

MTA's Brightest Stars Shine at "Best of the Best" Awards Banquet



Board Chairman John Fasana, veteran service attendant Arthur Winston and CEO Roger Snoble top off the evening with award-winning smiles

'Best of the Best' Photo Gallery

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<a href="#">ARTHUR WINSTON</a> DIVISION 5	<a href="#">TRANSPORTATION</a> "EXTRA MILE"
<a href="#">VENICE</a> DIVISION 6	<a href="#">MAINTENANCE</a>
<a href="#">WEST HOLLYWOOD</a> DIVISION 7	<a href="#">MAINTENANCE 2ND TIME</a> RECIPIENTS
<a href="#">EL MONTE</a> DIVISION 9	<a href="#">MAINTENANCE</a> "EXTRA MILE"
<a href="#">GATEWAY</a> DIVISION 10	<a href="#">RAIL OPERATIONS</a>

By GAYLE ANDERSON, Associate Editor  
(Jan. 29, 2002) The stars came out for the annual MTA "Best of the Best," Saturday night, as Board Chairman John Fasana, Ceo Roger Snoble, Deputy CEO John Catoe and MTA executives paid homage to the MTA's top Transit Operations employees before an appreciative audience and fans at the Universal Sheraton.

"Tonight, seeing stars within the MTA sky is totally appropriate," said Fasana, as he began his keynote remarks. But, first, a pause, as he acknowledged, then introduced two activist bus riders in the audience.

"They are very demanding bus riders," said Fasana as Board members Allison Yoh and Pam O'Connor joined him at the podium, "and passionate about the service you provide."

"Throughout my life," said O'Connor, "a bus has been the means of discovery, a way of learning about the world."

And Yoh, who arrived at the banquet by bus, said Metro Bus operators set the tone of a community on board every bus.

"When you're attentive, when you're



Committee members Matt Barrett and Alicia Walker

On the Job

The third annual "Best of the Best" awards were made possible by the extraordinary efforts of a hard-working committee. Chaired this year by Robert Torres, the members are: **Transit Operations:** Matthew

conscientious, when you're safe," she told the bus operators and mechanics in the attentive audience of nearly 100, "you're getting us to places where we need to go and we're very appreciative. We put our lives in your hands."

" 'Best of the Best' is an organization-wide commitment to a never-ending improvement process," said Fasana.

And, to that end, the top one percent of the MTA's 6,500-strong Transit Operations force were showered with accolades along with commemorative plaques, a couple of perks, and a hearty handshake and congratulations from Snoble, John Catoe, incoming General Manager of Rail Operations Gerald Francis and respective DEO's as honorees took the stage, division by division. It was a moment for each division to shine.

"Best of the Best" awards, presented for the third year in row, were given to 41 Metro Bus operators, two Metro Rail Green Line train operators, and nine top mechanics. The 52 honorees compiled exemplary safety and attendance records and provided excellent customer service possible over a five-year span beginning in 1996.

Fourteen Transit Operations employees received "Extra Mile" awards for their acts of courage, selflessness and extraordinary service.

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Barrett, Gary Spivack, Alicia Walker. **Office of System Safety and Security:** Pamela Engelke, Sylvia Pantoja, Committee Chairman Robert H. Torres. **Risk Management:** Leo Costantino, Norma Flores, Lucille Van DerHeyden. The event was sponsored by Risk Management, Office of System Safety and Security and Transit Operations.