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CEO Roger Snoble, Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers and South Bay GM Dana Coffey present Metro Bus Operator Cesar Guzman with the Spotlight Award at annual 'Night of Stars' awards banquet.



Photos: Gayle Anderson

Metro Honors 'Best of the Best' at 2007 Night of Stars



Metro Director John Fasana to Operations: "You are the best ambassadors we have here at Metro."

- Director Fasana praises employees on the 'front line'
- [Go to>](#) List of operations, maintenance honorees for 2007
- Six employees Named 'Spotlight Award' Winners

By NED RACINE

(Nov. 7, 2007) Held 21 floors above the Metro Rail Universal City station, last Friday's annual "Night of Stars" banquet honored the top Transit Operations employees during an evening with a vintage Hollywood **Scenes from 'A Night of Stars'**

theme.

Called to the stage by service sector, the 114 transportation and maintenance employees received their honors from CEO Roger Snoble, who served as master of ceremonies. Six employees whose actions this past year were especially noteworthy were designated "Spotlight Award" winners.

"Every organization searches for leadership and excellence," Snoble told the audience in his opening remarks. "Tonight we celebrate Metro employees who display both—every day. Operators and maintainers whose excellence touches thousands of our riders every day."

Carolyn Flowers, noting that it was her first Night of Stars banquet as Chief Operations Officer, confessed to feeling "humble in the presence of men and women who contribute so much to our organization every day."

"You bus and rail operators, you mechanics and service attendants, you are the foundation of our workforce," Flowers continued. "The foundation of our service delivery."

Two Board members attended

Snoble introduced two Metro Board members, Doug Failing, who also serves as the Caltrans District 7 director, and John Fasana, who was the evening's keynote speaker. Snoble noted that Fasana was a past chairman of the Board and has been a Board member for 14 years, now serving on the Operations Committee.

"You are the ones who are on the front lines," Fasana told the audience. "You're the ones who deal—those of you who drive—directly with our customers."

He thanked operators for making the most out of "what sometimes can be



Perennial bus operator Ralph Kramden schmoozes the boss, CEO Roger Snoble. Wife Kit admires the panache.



The Michael Brewer Band, which included several Metro employees, played jazz as the night began in the hotel's Terrace Patio.



Operations 'stars' get the star treatment on the red carpet.



Spotlight Winner Linda Wilkison on stage with CEO Snoble and COO Carolyn Flowers

a very challenging situation.”

“You—in addition to that great service you provide—are really the best ambassadors we have here at Metro.” He reminded his listeners that Metro carries well over 400 million passengers each year.

“The Board is working on a transit court so that when we have infractions out there on the system, we can get a more timely response to people who break laws,” said Fasana, who also mentioned the Board was considering a riders’ code of conduct. “If passengers are not following that code, we should have the right to remove passengers (who are) putting your safety at risk, as well as the lives of your passengers.”

“We honor you one night each year, but you earn the honor every day,” Snoble said in his closing remarks. “I realize excellence just doesn’t happen. It’s a decision that you make—dozens of decisions all the time to be . . . the best.”

Vintage Hollywood theme

The event, featuring a “Vintage Hollywood” theme, was hosted by the San Fernando Valley Sector. It began with a reception at the Universal Sheraton’s Terrace Patio. Vintage Hollywood impersonators, including Ralph Kramden and Marilyn Monroe, mingled with Metro stars and posed for photos.

The Michael Brewer Band, which included several Metro employees, played jazz as the night began in the hotel’s Terrace Patio.

As attendees walked to dinner along a red carpet, they passed “autograph hounds” pleading for autographs and “paparazzi” eager to photograph them.

Fran Curbello, Communications manager, received a Shining Star award for her work planning and organizing the Night of Stars events.



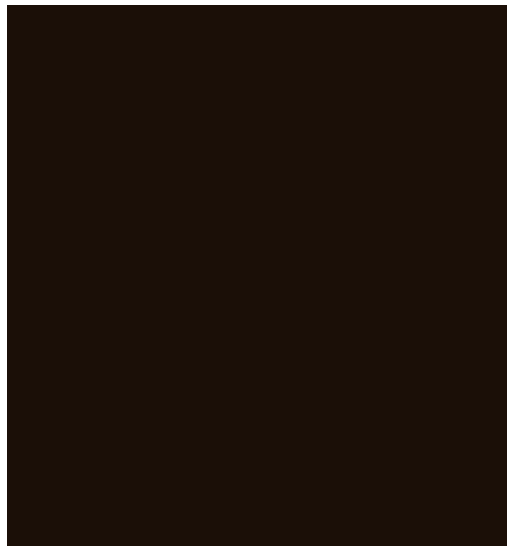
Metro Rail twins Manuel and Tony Precie, Rail Operations maintenance, teamed up to work crowd control.



GM Richard Hunt surprises event organizer Fran Curbello with a special "Shining Star" award.



The "King" rocked the ballroom in the evening's Grand Finale. Below, fans such as Irma Rivera, pictured, later posed for pictures with the very true-to-form Elvis impersonator.





Serving on the Night of Stars committee were: Lorene Kelley, San Fernando Valley; Gary Shiroishi, South Bay; Larry Cosner, San Gabriel Valley; David Hershenson, Gateway Cities; Michael Sneed, Rail Operations; Tony Precie, Rail Operations; Suzanne Handler, Westside/Central; Mrytle Shoot, Westside/Central; George Williamson, Central Maintenance, and Bibiana Ramirez, Communications.

And the winners are...



Metro San Fernando Valley GM Richard Hunt announces the winners as each enters the spotlight to receive the award from COO Carolyn Flowers and CEO Roger Snoble.

Metro Gateway Cities

Cherican C Brown,
Paul R Demazeliere,
Fred E Espinosa,
Jesus Gallegos,
Leopoldo Z Licea,
Edwin E Mejia,
Tommy D Perry,
Roberto Ramirez,
Roberto Sarabia,
Lester D Smith,
Hsiao-Man Sun,
Ky C Van,
Al Woo,
George Yee,
* Frank Morris

Metro South Bay

Emiliano Chavez,
Frank V Hollingquest,
Timmie Harrison,
Hieu Hong,
Peter P Hong,
Thomas L Hummel,
Boris D Mancina,
Juan R Marquez,
Jose E Perez,
Jeffrey W Ralph,
William C Sullivan,
Archie L Trotter,
William Vander Ploeg,
Travis M Vong,
Naim Yazdani,
Rommel Vargas,
Andrew Warren,
Frank Ford,
* Cesar Guzman

Metro Westside/Central

Carlos Aguilar,
Raul V Aguilar,
Pete Avila,
Melvin E Braxton,
Jesus Canaza,
David Y Corokhovskiy,
Evan A Hale,
Calvin M Hayes,
James B Lindsay,
Noi Liu,
Michael Llamas,
Ted R Loyo,
Leonardo T Marin,
Miller, Wayne E
Richard S Munoz,
Henry D Nguyen,
Jose M Ramos Leal,
Garbis Salamanian,
Nelson A Sanchez,
Saul E Sanchez,

Metro San Gabriel Valley

Hugo M Arreola,
Tyrone J Bernard,
Jim C Bui,
Jesse Carrasco,
Michael Chin,
Richard D Duff,
Cecil Escalante,
Joel Felix,
Jose S Gomez,
Raymond L Guinn,
Francisco Guzman,
Jose T Jaime,
Jesus S Jimenez,
Hien Ky Mao,
Juan M Navarro,
Arturo Ramos,
Antonio Rojas,
Daniel B Saldana,
Miguel A Sandoval,
Albert E Scott,
Kwang Y Soohoo,
Daniel D Stacks,
Billie C Underhill,
Sixto A Valdez,
Glen K Vong,
* Anthony Cam Cam

Metro San Fernando Valley

Alejandro Alers,
Nelson O Arriaga,
Paul M Banks,
Jose A De Freitas,
Lam V Duong,
Joselito V Flores,
Donald L Johnson,
Louis G Lozano,
En T Ngo,
Dean Louis C Obieta,
Elgar I Ortiz,
Jose R Prado,
Elias Ramirez,
Ivan E Roldan,
Angel Salvador,
Ryszard Scislowski,
Jesus R Valverde,
* Paul Rankin

Central Maintenance

Duc D Banh,
David Chan,
Miguel Delgado,
Max A Duran,
Howard Luong,
Keith Nielsen,
Duc V Nguyen,
Tom Sintoplertchai

Cesar E Solano,
Valente Torres,
* Linda Wilkison

Metro Rail

Aaron E Cain,
Ernest A Campos,
Rogelio G Chacon,
Tadeo B Cubero,
Robert B Davis,
Dave G Denkins,
Luis E Diaz,
Rick M Fung,
Joel C Gibson,
Chi Hong,
Gordon K Lancaster,
Ernest Molina,
Ralph A Lee,
Quynh T Nguyen,
Robert A Nidetz,
Kon N Pan,
Ramon H Peniche,
Lorenzo A Rivera,
Hsien C Tang,
Wesley M Tomikoshi,
John Torre,
Wilbert Vander-Ploeg,
Armando H Valenzuela,
David R Wilson,
Kenneth Yu,
Steven E Yakemonis,
Christopher N Lee,
Joseph W Kanter,
Roger Martinez,
Tu Phan,
Mazhar J Chaudhry,
* John Tena

*** Spotlight Winner**



Waiting in the wings: Metro Rail award winners line up for the stage.