

This Meeting for: Kansas Operation Lifesaver, Board of Directors and Committee

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2016 starting at 1:30 p.m.

Venue: St. Andrew's Parish Hall 311 S. Buckeye, Abilene, Kansas 67410

Present: President, Matt Vogt (Valley Center Police Department, KPOA & Volunteer); Tony Stewart (KHP & Volunteer); Executive Director, Julie La Combe (Coach & Volunteer); Howard Gillespie (FRA); Norbert Angell (Volunteer); Adrian Hertog (Volunteer); Mitch Sothers(KDOT);Lynn Aldrich (Volunteer); Mike Foster(Topeka Rescue Mission); Gary Vaughn Watco Companies

Absent: John Simpson (UP Railroad & volunteer)

Guests: Tom La Combe (Volunteer); Wm. R. Fitzgerald (Volunteer/Coach), Mrs. Deb Fitzgerald, Mrs. Linda Aldrich, and Debbie Romine (Volunteer)

1. Meeting was called to order by President Vogt at 1:25 p.m. Members signified their attendance on the KS OL sign-in-sheet. Matt Vogt gave the safety briefing. Introductions around the room were made.
2. Gary Vaughn moved to approve the KS OL Board of Directors meeting minutes from the August 11, 2016 meeting along with the addition of and subsequent approval of the committee meeting, same date. Tony Stewart seconded. Motion carried. The Committee meeting minutes will be commented on, corrected, and approved simultaneously, going forward.
3. Budget Information:
 - A. Adrian Hertog presented the treasurer's report, forwarding balance of \$54,942.62. Income was \$365 and expenses were \$13,823.92. The ending balance was \$41,468.70 in the treasurer's report as presented. Gary Vaughn seconded. Motion carried.
 - B. Adrian discussed the concept of "chart of accounts" that he had proposed to Julie in a meeting in Topeka. It is proper and follows best accounting practices so responsibility of the Board to others can be met. La Combe will use WAVE, a free accounting software application. A progress report will be provided to the Board at the 1Q2017 meeting.
 - C. The Proposed 2017 budget was presented. Tony Stewart offered the cost of calendars could be saved by decreasing the number ordered. Lynn Aldrich made a Motion to accept the 2017 Proposed Budget with a correction to reduce the calendar order (wallet and dash) by half, Mike Foster seconded, motion carried.
4. Unfinished and Old Business
 - A. La Combe provided a PowerPoint presentation update of her activities during the previous quarter, August - October.
 - B. La Combe explained to all that one of the Proclamations signed by the Honorable Sam Brownback had been awarded to and proudly on display at the Topeka Rescue Mission.
 - C. A signed copy of the Executive Director contract for independent services was provided.
5. New Business

- A. (What started as a discussion during the above 2017 Budget response has been edited and placed under new business.) Tony Stewart who helped lead the discussion on calendars, also expressed a need for additional coupons for law enforcement, over above what is used at the Positive Enforcement efforts. It was agreed that would be feasible. Julie also added an incentive, which was positively agreed on, that we could take officers to lunch during 2017 as part of a law enforcement appreciation initiative.
- B. Julie discussed advertising outreach as a means to educate the public. Our marketing might be able to be funded by taking advantage of available grant programs.
- C. Volunteer Incentives that had not been cashed in for 2016 were donated to the Children’s Palace, a subsidiary of Topeka Rescue Mission. This was an executive decision by La Combe, who recommended donating an approved amount of general program budget funds to organizations who have shown positive efforts in railroad safety education.
- D. La Combe provided a copy of Letter of Declination from DCCCA. DCCCA will not be entering into an administrative relationship with Kansas Operation Lifesaver at this time.
- E. La Combe’s hours will be reduced through December 6th due to university finals. Hours will be made up following the end of the semester’s obligations and contracted hours will balance.
- G. La Combe provided the OL State Recommended Work Plan, and was followed by a general discussion regarding National Train week. No date has been set nationally yet.
- H. Howard Gillespie brought up the FRA’s desire to increase in public awareness by tapping into community festivals and continuing to look for areas of positive enforcement.
- I. Mitch Sothers talked about targeting new and upgraded crossings and surrounding neighborhoods that may not be aware of the issues regarding crossing at grade.
- J. National update: Visuals will no longer be printed. Perhaps a smaller version could be provided through a local vendor print shop. There are Four (4) complete sets of laminated visuals in the KS OL warehouse. See La Combe if you need visuals.

The Executive Director will be out of office from 11-22 to 11-25, 2016.

6. Board adjournment - Motion by Mitch Sothers to adjourn. Second by Gary Vaughn. Motion passed-14:37.

Following a 10-minute break, the attendees re-convened.

- 1. Committee Call to Order at 2:50 p.m. by President Matt Vogt.
- 2. Committee Information and New Business

A. Statistics

National Crossing Collisions
Collisions

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016* |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2,102 | 2,291 | 2,059 | 1297 |

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|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Injuries | 975 | 860 | 980 | 500 |
| Fatalities | 232 | 264 | 240 | 192 |

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|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| National Trespasser Incidents | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016* |
| Injuries | 434 | 421 | 407 | 328 |
| Fatalities | 425 | 472 | 486 | 351 |

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|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Kansas Crossing Collisions | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016* |
| Collisions | 46 | 40 | 41 | 27 |
| Injuries | 12 | 8 | 15 | 8 |
| Fatalities | 3 | 6 | 3 | 2 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Kansas Trespasser Incidents | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016* |
| Injuries | 2 | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| Fatalities | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 |

**Through August 31, 2016*

Source: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Data is subject to change as updated information impacts records.

Source: Federal Railroad Administration www.fra.dot.gov

B. Activity Records: January through October: 1,387 activities and presentations with 48,353 people (for the same time last year, down 4% for presentations and down 4%)

Volunteer Hours: 1773.5 (down 5%).

C. Julie explained that if we have Twitter accounts, Instagram, Facebook, we should be using those to their fullest to spread our message and engage the public. She thanked a number of attendees for their contribution to the "Photo gallery" and asked that we continue to provide her with photos, thank you notes, acknowledgements etc.

D. KS OL Sunflower Signal Quarterly Newsletter provided to all attendees. Julie explained that the Newsletter printing is unreliable, provided by UPRR (John Simpson). Adrian Hertog offered to research alternate options, including BNSF.

3. General Remarks, Discussion, and Questions

A. La Combe reminded all that if we shop on Amazon, to please use the Amazon Smile program that provides donations back to KS OLI. Link can be found in a recent Facebook post.

- B. Firestarter: LaCombe announced that Adrian Hertog was our recent recipient. La Combe asked members in attendance to nominate others; those that go above and beyond to promote our message.
 - C. La Combe leverages the reach of Twitter Troopers, with a combined following of over 46,000 people, to share railroad safety messages.
 - D. Years of Service: John Lageese - 20 years; Troopers Hughes (5) and Wingate (5); Bill Fitzgerald had (15)
 - E. Adrian Hertog and Norbert Angell were awarded the two additional proclamations signed by Governor Brownback.
 - F. Norbert Angell was awarded Volunteer of the Year for selfless and dedicated activity in 2015
4. Next Meeting- Thursday, February 9, 2017, at the Topeka Rescue Mission, Conference Room A, 600 North Kansas Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66608. 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
5. Adjournment-William Fitzgerald made a Motion to adjourn. Tony Stewart seconded. Motion carried at 3:22p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by N. A. Angell, III, Secretary
Edited by Julie LaCombe, Executive Director