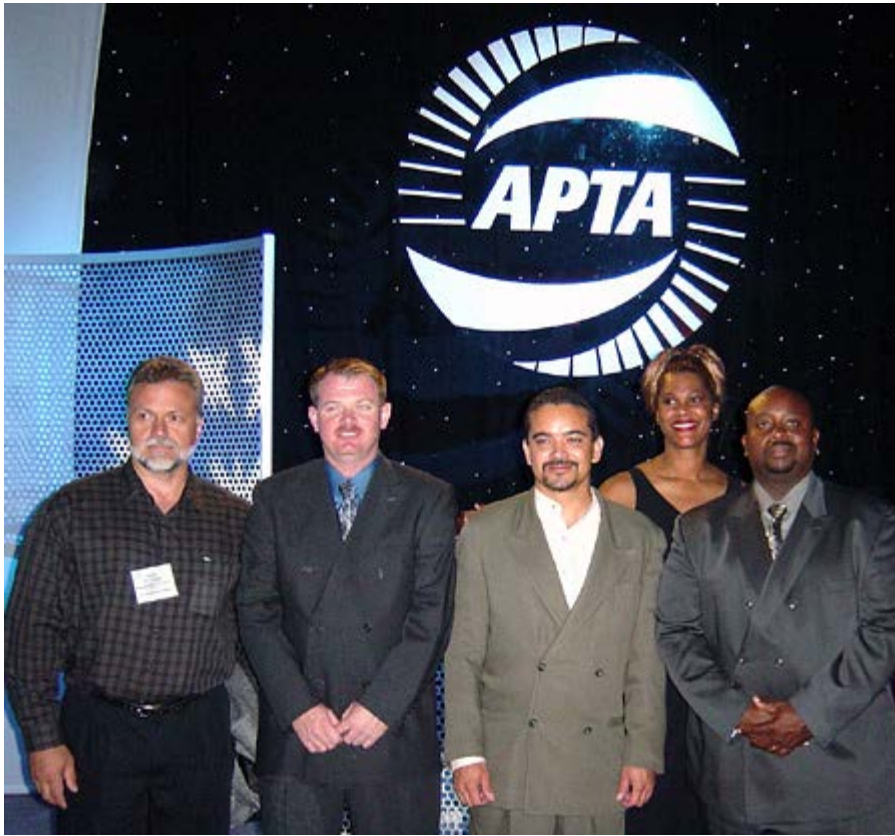
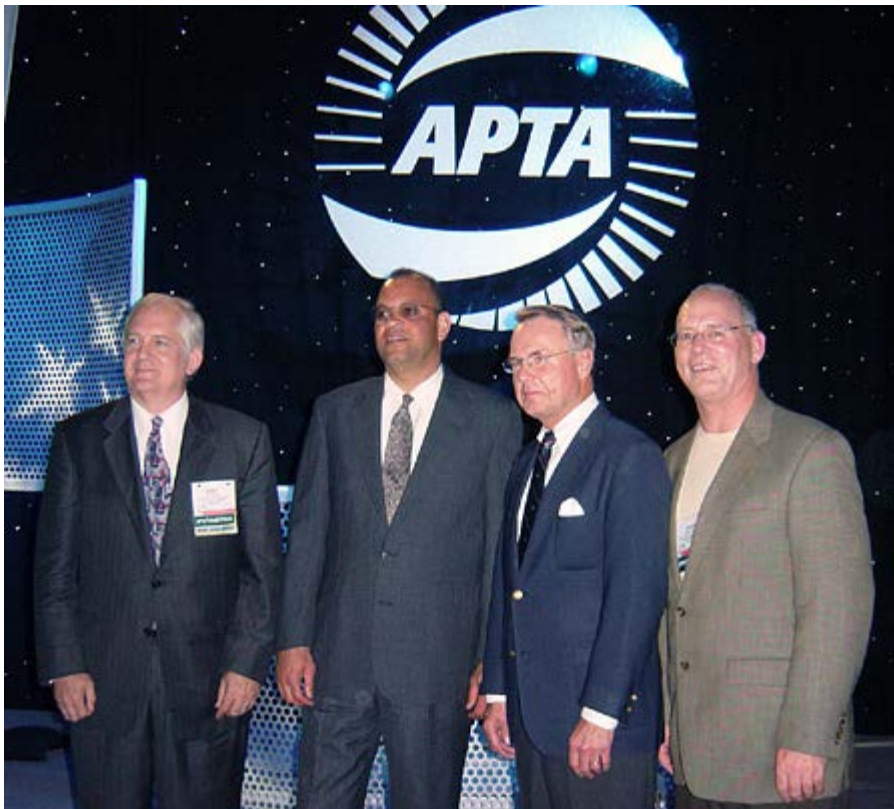


APTA International Bus Rodeo

[MTA Takes 2nd Place](#)



On stage during the International Bus Rodeo awards ceremony are, from left, Division 5 Maintenance Manager Alex Di Nuzzo, maintenance team members Franke Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren, Jr. With them is General Manager Dana Coffey. Below, MTA's Bus Rodeo champ Mark Holland, second from left, and San Gabriel Valley Governance Council members Bart Doyle and Bruce Heard. With them, at right, is General Manager Jack Gabig.



MTA Takes 2nd Place at APTA International Bus Rodeo

(Sept. 30, 2003) In a photo-finish with a scant six points separating them, Tri Delta Transit of Contra Costa County, Calif., nosed past a hard-charging MTA team to win “best overall transit property” at the 2004 APTA International Bus Rodeo.

MTA's 1,487 points earned the team a solid second place behind Tri Delta's 1,493 during the Rodeo finals, Saturday, in Salt Lake City. It was the highest an MTA team has ever scored in a competition that pits the nation's best bus operators and maintenance teams.

“This is the best MTA has ever done in the overall competition at the APTA Bus Rodeo,” says Steve Mullaly, a senior equipment maintenance instructor who accompanied the team to Utah.

El Monte Division 9's Mark Holland, a three-time MTA Bus Rodeo champ, drove to third place in the APTA event, scoring 589 points. He was edged out by Gilbert Castro of Tri Delta, who took first place with 608 points; and Robert Lawrence of Santa Clara Valley Transit, who placed second with 594 points.

Meanwhile, mechanics Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren, Jr., of the Arthur Winston Division 5 team were racking up a score of 897.5 to place fifth out of 44 transit agencies entered in the bus maintenance competition.

Forde, Vargas and Warren received special recognition and a individual plaques for achieving a perfect 300 score in one portion of the maintenance event – the ABS air brake board. No other team did as well.

“They are a very new team,” says General Manager Dana Coffey. “To come this far in such a short time is outstanding!”

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