


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/
Library](#)
[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

[Org Chart](#) (pdf)

[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

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Metro Operators to Begin Training for 29th Bus Rodeo

- Volunteers needed as judges for preliminaries, final event
- See Also> [‘Knowledge Rodeo’ Determines Metro’s Safest Operators](#)

(July 6, 2004) The competition, along with the weather, will be heating up this month as Metro Bus operators begin training for the 29th Annual Metro Bus Rodeo scheduled, Saturday, July 31, at the Santa Anita Racetrack Gate 6 parking lot in Arcadia.

Practice sessions will be held in Arcadia from Wednesday, July 14, through Tuesday, July 20. The preliminary competition sessions are scheduled from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 21 through Saturday, July 24.

But, the Bus Rodeo couldn’t run without the help of the event judges – all volunteers. Rodeo coordinators are asking employees to volunteer as judges during the preliminaries and for the final competition, itself.

The judges’ work is key to the process of selecting Metro’s most highly qualified bus operator, who will represent the agency during the American Public Transit Association international finals, Oct. 9, in Atlanta.

Volunteer contact

Interested employees should contact Robert L. Ellison, Jr. at 922-6774, or e-mail him at ellisonr@metro.net, by close of business Friday, July 16. Any time a volunteer can give will be appreciated, but a commitment of at least eight hours is preferred.

Prior to the start of the preliminaries, volunteers will be trained in how to score one or more of the 11 Rodeo courses.

Each volunteer judge will receive a Rodeo cap, T-shirt and commemorative pin. A continental breakfast and barbecue lunch will be served to the judges.

< [back to top](#)

‘Knowledge Rodeo’ Determines Metro’s Safest Operators

(July 6, 2004) Who are Metro’ safest bus operators? Results from the first annual “Knowledge Rodeo” are in and 27 operators have been named.

The 27 all met certain eligibility requirements and scored highly on a 50-question exam on defensive driving, traffic rules and laws.

Five operators were named “Safest Operator” in their service sector, 11

operators were named "Safest Operator" in their divisions, while 11 others with no more than two years of service were named "Rookie of the Year."

Testing also is underway this week for the operators to be named "Most Knowledgeable" at each of Metro's 11 operating divisions. The winners will be announced, July 31, at the Metro Bus Rodeo.

Safest Operator - Sector

- Gateway Cities - Jeffry Helquist, Division 2
- San Gabriel Valley - Manuel Guzman, Division 3
- San Fernando Valley - Daniel Pastor, Division 15
- South Bay - Emiliano Chavez, Division 18
- Westside - Ray Anaya, Division 7

Safest Operator - Division

- Division 1 -- Alfred Portillo
- Division 2 -- Jeffry Helquist
- Division 3 -- Manuel Guzman
- Division 5 -- Emmanuel Gladden
- Division 6 -- Carlton Robertson
- Division 7 -- Ray Anaya
- Division 8 -- Martin Crespi
- Division 9 -- Tyrone Bernard
- Division 10 -- Antonio Roxas
- Division 15 -- Daniel Pastor
- Division 18 -- Emiliano Chavez

Rookie of the Year

- Division 1 -- Jorge Balcazar
- Division 2 -- Juan Jaca
- Division 3 -- Srilal Seneviratne
- Division 5 -- Lydia Ferguson
- Division 6 -- Fidencio Rodriguez
- Division 7 -- Michael Reed

- Division 8 -- Adalberto Lara
- Division 9 -- Louis Gutierrez
- Division 10 -- Raul Aguilar
- Division 15 -- Rachell Escamilla
- Division 18 -- Kathy Magee

[<back to top](#)

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)