

# Employee of the Quarter

Honorees for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter / Fiscal year 2009

## **Employees- Kenneth Chu, Red Line**

*Presentation by Mike Cannell*

Kenneth Chu, Maintenance Specialist, is the ultimate problem-solver when it comes to routine repair works, Train Control Systems and much more. Ken has been working with Metro for eight years and was heavily involved in Running Repair of the Breda Base-Buy and Option Vehicles. Ken is very dexterous in troubleshooting the Base-Buy Propulsion System which requires a lot of knowledge, thoughts and techniques. Mr. Chu is the type of person who will never give up on a problem. In many situations, where the problems are complex in the nature, he is able to isolate system from system and finally get to the root cause of failure. In many cases his findings become the guidelines for trouble shooting and are beneficial to other coworkers. Thanks to Kenneth, ATO is operating consistently. It provides a better ride for passengers, and reduced many unnecessary propulsion and brake failures caused by manual operation. The contribution by Ken is invaluable.

## **Innovation – Kathleen Sanchez, Planning**

*Presentation by Renee Berlin*

As it has become increasingly difficult to fund transportation projects by relying primarily on public funding, transportation agencies are seeking new ways to manage costs. One of the more successful methods used is Public Private Partnerships (PPP). Upon being directed by the Board to investigate opportunities to incorporate the concept of PPP, Transportation Planning Manager Kathleen Sanchez worked tirelessly to recommend to the Board a work program for utilizing PPP. Within a very small timeframe Kathleen developed a document analyzing the PPP process as it applies to our projects, a framework outlining the criteria and a three-Step process to evaluate the potential use of PPP as a means for delivering specific projects listed in the Priority 1 Strategic Unfunded category of the LRTP and identifying when projects should be included in the Constrained portion of the LRTP. In September of 2008, Kathleen reported on the 12 responses received from our RFI and recommended a work program for the continued pursuit of PPP based upon the Board-adopted framework process. This plan was approved by the Board, and the Work Plan is currently being implemented thanks to Kathleen's innovative work.

## **Teamwork – Carl Benyo, John Dover, Charles Jenkins, James Lewis, Ovidiu Mateescu, Russ Modell, and Dilbag Sandhu, SFV Vehicle Operations**

*Presentation Richard Hunt*

On Friday, September 12, 2008, San Fernando Valley Vehicle Operations supervisors were notified that a major train accident had occurred on the Metrolink commute line in Chatsworth.

(MORE)

On that day and throughout the weekend, the team consisting of Russ Modell, Charles Jenkins, John Dover, James Lewis, Ovidiu Mateescu, Carl Benyo and Dilbag Sandhu worked diligently to assist Bus Operations Control and passengers by planning and implementing a necessary bus bridge to transport stranded Metrolink passengers at the Van Nuys, Chatsworth, Simi Valley, and Moorpark stations. After the completion of the bus bridge Mr. Benyo, Mr. Mateescu, and Mr. Sandhu responded to an additional request from the LAPD to provide buses at the relocation command post located at Chatsworth High School – all without hesitation. This team worked from the first daily scheduled train at Moorpark Station to the last train at night from Van Nuys. Their experience, skill, teamwork and dedication to the transit riders of Southern California are deserving of recognition.

## Customer Satisfaction – Bill Morris, Fleet Management & Support Services

*Presentation by John Roberts*

Bill Morris is the timekeeping guru that ensures Maintenance employees are paid proficiently and in a timely manner. Bill is there at the close of every pay period making sure all the more than 26,000 time sheets are approved, the hours are added up as they should, overtime and time off are accounted for, and all of it sent to payroll on time. His attention to detail is key to working out even the most stubborn timekeeping problems. Bill has taken the initiative to create and send out a monthly “Timekeeping Newsletter” to keep the divisions informed of all changes, plans and trends in the payroll system. He truly acts as a role model for others by accepting and carrying out additional responsibilities beyond his regular duties. His integrity is above reproach. Without Bill’s expertise, never ending patience, and undying efforts, our timekeeping process would not be the same.

## Suggestions – Michael “MD” Johnson, Division 15

*Presentation by Richard Hunt*

Transit Operations Supervisor Michael “MD” Johnson constantly generates new ideas and presents them to the Division Manager for the benefit of the operators and staff. MD worked relentlessly to sponsor two college level English classes and a typing class by partnering with Los Angeles Mission College. This affords the Operators the convenience of continuing their education at the division while making them feel better about themselves. In addition to the classes, he has installed computers so that students could do schoolwork or research projects in their split time. MD also has developed humorous PowerPoint presentations to teach safety. These presentations helped the Division obtain a Tier 1 rating for the SHARP award. MD’s various suggestions helps to make the Division more than just a place of work, but also a place where opportunities for growth and development occur.

###