

Washington Operation Lifesaver

January 2023

Issue #2023-1

Quarterly Volunteer Newsletter

From the State Coordinator

By Kathy Hunter

As we look back on 2022, I reflect on all the amazing volunteers we have in our Washington Operation Lifesaver family. Each of us brings a unique perspective and passion to work we do. I'm thankful and excited that we have been able to resume some face-to-face events and continue to expand our safety outreach in new and creative ways.

Last year, WAOL was awarded a \$20,000 Federal Railroad Administration grant from OLI which funded a digital media campaign which reached almost a million people. Also, 20 billboards located throughout the Tacoma and Seattle areas were presenting OL safety messages during late summer and fall. Approximately 1.5 million motorists drove by these billboards during this time. The billboard advertising was funded by contributions from WSDOT. In addition, our numerous in-person events reached over 22,000 people.

Thank you for making all this possible, the railroads, state and federal partners, Sound Transit, UTC, and our OLAVs that work tirelessly sharing our message. Happy New Year!



Washington Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator Kathy Hunter presents an Operation Lifesaver 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin to UTC Executive Director Amanda Maxwell.

2022 Rail Safety Week



Sept. 19-25, 2022

Spokane Fair Comeback

WAOL returns to fair in 2022 after COVID hiatus.

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Carolyn Simmonds Retires

After 24 years of service, we bid Carolyn Simmonds a fond farewell.

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WAOL Scrapbook

Pictures from some of the fun and educational events!

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Spokane Fair Comeback

WAOL Returns to Fair in 2022 After COVID Hiatus

By Mike Turcott

In September 2022, Washington Operation Lifesaver returned to the Spokane Interstate Fair for the first time since 2019. The Spokane Fair is arguably our biggest event of the year, running September 9-18 for 10-13 hours each day. The Fair requires that each vendor/exhibitor staff their booth for the entire event, which can create quite a burden, however our Spokane area volunteers once again stepped up to the task this year.

In 2019, the Fair's biggest single-day attendance was 43,000. We came very close in 2022, hitting 41,000+ the second Saturday of the fair. Total fair attendance was around 200,000. Washington Operation Lifesaver has traditionally occupied a corner booth in a high-traffic area and we were fortunate to be able to return to that location this year. It was impossible to count every visitor to our booth, but we conservatively estimated we had 9,700 visitors over the 10-day event. Many visitors said that they look forward to seeing our exhibit every year and were glad that we were back.



Charles Jingling

Charles Jingling stepped up to serve as event coordinator this year. I worked with Charles on the various details including volunteer scheduling, ordering admission and parking passes for the volunteers, ordering education materials, and more.

It is critical to have local volunteers for an event like this, and the Spokane area volunteers made it happen!



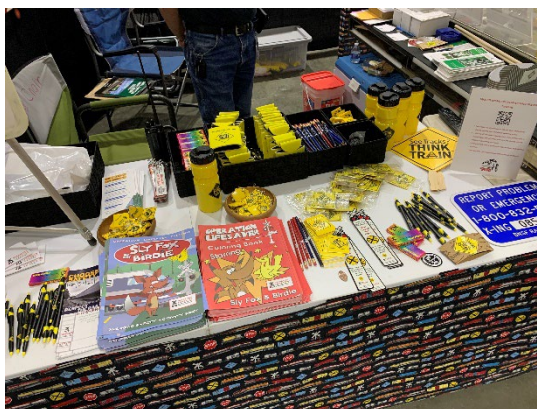
In addition to Charles, volunteers included Carol Jingling, Glen Allison, Robin Allison, Nate Coston, L.R. Keith. Volunteers were backed up by UTC staff LeRoy Colotti, Bob Boston, and Mike Turcott.



Nate Coston and Glen Allison, two Spokane All-Stars



Bob Boston explains the ENS sign.



A well-stocked exhibit.



We resumed the practice this year of purchasing meals for volunteers at the Kiwanis and VFW booths.

One of the highlights of the booth was the 4x6' HO scale layout built by Charles Jingling and Glen Allison. The layout really draws people to the booth, and once a visitor has had a few moments to look at the layout, we ask if they see any people on the layout being unsafe. There are about 13 scenarios on the layout which work very well with the questions on the rail safety wheel.



Glen Allison handles a minor derailment.



"Hey, get off the tracks!"



We had a lot of friendly visitors to our booth, including this guy.

I was definitely worn out at the end of the fair, but it was a lot of fun to work with the great folks in the Spokane area to do the important work that we do!



Former State Coordinator Bob Boston presents retiring Secretary Carolyn Simmonds with a plaque recognizing her years of service to Washington Operation Lifesaver.

Carolyn Simmonds Retires 24 Years of Service

In December 2022 we said farewell to our longtime colleague Carolyn Simmonds with lunch at Dirty Dave’s Pizza in Olympia.

Carolyn works at the Washington State Department of Transportation in the Rail, Freight, and Ports Division, and has served for many years on the Executive Committee as Secretary for Washington Operation Lifesaver.

We appreciated Carolyn’s excellent administrative skills and attention to detail. Year after year Carolyn compiled, edited, and distributed the minutes after each quarterly meeting. She maintained attendance rosters and kept track of voting vs. non-voting members in attendance to know if a quorum was present.

Carolyn truly understood rail safety issues and the purpose of Operation Lifesaver and played a key role in updating our mission statement and bylaws. She also managed the biannual election of Executive Committee members.

In her spare time, Carolyn was also an Operation Lifesaver Volunteer, and was instrumental in public education efforts in the Lakewood and Dupont areas in preparation for the Amtrak Cascades service change in 2017.

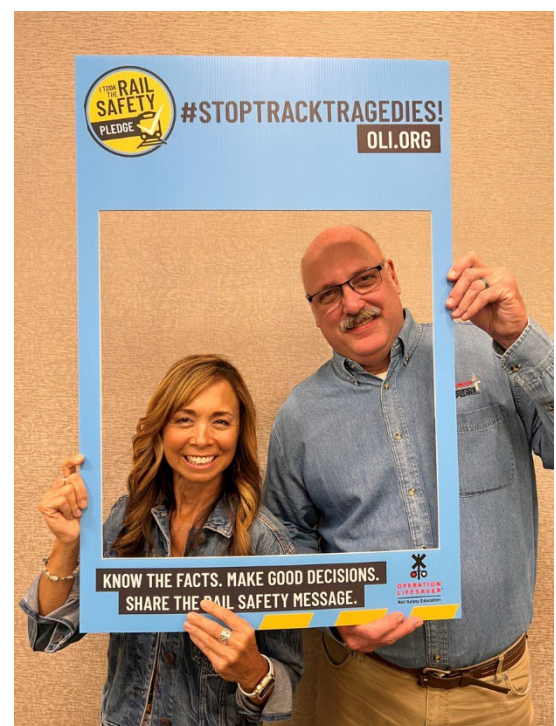
Thank you, Carolyn, and best wishes from all of us!

Billboards



Washington Operation Lifesaver used funds provided by the Washington State Department of Transportation to purchase billboard advertising. This message was posted at 20 billboard locations along the Amtrak Cascades/I-5 Corridor, generating 1.4 million weekly advertising impressions! The billboard pictured above is at 112th and Steele Street near JBLM.

State Coordinators’ Summit in Orlando



Kathy Hunter and Mike Turcott represented WAOL at the 2022 Operation Lifesaver State Coordinators’ Summit in October.



Martin Young at the Dupont Farmers Market



Patti Mills and Smokey the Bear at Longview Fire Department Open House.



Brian Johnson, Blue Line Protective Services, with BNSF Police at Trunk and Treat.



Gina Marshall and Vince the Crash Dummy at East Pierce Fire & Rescue Open House



Eric Ziegler at the Dupont Farmers Market.



Mike Turcott presents commemorative coin to Amtrak Trainmaster Jeff Greenwell.



Angie Hohman at the Spring Model Train Show in Spokane.



Lora Sonnen at Snoqualmie Railroad Days.



Gary Emmons and Bud Thompson at the volunteer appreciation luncheon in Tacoma.



Kathy Hunter at Huntamer Park in Lacey, Summer Concert Series



Glen Allison, Bill Pelosi, and David Snyder at the Fall Model Train Show in Spokane



Steve and Patti Mills wear red for rail safety!



Andrew McMahon at the SW Washington Fair



Charles and Carol Jingling at the Fall Model Train Show in Spokane.



Tri-Cities Area Coordinator Dan Amaya at the Tri-Cities Family Expo