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The evening's keynote speaker, Supervisor Gloria Molina, 1st vice chair of the Board, called on Metro's management and labor unions to strive to "strengthen our working relationship."

## Metro's Transit Operations 'Stars' Honored at Annual Banquet

- 134 are praised for their professionalism
- Molina calls for 'harmony' between management and labor
- [List of Honorees, 2005](#)
- 7 Employees Named '[Spotlight Award](#)' Winners
- [Credit roll](#): 'Night of Stars' committee

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Sept. 20, 2005) The stars of Metro were shining brightly, last Friday night, as the agency honored its very best Transit Operations employees during the annual "Night of Stars" banquet at the Westin Bonaventure in downtown LA.

Called to the stage by service sector, the 134 transportation and maintenance employees received their honors from CEO Roger Snoble and Board Member John Fasana. Seven employees, whose actions this past year were especially noteworthy, were designated "Spotlight Award" winners.



Board Member John Fasana and CEO Roger Snoble presented medals to some 134 transportation and maintenance employees.

The honorees are "stars in the eyes of hundreds of thousands of Metro customers," Snoble said. "You are also 'stars' to those of us who have the privilege and pleasure of working with you."

He praised the maintenance employees and bus and train operators for their efforts "to provide the highest quality of service for our customers."

In his remarks, Fasana said, "The great service you provide will build a constituency for greater use of bus and rail transportation."

He saluted the honorees “on behalf of all our Board members for the great job you do and for the professionalism you bring to your work.”

**Molina was keynote speaker**

The evening’s keynote speaker was Supervisor Gloria Molina, 1st vice chair of the Board, who will take the gavel, next July, from the current chairman, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Molina said Metro relies on its transit operators and maintenance employees to make the organization “the best it can be. We have to work closer together...to get stronger every single day. Why? Because we have a whole region that is relying on us to do the best we can.”

She recalled that it had often been a struggle over the years to obtain state and federal funding, but added, “We’re building confidence among the area’s leaders and transit riders.” That, she said, is a key to getting needed funding.

With negotiations for the next labor contracts scheduled to begin soon, Molina called on Metro’s management and labor unions to strive to “strengthen our working relationship.”

She described how the disruption of a work stoppage can create hardships for employees, their families, commuters, the transit dependent and the community.

**Met with Labor Federation chief**

The supervisor said she had met just that morning with Martin Ludlow, newly elected secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor.

She had told Ludlow that Metro and its labor leaders “need to find a way we can work in a harmonious manner” at the bargaining table to hammer out issues, create better working conditions and better opportunity for represented employees.

“Working together and building together is the way this organization is going to grow,” Molina said. “Hopefully, everyone is going to have the confidence to say, ‘I’m going to ride the bus.’”



Grant Myers, West Hollywood Division asst. transportation manager, and Maria Reynolds, West Valley Division transportation manager.



Sketch artist Grant Pominvilla captures the likenesses of Cypress Park Division Bus Operator Colon Gomez and wife, Diana.



West Valley Division Bus Operator Roger Miles and wife, Michelle, greet Los Angeles City Councilman and Board Member Bernard Parks.



Paparazzi get a shot of Gateway

This, she said, will help convince the state and federal governments to fund transit improvements in LA County.

Division Asst. Maintenance Manager  
Jim Fulkerson and wife, Wanda.

**'NIGHT OF STARS' COMMITTEE**

**Committee Chair:** Fran Curbello

**Committee Vice Chair:** Jennifer Salamanca

**Committee Members**

Mory Bonakdar, Rail

Larry Cosner, San Gabriel Valley

Carolyn Drummond, Rail

Suzanne Handler, Westside/Central

Barbara Harris, Rail

David Hershenson, Gateway Cities

Lorene Kelley, San Fernando Valley

Derick Mahome, Westside/Central

Anthony Precie, Rail

Gary Shiroishi, South Bay

George Williamson, Central Maintenance