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Willie Corbin, who has returned to work as a transit operations supervisor, instruction.

South Bay Retirement Ceremony Honors 40 Operators

Retirees total 527 years of combined service to Metro

By JIMMY STROUP

(Sept. 25, 2007) 527 years is a long time. It's 27,404 weeks. Or 192,355 days. 4,616,520 hours. 527 years' worth of minutes is a ridiculously high number.

527 years is also the combined number of service years put in by a group of 40 recent retirees from Carson Division 18. The division held a celebration, Sept. 21, to honor the dedication of the retirees – and to allow them to offer advice to the younger operators.

The retirees – some of whom have been retired since 2005 – were honored with a plaque, a scroll signed by all the employees at Division 18 and an

embroidered jacket. They were then afforded the opportunity to tell the younger, still-working employees what they'd learned after a quincentennial of combined service.

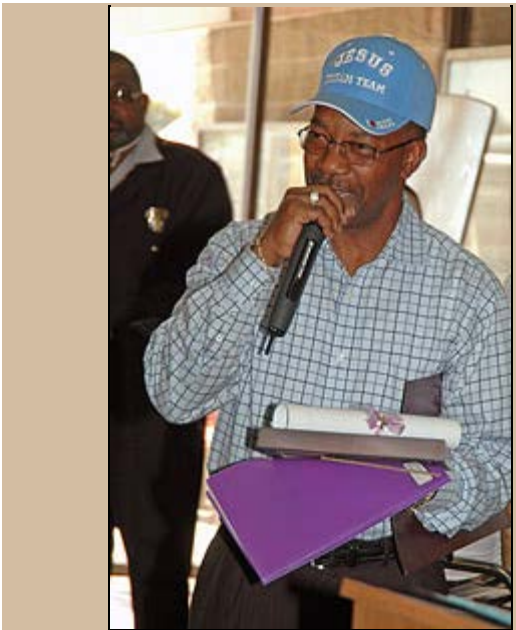
"My advice to all those who are young is to come to work, avoid miss-outs and accidents, and you'll make it through," said James Galliard, who's now the pastor of Greater Harvest A.M.E. Church in Victorville. Galliard spent his entire Metro career at Division 18.

All kinds of advice

Most honorees took their opportunity to speak to the younger operators about what to do day-to-day: show up on time, in uniform, with a good attitude. But some were more specific, offering pointed financial advice.

"Words of advice: if you want to retire, you better have a 457 or a 401K," said Hubert Reid, a retiree after 23 years of service. "Early on, I learned that you need to be investing money so that you can live off the investment. The retirement here is good, but you need to have other things going on for you, too."

Photos by Ned Racine



A. J. Stubblefield was one of 40 recent retirees honored at Carson Division 18 on Friday, September 21. Stubblefield retired after almost 36 years on the job.

South Bay Sector General Manger Dana Coffey was on hand to wish the retirees well, citing their long service and experience as one of the wheels that makes Metro’s vast machine turn.

“Today’s event was a great celebration, and a tribute and compliment to our operators who served for so many years,” she said.

Following the ceremony, the 100 or so retirees, operators and guests enjoyed a chicken dinner, polished off with a giant piece from a cake decorated with a thank-you message from the agency and the retirees’ badge numbers.



Hubert Reid, who retired after 23 years of service, advised younger operators to invest their money wisely.

“This has been a very good environment for me, in terms of good co-workers and good managers,” said A.J. Stubblefield, who retired with almost 36 years on the job. “This is a good job with very, very good benefits and I was proud to work here.”