

## FLORIDA OPERATION LIFESAVER – 2008 ANNUAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 19, 2008

### MEETING MINUTES

#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT AROUND 9:35

Everyone introduced themselves. Cliff Stayton & Fred Wise mentioned how Annette Lapkowski, the new State Coordinator, was a breath of fresh air to the organization.

Things that were mentioned that we needed to improve upon were: Outreach to the Emergency Responders and we needed more 'Train the Trainer' classes.

#### TRESPASSING

Annette mentioned that she had talked to National OL about North Carolina's approach to handling trespassers.

Ben Biscan: Has there been a look into the seasonality? Is there a correlation to the season and trespassers?

Annette: Will look into the Ben's question. Data collection and graph development are underway.

Felice Willaford: Migrant workers do not know the laws.

Annette: 1 in 4 Floridians do not speak English.

Felice: a lot of kids have to translate to their parents

Allan Fraser: Has a lot of Spanish in his area. Wants Spanish speaking people to go speak to a group. He wants to get in their schools.

Don Levine: Says trucker group is hard to get into. A lot have unions. Sometimes you get an overlap because school bus drivers were ex-truckers.

Allan: Good way is to talk when truckers have orientation.

James Andrews: Need to make sure that you have a time slot for OL at orientation. Did two blitzes outside of Tampa. Handed out a lot of material but never gave a presentation.

Annette: It's a good idea to be set up at ports for trucks. Maybe we can work with the DOT Seaport Office.

Michael Jones: Will have better access when Martin Marion is trained. [www.driversalert.com](http://www.driversalert.com)

Lois: is there any OL association with construction workers?

Linda Levine: Can contact their safety offices and present OL info. Ask about Toolbox Safety Meeting. Carpenters and sheet metal workers may not see need but need to sell it and say they need to be safe getting to work.

Allan: Talk to insurance companies because that is a good way to get into the door.

Jim McGinn: Truckers are tough group. When it comes to trains, truckers consider trains as rivals. Truckers think that trains sometimes lack courtesy.

Allan: Goldman exhibit says that we have a free table at all of their exhibits. Don Levine has contact info.

Keith Marr: We have a free table in Plant City, Ocala, and etc.

Linda: Takes the opportunities of event to spread the OL message.

### **NORTH FL UPDATE & TSAW - George Bollinger**

George Bollinger: Has all supplies from Florida East Coast. A lot of leftovers from CSX.

Do you want to continue to tell them to call the 1-800 number on the brochure?

If you need a contact, Mike Elias, Annette Lapkowski, and Gary Fitzpatrick have all of the contacts. The railroad companies in your area have a lot of contacts. Don't be discouraged if train people do not cooperate.

TSAW stats for Jacksonville: 11,000 people covered 7 counties. Had a total of 1,795 people at presentations.

Made mention that everyone has their own niche.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Annette: There is an opportunity to add more board members. We can have up to 17. Board stands as is.

### **LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

Mike Elias: We need to get some of the state statutes changed. Some funding could go back to the railroad instead of the city or county. Some of the wording needs to be changed. Will send Annette an email regarding this.

Ben Biscan: Need to find a rep to have bill or amendment passed saying that a train doesn't have to be present for ticket.

George: Sometimes court throws out the trespass ticket do not want a misdemeanor on the kid's record.

Ben: Says we need to handle one thing at a time.

Don: How they assess fines is a problem. \$50 for tracks and \$177 for running a light. Tracks penalty should be comparable.

Mike Elias: It is \$48 fine for a pedestrian but \$160 fine for a car going around a gate.

Ben: There are so many statues but law enforcement may not even know which to apply.

Linda: Need an education program for the police officers.

Ben: CSX has their own PD and communicate with others in any area.

Michael: Be in contact with local jurisdiction being affected and sharing info. Everyone may not be reached but can pass along.

James: DOT, all 7 districts have Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTST). They can get word out to some of law enforcement.

Cliff: National OL has revamped GCCI course and they have Rail Safety for Emergency Responders (RSER). Trying to increase web based training is important. National OL is having an Anti-Trespass campaign. Ranges from \$1 million - \$5mil per year to launch the national campaign. CSX will start web based training for 1<sup>st</sup> responders. We can take advantage of this website.

Ben: Do short line railroad have a representative on national OL Board?

Cliff: No

Cliff: \$1.2 mil OL will get from FRA with new legislation

### **SOUTH FL UPDATE & TSAW – Mike Elias**

Mike: Average of 20 people a year in fatalities. There were 30 fatalities in 2006. There are already 30 in 2008 so far.

FRA came to him and asked what was done in Palm Beach County. Held a Safety fair and fed over 500 people. Van donated by Marvin Renbaum. He wants to become a presenter and reach out to senior citizens.

Started going to traffic court because people were getting their citations thrown out.

During TSAW, put up electronic messages (17 boards reached 3 million people, donated by law enforcement)

Find out what group is in your county like Volunteer Broward.

For TSAW, in 2004 there were 2 agencies. In 2008, there were 30. Some officers were amazed because they didn't even know they could write tickets.

### **GOALS FOR 2008 – HOW WE DID/ GOALS FOR 2009**

Police officers jobs are to give presentations/interact with public

- Identify crossing with a lot of traffic. Start planning in February. Work with Explorers to get them to help out.

James: Deaf person at District 7 that wants to become a presenter.

Linda: Can Contact Florida School for Deaf

Don: Approach school districts transportation department. One state blew the whistle whenever they approached tracks.

## **CENTRAL FLORIDA UPDATE – James Andrews**

Trying to buy RR right of way

Trying to educate through engineering

School Bus Driver suggested making a sign for no school bus route to let them know they can't cross this crossing. Out of 17 bus drivers, 2 actually did make 100% stop. Need to educate law enforcement but also need them to practice what they preach. They need to not drive around gates.

Wants to be involved with TSAW. Will contact Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTST). Want to follow Mike Elias' example. Probably will do in Hillsborough County because of they have the most trains.

He uses his background as firefighter when presenting.

Allan: Some states have light to stop before intersection

James: Spent millions per year on safety improvements statewide – address critical needs

## **CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUTER RAIL – Tawny Olore, Project Mgr**

61 miles, 126 grade crossings. Designed system to grow. 15 minute headway in morning & 15 minute in afternoon. Started final phase 8/11/08. Final funding in Sept 09. Have a unanimous local approval. Have local & state funding, waiting for fed funding. During construction, no freight movement between 5am-10am and 3pm-10pm all passenger trains. 10am-3pm and 10pm-12am mixed. 12am-5am all freight. Working with locals to see how they will design their stations. DOT will buy Orlando Amtrak station & line.

## **Trespasser Study – Lois Earle**

31, miles on foot, outside of crossing. Looked at data from the FRA for the years of 2000 to 2008. CSX had 6 fatalities and 9 non-fatalities. Amtrak had 4 fatalities only. The age of the fatalities were very young, a lot of people were lying down. Daytime trespassers use tracks as a short cut. Night time trespassers are living on the tracks and substance abuse was often involved. There needs to be a lot of education to let people know commuter train will be coming soon, creating more traffic. Will look to see if fencing will be worth it.

Ben Biscan: Try not to displace transients to another rail line.

## **Engineer Aspects – Pete Turrell, COO**

3 of 94 crossings have passive protection. 91 are active warning systems. The 31 miles will have 18 miles of double track. Project will have channeling to prevent people from walking down tracks near stations. Need help of OL to help get the message out! He wants to team with us to engage in blitzes along trespasser hot spots.

Allan: Suggest to make public aware ahead of time.

George B: Are there provisions for Amtrak?

Tawny: Yes, there is a provision for growth.

## **BREAKOUT GROUPS**

### **Non-English**

- Media--- Spanish PSAs, Telemundo, Spanish Talk Show/Radio
- Look at large organizations' employee ethnic background
- Have visual, no language. Or various languages at end of visual
- Local Churches and youth groups. For example, Creole people have different dialects. So, we could reach out to the community leaders to learn how to communicate better.
- Volunteer translators
- Bilingual/Multi-lingual materials and signs

### **Volunteers**

- Recruit people who have background/interest/information in rail. They may have a void they would like to fill. Rail Fan/Interest Groups, Recent Retirees
- Schools
- Toastmasters/Dale Carnegie – have interest in public speaking
- Civic/Service Organizations – YMCA, Girl/Boy Scout. Get young minds, they are moldable. Don't have to be presenters, we need volunteers.
- Chamber of Commerce – Could persuade by possibly saying “This is your town, you should want positive images”
- Retired Teachers

Don Levine added: Go to volunteer organizations where you can request help. Look for people who have to do community service.

Cliff Stayton added: Should reach out to college students.

### **Truckers**

- Transportation Advisor Group of Young Students
- Independent -> non-focus -> radio messages
- Corporate -> focus -> port system
- Safety message & OL logo where they eat, deliver, and go through truck scale.
- CDL School where they have to get training
- Include with HAZMAT/Driver license renewal
- DOT Motor Carrier Compliance. Put website address.
- When they go to maintenance facility, could be a message whenever they sit in room waiting.
- Put Look, Listen, Live on DOT Message boards. Does not cost anything because of solar energy.

### **Trespass**

#### Education

- Homeless shelters/food kitchens – interested in passing the time and learning.
- Schools
- Governor's Office – needs to be educated on how important our message is.
- Law enforcement
- Crossing Guards – need to make sure students actually walk to crossing
- PTA – talk to parents and let them know importance

- School resources
- Driving Schools – before kids get licenses.
- Legislative Awareness
- Graffiti – may not be aware of danger
- Literature at train stations

#### Engineering

- Design Changes
- Barriers improved

#### Enforcement

- Educate Crossing Guards (they have the ability to explain)
- Parental Consequences
- School Consequences (student gets a day of detention if caught crossing tracks)
- Clarity in the law

George DeMarino added: can give OL presentations to defensive driving classes

Mike Elias suggests looking into the FDOT Community Traffic Safety Teams for assistance with Trespass.

Mike Elias plays a video of Homeless outreach in South FL. Video shows that homeless have 3 choices:

1. Shelter
2. Another area
3. Arrested