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Metro's Best and Brightest Attend Gala Fit for Stars

By SHANTAY IOSIA

(Oct. 5, 2004) Metro honored its best and brightest, last Friday night, at a sparkling hilltop gala fit for its stars.

Some 575 honorees and guests enjoyed the festivities under the stars at the Pacific Palms Resort in a park-like setting that overlooks the City of Industry and the mountains beyond.

Arriving guests helped themselves to appetizers served in the resort's 19th century railway station and amused themselves on the putting green and in guessing games.

Metro Blue Line Fleet Services Manager George Kennedy and retired Metro Gold Line Operator Willie Mann, one of the evening's award recipients, both managed to stroke the ball across the green and into the hole to win movie tickets.

Movie ticket winner

Metro's Jack Gabig, earned his voucher for two movie tickets after he identified 13 of the 17 childhood pictures of Metro managers in "Stars Among Us."

Operator Raul Garcia received a personalized Metro bus stop sign when he guessed the number of chocolate stars stuffed into a Plexiglas Metro Rapid bus.

Many honorees and their guests posed for souvenir pictures in front of the historic Winston Churchill funeral train car. Others sat with old friends and enjoyed the manicured greens, romantic lights and crisp fall evening.

As the last traces of daylight flickered out beyond the horizon, the guests were guided to their seats for dinner and the awards presentation.

Cascading candles

The Gazebo area was crowded with large round tables draped with white linen and centered with trays of



Division 6 Operator Darrel Carter, a professional comedian, was the master of ceremonies for "An Evening of Stars."

cascading candles set in a bed of rose petals.

Division 6 Operator Darrel Carter, a professional comedian and the evening's master of ceremonies, got the evening off to a fast start with tales of his days in the driver's seat.

After musical entertainment and a three-course meal, the award winners were called to the stage by their general managers to receive medallions honoring their excellent service.

"A Night of Stars" Committee Members

Danielle Boutier, Larry Cosner, Fran Curbello, Carolyn Drummond, Hector Guerrero, Dave Hershenson, Lorene Kelley, Anthony A. Precie, Margo Ross, Jennifer Salamanca, Gary Shiroishi and Milo Victoria.

"Night of Stars" Volunteers

Elizabeth Armijo, Mory Bonakdar, Rich Famighetti, Gil Goytia, Yvonne Goytia, Caroline Howard, Louis Knutson, Clifton Ladage,

Duane Martin, Barbara Maycott, George Maycott, Christine McBryan, Deborah McBryan, John McDowell, Helen Perez, Angela Pina, Manuel Precie, Marie Precie, Robin Precie, Margo Ross, Bruce Shelburne, Cynthia Spadaccini, Mike Turk and Edith Villanueva.



Retired Metro Gold Line Operator Willie Mann sinks a putt.



Division 9 Operator Tyrone Bernard and his wife, Sandra, guessed 160 stars were in the little bus. Wrong!



Enjoying the evening, from left, are Madelene and Fiffat Nakhla, a Metro Green Line maintenance specialist, and daughter Eviola, along with Tammy Smith, wife of Signal Inspector Kevin Smith, and Chris Trevizo, wife of Signal Inspector Michael Trevizo.

Photo Credit: Bill Heard