

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Gloria Molina addresses Transit Operations employees gathered at the 2006 Night of Stars awards banquet.



2006 Night of Stars

APTA Award Adds Glow to Honors for 153 Transit Ops Employees

- Molina praises improvement in 'every single area'
- [List of Honorees, 2006](#)
- 7 Employees Named 'Spotlight Award' Winners
- [Credit roll:](#) 'Night of Stars' committee

By NED RACINE

(Oct. 24, 2006) With Metro's receipt of its first APTA award adding an extra glow, the agency honored its best Transit Operations employees during the annual "Night of Stars" banquet Oct. 20 in Marina del Rey.

Called to the stage by service sector, the 153 transportation and maintenance employees received their honors from Deputy CEO John Catoe, who served as master of ceremonies. Seven employees whose actions this past year were especially noteworthy were designated "Spotlight Award" winners.

"We're not only honoring Metro's best, but we're honoring America's best," Catoe told the audience. "You have a lot to be proud of," he added. "I'm

proud of you, and our riders and customers are proud of you."



South Bay recipients begin the parade of honors, where each recipient was congratulated on stage by Deputy CEO John Catoe and presented with a gold medallion.



The seven outstanding "Spotlight" award winners are, from left, Metro Bus Operator Wayne Guidinger, Mechanic John Gerhardt, Operator Baltazar Montes, Operator Kenneth Meyer, Scheduling Documents and Graphic Technician Moonela Carter, Operator Richard Lopez and Rail Paint and Body Repair Leader Lee Hetherington.

Catoe thanked the maintenance employees and bus and train operators for enabling Metro riders to reach their schools, their jobs, and hospitals and visit their friends. Catoe returned to the APTA award when he thanked the transportation and maintenance employees in the audience "for that great honor."

Listing the accomplishments since last year's "Night of Stars," including the opening of the Metro Orange Line and higher Metro rider satisfaction, Catoe concluded "What a great year it has been."

Molina was keynote speaker

The evening's keynote speaker was Supervisor Gloria Molina, Metro Board chair. She described the APTA award as acknowledgement that Metro has improved "in every single area."

Molina recalled the standing ovation Metro received at the APTA award ceremony in San Jose, California. "I really felt we deserved this award, and I was so proud to go up there and accept that award on your behalf."

The supervisor also thanked her audience for their commitment to Metro, saying "Every single day, you are making it better and stronger."

Molina referred to another milestone, saying that Metro finally has a partnership with its unions, as evidenced by this year's labor agreements reached without a work stoppage.

"People throughout my community were very concerned as to whether we were going to have another strike," Molina added. "But we were able to come to the table, we were able to look each other in the eye and certainly talk about the needs each of us had—and we had many—and we were able to come up with an agreement that worked for every single one of them."

More tough challenges

The supervisor mentioned Metro would still go through some tough challenges—overcoming the agency’s deficit and working to increase ridership.

"But it appears to me we are on the right track," Molina said. "And it’s because each and every one of you is on the right track as well."

Metro Board Member Pam O’Connor told award recipients, "Tonight, you’re Number 1; this year, you’re Number 1 because we’re all ‘America’s Best.’ Go Metro!"

Dana Coffey, General Manager, South Bay Service Sector, led the audience in a moment of silence to honor the late Arthur Winston.

The event, featuring a "Moonlight Masquerade" theme, was hosted by the South Bay Sector.

Night of Stars Planning Committee



South Bay GM Dana Coffey, backed by Deputy CEO John Catoe, present event coordinator Fran Curbello, at right, with a special "star" award. The 2006 Night of Stars planning committee was headed by Communications Manager Fran Curbello, along with her vice chair, Events Planning Coordinator Jennifer Salamanca. Also serving on the committee were Larry Cosner of the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector, Suzanne Handler of the Westside/Central Sector, David Hershenson of the Gateway Cities Sector, Lorene Kelley of the San Fernando Valley Sector, Tony Precie of Metro Rail, Gary Shiroishi of the South Bay, Michael Sneed of Metro Rail and George Williamson of Central Maintenance.