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"Go one year without a missout, without an unexcused absence or unverified appointment."

Division 5 Operator Ronald Johnson won his bet with Transportation Manager Patsy Goens.

Meeting Challenge Earned Ronald Johnson More Than a Free Lunch

By RICH MORALLO

(Sept. 17, 2004) That was the challenge transportation manager Patsy Goens gave to Ronald Johnson, last year, at Arthur Winston Division 5.

And to make the proposition interesting, she said a free lunch would be at stake.

"At the time I knew I had a sure bet," says Goens. "Last year I had to counsel Ronald - he had a history of missouts, and I thought that there was no way he'd be able to clean up his attendance record."

But, more importantly, Goens wanted to help the bus operator. She wanted to motivate Johnson, to somehow make him change his attitude toward attendance and punctuality.

Time passed. Months flew by. Goens transferred to Carson Division 18.

A year without a missout

One day her phone rang. It was Johnson. Not only had he gone a year without a missout, he had thrown in two extra months of perfect attendance for good measure.

"It was difficult, not being absent or late for 14 months," said Johnson, who has five years with the agency. "But my job was at stake; I had to buckle down."

Moreover, Johnson did not want to disappoint his manager, who had cared enough to sit down with him and point out the eventual consequence of his absences and tardiness.

When they head out soon to a favorite local seafood restaurant to settle the wager, Goens will foot the bill, but it won't be a hardship.

"I'm saving room for Jello," jokes Johnson.

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