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Metro South Bay employees are enthusiastic about participating in DAC outreach events. From left are Brianna Wright, Dwight Graham, Beth Kranda, Rita White, Ruth Villalpando, Dennis Trapp, Steve Clay, Vicky Woods and Eric Smith.



PHOTOS BY RICH MORALLO

40 South Bay Employees Volunteer to Fight Vandalism

By RICH MORALLO

(Feb. 19, 2004) More than 40 Metro South Bay employees have decided to do something about graffiti and vandalism on the buses.

They signed up for a vandalism abatement program during the first week of a community outreach recruitment campaign.

Operator Quionne Benton answers questions from her colleagues about volunteering for DAC events.



"I'd like to help the agency deal with vandalism," said Metro Bus Operator Dwight Graham, who volunteered for the Division Ambassador Council, last week. He also completed a three-hour training class at Arthur Winston Division 5.

Once known as the Division Advisory Committee, the new DAC is undergoing restructuring, but its main feature of sending division staff out to talk to various audiences about helping keep Metro vehicles clean will remain.

Focus on respect, pride

The Council, whose members are operators, mechanics and service attendants working on their own time,

will focus on creating respect and pride for public transit, and personal ownership of public vehicles.

Involvement in DAC activities also will provide division staff a chance to use their creativity and energy to combat vandalism.

Many of the volunteers, such as Ruth Villapondo, another Division 5 operator, came forward out of loyalty to the agency. "I want to get more involved with my division and Metro. I want to become an asset to the agency."

Others look upon the DAC simply as a means to help.

'Time to volunteer'

"In my 19 years in this country, I have never volunteered, but when I heard about the DAC, I thought it was time to volunteer," said South Bay Division 18 Operator Morna Bishop.

Bishop believes she will enjoy communicating to families and residents. She once drove a bus to her son's career day at school and enjoyed talking to the students and giving them a tour of the vehicle.

Beth Kranda, an assistant Division 5 transportation manager, summed up the first week's drive to get division staff involved with DAC. "This is for people who know they can make a difference, even in very small ways, every day."

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