not only trespassing but putting children in a dangerous situation and may be cited for child endangerment. If anyone comes across any local bad ads, contact Mike Meyer by email at Mike.Meyer@nebraska.gov. He will send a letter to the business notifying them on the dangers of trespassing on the tracks.

Nebraska Farmers Union Conference:

Ron Scholz and Matt Silverman attended the Nebraska Farmers Union Conference in Grand Island. Matt used a scene from a train/grain trailer crash video in this presentation to get the attention of the listeners to open up his presentation. About 80 people were in attendance.

Matt would like to see NEOL address train safety at more of these types of conferences.

If NEOL can come up with a list of conferences that address the farmers, truckers, etc., then we can send a packet of information letting them know who we are and what we do.

Stu Sutherland suggested getting in contact with the Associate of Contractors and the Grain and Feed organizations.

Bev Vonasek will provide information for the Nebraska Association of Transit Providers.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned. Next NEOL meeting will be held on March 8, 2012.

Minutes were taken by Linda Kearns, Recording Secretary. Any corrections or additions will be noted at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Kearns - Recording Secretary

Future Meeting Dates:

March 8, 2012	NEOL State Committee Meeting, Havelock Shops, 6600 Burlington Avenue, Lincoln, NE
May 10, 2012	NEOL State Committee Meeting, Havelock Shops, 6600 Burlington Avenue, Lincoln, NE

Nebraska Traffic Fatality Toll Comparison

Daily Count Thru 8:00 A.M. Thursday January 12, 2012

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
2008	4	4	0	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	6	6	4	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0
2010	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011	5	5	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
2008 - 2011 Average	4.25	3.75	1.75	2	0	1.25	0.75	0	0.5	1.25	0	0	0	0.25	0
2012	8	8	3	5	0	3	2	0	0	3	1	0	1	2	0
% Change 2011 - 2012	60%	60%	0%	150%	0%	50%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	100%	0%
2012 Compared to 2008 - 2011	88%	113%	71%	150%	0%	140%	167%	0%	-100%	140%	100%	0%	100%	700%	0%

Prepared By: Highway Safety Section, Traffic Engineering Division
Nebraska Department of Roads

January 12, 2012

**2012 NEBRASKA RAILROAD FATALITIES
MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC FATALITIES**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FATALITIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>LOCATION & RAILROAD COMPANY</u>	<u>Alcohol-Related</u>
1-11-12	1	Scotts Bluff	(City St) In Gering, 10 th Street Union Pacific Railroad	No

Train Fatalities

2001	4
2002	12
2003	6
2004	5
2005	9
2006	4
2007	6
2008	1
2009	4
2010	2
2011	2
2012	1

Train Injuries

2001	16
2002	19
2003	15
2004	17
2005	25
2006	22
2007	21
2008	19
2009	18
2010	4
2011 (Jan-Oct)	12

Train Crashes

2001	40
2002	46
2003	46
2004	38
2005	40
2006	37
2007	40
2008	39
2009	38
2010	20
2011 (Jan-Oct)	18

January 12, 2012

**NON-MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC FATALITIES
2012**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FATALITIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>LOCATION, RAILROAD COMPANY, & ACCIDENT TYPE</u>
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No Non-Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities reported as of January 12, 2012