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Winner's Circle> Arthur Winston Division Mechanics Team - from left, Andrew Warren Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde - advance to international competition after regional win.



## Metro Maintenance Team Wins 1st Place at Regional Bus Roadeo

- Division 5 team leads by 220 points, operator takes 3rd place
- Metro team to compete in International Finals, Sept. 24

(Sept. 13, 2005) In its first competition of the year against rival transit properties, Metro's bus maintenance team – mechanics Andrew Warren Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde – took top honors, Sept. 10, in the Southern California Regional Bus Roadeo.

The Arthur Winston Division 5 mechanics, along with Central City Division 1 Operator Sam Morales, who placed third in the drivers' competition, will travel to Dallas later this month to represent Metro at the APTA International Roadeo Finals, Sept. 24.

At the regionals, Warren, Vargas and Forde scored a total of 1,250 points in the five-event maintenance competition, a whopping 220 points ahead of mechanics from the Orange County Transit Authority and OMNI Trans of San Bernardino, who tied for second.

"The key to our win was hard training and dedication and help from the

Instruction Department," says Warren, maintenance team captain. "We're going to go to Dallas and continue what we're doing. We want as good a showing there as we had at the regionals."



Central City Division 1 Operator Sam Morales placed third in the drivers' competition.

In the drivers' competition, Morales scored 579 points to place third behind defending regional champion Ron Dickey of Riverside Transit, who finished first with 630 points, and second-place Raj Patel of OCTA, who scored 584 points.

Hosted by OCTA, the Regional Bus Roadeo was patterned after the APTA finals with such maintenance events as a bus inspection, ABS brake board and power train. The drivers' competition included an obstacle course similar to the Metro Bus Roadeo.

Mechanics Warren, Vargas and Forde are veteran bus roadeo competitors who represented Metro at the APTA International Roadeo Finals in Salt Lake City in 2003. Morales has carried Metro's banner at three previous APTA finals.

"There will be a lot of good drivers from the U.S and Canada at the Finals," said Morales, who hopes to get in a couple days of practice before the international event. "But, we should do OK."

The Metro Bus Roadeo team's final outing, due to a change in APTA convention scheduling, will be at the International Finals planned for Anaheim in April 2006.