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Operator Rafael Gutierrez, retiring after 33 years, was presented with gifts by, from left, UTU representative Thomas Isaacs, Division Transportation Manager Yvonne Brewer-Smith and General Manager David Armijo.



Photos: Richard Long

## Three Good Reasons to Celebrate at West Hollywood Division 7

By JODY LITVAK

(May 18, 2005) West Hollywood Division 7 staff had three good reasons for a party earlier this month: Employees celebrated moving back into the newly refurbished transportation building; they honored 11 co-workers; and they marked the Cinco de Mayo holiday.

Division Transportation Manager Yvonne Brewer-Smith organized the party as a way to welcome employees back into the transportation building after several months working in trailers. During that time, the interior space was refurbished leaving brighter and newer facilities for the operators.

"It's good to have everyone back under one roof again," said Brewer-Smith. "The facility looks so much better."



Sector General Manager David Armijo and Division Maintenance Manager Jim Pachan recognize service attendant Taffy Lillard who retired with 23 years of service.

Managers from the division, sector office, and other divisions, along with union representatives, all pitched in to serve up a variety of barbeque and Mexican dishes to both operations and maintenance employees. Several employees commented how much they appreciated management doing this for them.

### Work continues at division

While work on the transportation building is complete, work is still ongoing in the maintenance yard. Pavement has been replaced in the yard and a new storage facility has been constructed. A new tire area is almost finished and work remains to be done for a new maintenance supervisor's office area and repair bays for articulated buses.

"We are already enjoying these improvements but are looking forward to having all of the work done," said Division Maintenance Manager Jim Pachan. Work should be complete on the remaining improvements in July.

During the party, General Manager David Armijo participated in recognizing division employees for special service and some recent retirees.

Recognized for their participation in recent special Hollywood Bowl service were Linda Abnerollie, Robert Beard, Larry Bell, Monzur Chowdhury, Mauro Guerrero, Starla Jefferson, and Howard Lewis, along with Transportation Operations Supervisor Richard Wright.

Retirees who were honored for their service were operators Rafael Gutierrez (33 years) and Orlando Mendrano (30 years), along with service attendant Taffy Lillard (23 years).

Gutierrez brought his wife and several family members to the party with him. Taking the microphone, he said, "In my last days, I was much nicer and truly enjoyed my job more. I wished I had done this sooner. My customers were nice to me. I learned that you should take care of your customers, because they will take care of you."



UTU Representative Thomas Isaacs serves Division 7 employees at a recent Cinco de Mayo celebration.



Enjoying the celebration are, from left, operators Andre Burroughs, Tammy Arnold and Miguel de la Cruz.

