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Arthur Winston, a service attendant leader at Division 5, meets his colleagues, from left, Metro Blue Line service attendants Alfred Morgan, Geoffrey Springer and Andre Thomas.



Photos by Rich Morallo

Arthur Winston's Visit Inspires Metro Blue Line Employees

- 99-year-old 'icon' is making the rounds before retirement
- Departments can [schedule a visit](#) from Arthur

By RICH MORALLO

(Sept. 28, 2005) A month ago, Rail Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Ronald Green was in his office listening to complaints from two staff members when he thought about Arthur Winston, Metro's 99-year old service attendant leader.

"I had these two employees grumbling about work and it suddenly occurred to me that if they could talk to Arthur, who's been so loyal and committed to Metro for the past 71 years, we all could learn something," said Green.

Three weeks later, responding to Green's request, Winston visited the Metro Blue Line Fleet Services night shift in Long Beach and shared stories about his life and career.

"I started with Metro in 1924 and earned less than 50 cents an hour," said the smartly dressed and perennially smiling Winston. "The cost of



living was low, and a house cost about \$2,500 then."

Arthur Winston, at 99, and a "junior" employee, 70-year-old Julio Regalado, a Metro Blue Line maintenance specialist.

Winston also said he often worked two full shifts and decided not to own a credit card. "I learned to do without."

The Metro icon followed his talk by answering questions.

Secret of his long life

What's the secret of your long life? "It's in your mind. I don't think about how old I am and I don't worry about it."

How do you keep fit? "I do a lot of walking and stay on my feet. The worst job is one where you have to sit all day."

What were your earlier jobs? "I picked cotton," said Winston, who was born in Oklahoma in 1906, a year before statehood.

An attentive audience of Metro Blue Line Fleet Services employees listens during a talk by Arthur Winston.



Seated in the audience, Maintenance Specialist Shawn Goff remembered hearing about the legendary Arthur Winston from co-workers for the first time 10 years ago.

"They were talking about some guy who's been here at Metro since the trains were pulled by horses," laughed Goff.

Winston, who turns 100 on March 22, 2006, is interested in visiting other divisions before his centennial birthday and planned retirement.

He visited Venice Division 6 on Wednesday and is scheduled to visit San Gabriel Valley Division 9 and Customer Relations at Gateway Headquarters after that.

Metro departments and operating divisions interested in scheduling a visit by Arthur Winston should call South Bay Community Relations at 310-225-6040.

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