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## South Bay Poll Worker Rises Early to Take Part in History

By NED RACINE, Editor

(Nov. 4, 2008) Lynda Reed, executive secretary, South Bay Service Sector, has already been at work for hours today, forgoing her Metro job as an executive secretary for the South Bay Service Sector. She's helping her neighbors vote.

Lynda, who recently celebrated her 30th anniversary working for Metro, is one of the poll clerks at Precinct 2 in Rancho Dominguez (near Cal State Dominguez), where she will be working from 5:45 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"I decided I wanted to be part of history, part of change, and this is my contribution," said Lynda, who will be serving as a poll worker for the first time.

Is she excited? "Yes, yes, yes. Because I've always been an absentee voter. I'm going to be in bed by 9 p.m. [Monday night] to be ready for tomorrow."

As part of her contribution to this voting season, Lynda has spent the last three weeks staffing a phone bank in Carson for one of the presidential candidates. And, in part because she always voted by absentee ballot, she finds herself answering questions she had never needed to ask herself.

Today, Lynda will be one of seven polling clerks. Because poll workers rotate tasks during their long day, Lynda may serve as a line clerk (if the line grows long), ballot box clerk, roster clerk, street clerk (checking voters' addresses), provisional clerk and curbside clerk (who takes a locked ballot box to voters unable to reach the polling place). There is also a supervising clerk, who has served as a poll worker before.

Lynda, who was the South Bay Sector's Employee of the Month in September 2008, reminds voters to avoid wearing campaign paraphernalia. They likely will be asked to remove it before they enter the polling place.

Lynda, also reminds voters that if they are in line at a polling place by 8 p.m., the polling place will remain open to allow them to vote.

To learn to be a poll worker, Lynda received two hours of training at the Carson Community Center. Training included a video and two study-guide books. She even learned how to assemble a ballot box.

She also learned about the four types of voters likely to arrive at Precinct



Lynda Reed is spending the day in a Precinct 2 voting place. Photo by Myrine White

2 today: active, inactive, provisional and new.

Besides her pride at performing her civic duty, Lynda's mother and sister support her commitment. Lynda mother, in fact, has become a fan of day-to-day presidential campaign news on television.

"They were just proud and excited that I wanted to be part of it," Lynda said of her sister and mother.

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