

Members of the Metro South Bay staff board green vintage GMC coach bound for the 20th Annual African-American History Parade. PHOTO: RICH MORALLO



### **Metro South Bay Showcased Old, New Buses in Parade**

By RICH MORALLO

(Feb. 27, 2003) Metro South Bay showcased MTA's past and present buses, Feb. 23, during the 20th Annual African-American History Parade in South Los Angeles.

Hundreds of children, residents and families cheered the sight of a green GMC vintage coach and a red Metro Rapid bus rolling down Western Avenue.

"We wanted to share a part of our history - the green vintage bus was built in 1958 - as the community celebrates Black History Month," said General Manager Dana Coffey. She and other staff members walked along with the two buses to greet and talk with members of the community.

"We were also able to show where we've been and where we are going to in the community," said Coffey. "This was an excellent opportunity to show our Metro Rapid Bus with the sign reading 'It's Getting Better On The Bus.'"

Metro Rapid service began recently along Vermont Avenue and South Broadway, with other lines to follow in the South Bay," Coffey said.

Also walking along the two-mile parade route was Arthur Winston Division 5 Transportation Manager Patsy Goens. "It was an interesting parade. I had a great afternoon. I spent most of my time passing out cardboard bus replicas and flyers announcing Metro South Bay's community meetings to the residents."

Albernetta Shehee, the lead Division Advisory Committee (DAC) member from Carson Division 18, along with other DAC members, transportation operation supervisors and families also volunteered to help hand out Metro information, safety pamphlets and coloring books to the families and business members along the route.

Regional Rebuild Center mechanic David O'Hara drove the vintage bus. The bus was taken out of revenue service in 1975 and restored and painted in 2000 to the way it looked in 1958.

Division 5 Operator Gregory Smith drove the Metro Rapid bus. The other Metro South Bay members in the parade were June Singleton-Reece, Elsie Iwigbu and Vivian Hampton.

Hampton's son, Jamal, and Community Relations Office Vicky Woods' son, Carlos, rode the buses and helped represent Metro South Bay at the parade.

"The vintage bus is really amazing," said Hampton. "I used to ride this kind of bus when I was a teenager."

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