

WINNERS' CIRCLE - Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky, center, congratulates winners of the "Strike Stories" essay contest, from left, Yvonne Price, second place; Elijah Johnson, third place; Patti Jacobs, first place, and Lisa Miller, editor's choice. Click here to read 'Strike Stories' entries.

EDITOR'S NOTE: More than 30 employees participated in the "Strike Stories" essay contest. In this memo, Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky announces the winners. The essay contest was sponsored by the Executive Leadership Team.

December 19 To: All Employees

From: Allan Lipsky, Chief Operating Officer

The "Strike Stories" essay contest has come to a successful conclusion and the winners have been selected by a panel of judges.

Let's congratulate the First Place essayist and winner of four tickets to "The Lion King," **Patricia Jacobs**. The Second Place essay was written by **Yvonne Price**, winner of a Holiday Basket from Employee Activities; while the Third Place essayist was Division 15 Metro Bus Operator **Elijah Johnson**, winner of a large box of See's Old-Tyme Candies. In addition, Intranet Editor Bill Heard selected an essay by **Lisa Miller**, a clerk at Division 3, for an "Editor's Choice" award.

I wish to thank all of those who took the time to send in your very personal and often heartwarming stories about your experiences during the strike. I was overwhelmed by the attitude expressed by nearly every writer.

The strike was a difficult time for all of us at the MTA. But, it also gave each of us a new set of challenges with opportunities for new experiences and a greater appreciation of the strength of the MTA when we work together as a team.

Strike Stories were written by both non-represented employees, many of whom worked new assignments, and represented employees who were on strike. Everyone showed a depth of concern for their fellow employees and their families and for our passengers whose lives were impacted by the strike. These stories show that the MTA's strength is really its great team of employees.

Selecting one winner from more than 30 entries was no easy task. In truth, each and every person who managed to make a positive experience out of a very difficult situation is a winner.

I want to thank MTA Librarian Dorothy Gray and her panelists - Rich Morallo, Joyce Chang, Scott Green and Michael Flores - for their work in making the difficult choices to select our "Strike Stories" essay contest winners.

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