

Division Employee of the Month Programs on the Rise

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By AMY HOWELL

(March 29, 2002) The MTA's 11 operating divisions are alike in many ways. But San Gabriel Valley Division 9 may be a trendsetter with its decision about a year ago to resurrect the Employee of the Month program.

An Employee of the Month program used to be in place at each operating division, but funding eventually ended. Division 9 now funds its program individually.

"Nobody else was doing this program," said Maintenance Manager John McBryan. "I came up with the idea because we used to do it years ago."

Three divisions have emulated the program since Division 9 implemented its own in January 2001.

Division 9 employees who are selected for the honor receive a certificate of commendation, an Employee of the Month pin and a \$50 gift certificate to Stuart Anderson's Black Angus.

An inclusive program

"It's not limited; it's for whoever works out of Division 9," said Maintenance General Clerk III Barbara Thomas, who plays a key role in the continued success of the program.

Thomas, whose Employee of the Month program duties include superimposing the selected employee's photo onto the certificate of commendation, explained that employees who want to nominate a co-worker must submit a detailed information form to McBryan. Once McBryan has received all of the nominations, he selects an Employee of the Month.

Photos of Employees of the Month, past and present, are posted on a bulletin board at Division 9.

Arthur Winston Division 5 Maintenance has an "informal program" in place, said Maintenance Manager Alex Dinuzzo. The department chose Employees of the Month for November and December 2001, and hopes to continue during 2002.

"We're trying to mirror Division 9," he said. "We're almost there."

South Bay Division 18 Maintenance also has a fledgling program in place. Employees of the Month have been selected for January and February 2002, and they intend to continue the selection process, said Maintenance Manager Kenneth Matsuno.

Special parking slot

Employees of the Month receive a certificate of commendation and a gift certificate to a restaurant. Additionally, they are allowed to park in a specially designated space at the division during the month they are

being honored.

RRC Facilities Maintenance also has implemented an Employee of the Month program, which has been in place since July 2001.

Although a few of some 400 RRC employees in the past have been nominated for the MTA's agency-wide Employee of the Quarter program, Director of Facilities Maintenance Don Ott "wanted something a little more local."

"I wanted to be able to recognize more folks for doing a good job," said Ott, who is in charge of the program at RRC. Acknowledgements are similar to those of divisions 9 and 18.

And the winner is...

Since the resurrection of San Gabriel Valley Division's Employee of the Month program, the following employees have been recognized:

2002	February— Joseph Cubero , Mechanic A
	January— Armando Martinez , Mechanic A
2001	December— Lars Villumsen , Mechanic A
	November— Ricardo Hernandez , Mechanic A
	October— Odelia Ambler , Service Attendant
	September— Salim Karim , Service Attendant
	August— Ernie De La Rosa , Storekeeper
	July—Division 9 Rodeo Team members Pedro Baeza, Eric Peterson, Barry Richter and Edward Rivera (all Mechanic As)
	June— Rudy Melendez Jr. , Stock Clerk
	May— Antonio Sanchez , Mechanic B
	April— Michael Harnish , Equipment Maintenance Supervisor
	March— Barbara Thomas , General Clerk III
	February— Nga Garrisi , Service Attendant Leader
	January— Alex Arballo , Mechanic A

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