

COMTO Miami President's Gala
Friday, November 9, 2018

The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Miami Chapter held its Presidents Gala on Friday, November 9, 2018 at the Marriott Miami Biscayne Bay. The Gala paid special tribute to the Chapter's Founder, Charles W. George, Sr. and the nine other past presidents: Walter Johnson, Eugene Morrison, Frank T. Martin, Marvin Hinton, Roosevelt Bradley, Melissa Rolle-Scott, Fitz H. McLymont, Sr., Seraphin W. Bernard and Kenneth H. Jones, Sr.

The chapter also honored former Commissioner Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler with a *Life-time Achievement Award* for over 30 years of service to her community and COMTO. Dr. Carey-Shuler was instrumental in establishing the chapter in 1986. Also honored was Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, District 9 who was recognized with the *Transportation Champion Award* for his efforts in transportation improvements and transit oriented affordable housing developments. Former Commissioner Bruno Barriero was recognized for his service to the organization as the Chapter's Ex-Officio and was presented the *Chapter's Service Award*.

Among COMTO Miami's past presidents is a rich history in Miami-Dade transportation and entrepreneurship. In 1986, when the chapter was formed, **Charles W. George, Sr.** was the first black Director of Human Resources Administration and Assistant Director for the Metro-Dade Transportation Administration. In November 1985, Mr. George attended the annual meeting of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials where he met and was inspired by COMTO National Vice President, Harold Williams. In December, Mr. Williams visited Miami and met with a group of employees interested in starting a chapter. In January 1986, the local chapter was established with thirteen (13) members. By September 1986, the membership had grown to fifty one (51) active members who were dedicated towards improving the advancement of minorities in the transportation field.

Walter Johnson, his successor in 1975, was elected President of the Miami Dade Transit Supervisors Association and working with Charlie Maddox, of the Police Benevolent Association, and Lee Tafel, President of the American Federation of Public Employees, was able to organize the Government Supervisors Association of Florida.

Eugene Morrison was one of the first Black Bus Operators and the first Train Operator in Miami-Dade County. He was a charter official of the Transport Workers Union, AFL-CIO 291 and served as President, 2nd Vice President and Board Member from 1970 – 1979. He also served as the State Treasurer of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute from 1975 – 1980. He currently serves as the President of the Retired Employees Transit Coalition (RETCO). Mr. Morrison's community involvement is extensive with selfless servc.

Frank T. Martin, served on the Board of Governors of Florida's State University System (SUS) and was also inducted into the **APTA Hall of Fame** in September, 2016, a special honor reserved for individuals who have long and distinguished careers who have made extraordinary contributions to public transportation. Martin was cited for his mentorship of emerging transportation leaders

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and founding the International Rail Rodeo, a skills competition for operators and maintainers. He is the President of Frank T. Martin Consult, LLC a public transportation management consultancy providing transit operations, management, strategic business development and sales services to the public and private sectors.

Marvin Hinton, the chapter's fifth President, served as General Superintendent of Bus Operations prior to his retirement and his successor, **Roosevelt Bradley** was the first black Director for Miami-Dade Transit. Under his leadership the chapter grew from 12 to 100 members. Mr. Bradley achieved the highest position in COMTO serving as the organization's Chairman from 2011 to 2015. He is the President and CEO of Maven Strategies and United Brake Clutch Service. Mr. Bradley joined COMTO in 1986.

His successor, **Melissa Rolle-Scott**, affectionately known as "Miami's COMTO Queen", joined COMTO in 1995 and is the first and only female chapter president, and is accredited with establishing a scholarship trust fund, developing professional development workshops and doubling the membership to over 200 during her terms.

Fitz H. McLymont, Sr., was the chapter's eighth president. Under his leadership the Chapter received COMTO's top three awards; Chapter of the Year (2004 & 2008), Thomas G. Neusom Founders' Award, and the Best Membership Recruitment/Retention Activities Award in 2005. He is the President / CEO of the McLYMONT GROUP, LLC. Network Management and Information Technology Solutions.

Seraphin W. Bernard was the chapter's ninth president. Mr. Bernard served as President of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), Miami Chapter from 2008 - 2010. During his tenure, he collaborated and coordinated with Miami-Dade transportation related departments to host a successful Air, Land and Sea transportation forum. Committed to public service, Mr. Bernard has been a radio broadcaster appearing on television programs and is actively involved in the civic life of the community.

Kenneth H. Jones, Sr. was the chapter's tenth president. He served as the President of COMTO Miami Chapter from 2011-2017. Mr. Jones has provided leadership on several committees and chapter events and currently serves on the Miami Chapter Board as the Immediate Past President. He previously served as Vice-President of COMTO Miami Chapter from 2000 - 2002 and 2008 - 2011 and has been a COMTO member since 1996.

Most of the chapter's past presidents are / were President / CEOs of their own business, leaders of a non-profit or other organizations.