



MTA accounting manager Basil Panas on board Metrolink.

## MTA's Panas Composes Winning Entry in Metrolink Motivational Essay Contest

(March 9) Basis Panas was feeling pretty good riding Metrolink's San Bernardino line into work not long ago. Thinking about his good fortune to be able to take the train and not have to drive into LA.

It was that sense of well-being that inspired Panas, an MTA accounting manager, to write a 50-word essay that he entered in a Metrolink writing contest. Patrons had to explain how Metrolink helps them achieve their motivational goals.

### Wins round-trip airline tickets

Surprise! His tribute to commuting by rail won the contest and two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines. Destination? Maybe Texas or New Mexico, states he has yet to visit.

Panas, 42, a resident of Upland, joined the MTA in January. Every morning he boards the 6:27 Metrolink train at Montclair, arriving at Union Station at 7:20 a.m.

"I read about the contest in the Metrolink newsletter and thought it was perfect for me," says Panas, formerly controller for the City of West Covina. "I thought about how I can work on the train ride if I want, when before that time was wasted commuting by car."

### The winning entry

A few thoughts later and Panas had composed these contest-winning lines:

"Being near the mountains is good for the soul, so I live there. The scenery recharges my batteries. Jobs in the big city are good for the pocketbook, so I work there. The money replenishes my finances. To alternate between these two blessings, I ride Metrolink. It couldn't be otherwise."

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)

