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Metro Volunteers honored during the luncheon were Fe Alcid-Little, Juan Augspurger, Sandra Barillas, Dixie Dorsett, Bobby Fung, Jessica Gil, Charles Jackson, Anthony Lawson, Andre Molett, William Moore, Lynn Ong, Geraldine Payne, Marco Pedemonte, Casell Scott, Wally Shidler, Mary Talbert, Linda Tam, Andrew Trujillo, Robert Vasquez and Renee Willis. Joining them in the photo are Deputy Executive Officer Warren Morse of Marketing and Rich Morallo, Metro Volunteer coordinator.



Photos by Bill Heard

Metro Honors Volunteers Who Staff Community Events



Among those receiving awards at the luncheon were San Gabriel Valley Division 9 Operator Juan Augspurger, shown here with Deputy Executive Officer Warren Morse. In the mid-1980s, Augspurger was a founding member of the Division Advisory Committee, which evolved into the Metro Volunteer program.

(Nov. 29, 2006) The volunteers who help promote Metro in local communities, key staff, and the community partners who work with them, were honored, Tuesday, during an awards luncheon at Metro Headquarters.

The Metro Volunteers – about 200 in all – give Metro “a face in the community,” said Communications Chief Matt Raymond in his welcoming remarks. He thanked them for the personal time they spend providing transit safety information and promotional literature at community events.

Volunteers, who are a mix of headquarters and operating division employees, are called on to staff Metro information and safety booths at a wide variety of events that can range from a local block party to a school safety or career day to a home show at a major convention center.

“The volunteers do this on their personal time,” said Rich Morallo, Metro Volunteer coordinator. “About 95 percent of community requests are on Saturdays.”

Personal awards

Each of the volunteers who attended the luncheon received a gift bag with

an appropriate award – a Metro pin for staffing three events, a Metro T-shirt for five events and a tote bag for working at seven or more events.



Community Partners who attended Tuesday's luncheon are shown here with Metro staff. From left are Volunteer Coordinator Rich Morallo, Regina Howard, Jennifer Victoria, Deputy Executive Officer Linda Bybee of Community Relations, Johanna Gin, Wajeha Bilal, Wanda Wallace and Wally Shidler, a member of the Gateway Cities Sector Governance Council.

Representatives of Metro's Community Partners also attended the awards luncheon. More than 100 partners from all parts of LA County keep the agency informed about local activities and extend invitations to the events.

In addition, 10 "key staff" members who help coordinate the Metro Volunteer activities and provide resources and materials received awards.

To become a Metro Volunteer, contact Morallo at 922-2338 or at volunteers@metro.net. Volunteers should be interested in devoting personal time on the weekends and like talking with people about transit safety, Metro services and job opportunities.

Key Metro staff members receiving awards at the luncheon are, from left, Anna Mercaldi, Sarah Winfrey, Victoria Woods, and Helen Ortiz-Gilstrap. With them, from left are Deputy Executive Officer Lynda Bybee, Deputy Executive Officer Warren Morse and Metro Volunteer Coordinator Rich Morallo.

