

## *Operation Lifesaver*

By Dave Verzi

Last March, I attended an Ohio Operation Lifesaver meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Operation Lifesaver exists for one purpose: to prevent crossing collisions. The OL meeting was rather informative and enlightening as to how the program works, especially in Ohio.

Though OL is a national program, it is administered on a state level. Involvement by the various states seems to vary greatly. Since Ohio has many railroad miles and crossing collisions, Operation Lifesaver is a visible and active group with a full-time administrator, a retired captain from the Ohio State Patrol.

Attendees at the meeting represented all the major and many small railroads in Ohio. Also present were many law enforcement representatives.

What was clear is that Ohio has many certified presenters of Operation Lifesaver programs. OL is willing to train sponsoring organizations, provided they agree to give at least four seminars a year to sustain their certification. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Local NARCOA affiliates could work with Operation Lifesaver through their own state's program. I would encourage local groups to approach their Operation Lifesaver state director to get involved. Contact me directly if you would like your representative's name and address, at 10059 Aldridge Dr., Columbia Station, OH 44028, or e-mail at [wm340@juno.com](mailto:wm340@juno.com).