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General Manager Gerald Francis acknowledged the top contenders at the 2005 local and International Raildeo. Also on hand at the presentation were, from left, Esther Pippins, Ruben Ramirez, Ramon Alvarez, Melvin Clark, Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos, Dave Kubicek and Russell Homan.



2005 Raildeo Celebration: A Salute to Metro Rail Skill and Family

By ARLENE LIM

(June 30, 2005) With the competition behind them, Metro Rail employees and their families enjoyed the festivities of the Metro Raildeo 2005 Celebration, June 25, at Metro Red Line Division 20.

The celebration honored the skills of the people who operate the Metro Rail system – both transportation and maintenance.

"But just as important, sometimes more important, it brings us together in a social environment where we don't have layers of management - where we're just people," said Deputy CEO John Catoe.

This year the Los Angeles Metro Rail team finished second overall at the 2005 APTA International Rail Rodeo.

'A great group'

"It epitomizes the fact that we have a great group of individuals throughout Rail Operations," said General Manager Gerald Francis.

Mechanics Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo placed a close second behind the Maryland Transit Authority team in the Maintenance portion of the competition.



Instructor Esther Pippins thanked Metro Rail team for

Veteran Raildeo competitor Tu Phan and teammate Ruben Ramirez came in third in the Rail Operator competition.

their hard work at the 2005 APTA International Rail Rodeo.

"Any time you have teams place second and third from the same agency, it's very blessed," said Rail Operations DEO Dave Kubicek.

The second- and third-place finish at the APTA International Rail Rodeo was recognized during a formal presentation at the June 25 celebration.

Francis, Kubicek and Rail Operations DEO Melvin Clark expressed their appreciation to all who participated in both the local and international events, and to the families for their support.

Working in the background

"My thanks to the instructors, Russell (Homan) and Esther (Pippins), for the training and attention they give to the contestants," said Clark. "They're in the background working hard long before we ever get to the competition."

The top three finishers in Transportation were Tu Phan with 848 points, Ruben Ramirez with 703 points and Ramon Alvarez with 698 points.

Rounding out the top three in Maintenance were Ronnie Burt with 905 points, Eric Czintos with 885 points, and Rafaele Mastrangelo with 786 points.

The local competition winners were presented a plaque, logo jacket and ribbon commemorating their accomplishment.

Unlike past years, this year's celebration did not coincide with the Raildeo competition, which was held last April.

"It's a new concept, a first-year model, and so far it's worked out," explained Community Relations Manager Wilbur Babb.