

**Best of the West** - Six Westside/Central sector operators were honored Feb. 5 in recognition of their good safety record - from left, Gateway Division 10 Operator Tadeo Vasquez, West Hollywood Division 7 Operator Hardie Gillie, Metro Westside/Central General Manager Tracy Daly, West Hollywood Division 7 Operator David Terrell, and Venice Division 6 Operator Johnny Hardwick. Not pictured: West Hollywood Division 7 Operator Rodolfo Cortez and Venice Division 6 Operator Anthony Scott.



PHOTO BY BILL HEARD

## **Westside/Central Operators Presented 'Best of the West' Award**

By JENNIFER YEH

(Feb. 11, 2003) Six Westside/Central sector operators were presented "Best of the West" awards at a luncheon, Feb. 5, in recognition of their good safety records.

The award acknowledges their record of having no avoidable or unavoidable traffic accidents, no Worker's Compensation or injury claims and no long-term absences in the past five years.

"We wanted to set the bar as high as we could," says General Manager Tracy Daly. "These six truly exemplify the best qualities every operator should try to achieve."

Honored were Venice Division 6 Operators Anthony Scott and Johnny Hardwick, Gateway Division 10 Operator Tadeo Vasquez and West Hollywood Division 7 Operators Hardie Gillie, David Terrell and Rodolfo Cortez.

Before the luncheon, the operators shared their techniques for safe driving.

### **Be courteous to passengers**

Hardwick says three things that he does to maintain a good record and avoid accidents is to always be courteous to passengers, practice safe driving and keep up with his schedule.

Operator David Terrell says starting the day off with a clear mind helps him get through his shift. He maintains his focus throughout his shift.

"I don't drive a day at a time, I drive a stop at a time for safety," he

says. "If there is anytime I am close to an accident, I pull off the road for half a minute to clear my mind before I go back in service."

Terrell advises that it's safer to wait for when the traffic light is yellow, rather than taking the gamble trying to beat it.

"I know that I am not going to get off a minute earlier, so I take my time," he says. "I try not to be in a rush. Sometimes there are things that can make you late, such as traffic or construction, but I don't let that take over."

### **Courtesy is important**

Terrell also says courtesy is important because by being courteous to people, there's less pressure, which makes the day easier.

Anticipating what other vehicles on the streets are going to do is a good idea, says Division 7 Operator Hardie Gillie. "It helps to know what others are going to do, because it helps you prepare and avoid potential accidents."

Division 10 Operator Tadeo Vasquez agrees it's a good idea to anticipate occurrences. He maintains an exceptional record by using courtesy and making good judgment calls.

"These operators and the lessons they share on safety are truly excellent examples for all of us," says Daly.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)