



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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AAAEA President Alkhatib presents Public Service Award to MWRD Commissioner Spyropoulos

During the Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects (AAAEA) 17th annual awards dinner in Oak Brook last month, Illinois chapter president Anas Alkhatib presented Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos with the Public Service Award, honoring her for her hard work on behalf of Cook County taxpayers and her commitment to civic engagement.

“We were excited to have Commissioner Spyropoulos at our annual dinner because she is dedicated and very well respected among her peers,” said President Alkhatib. “We enjoyed her presentation, and everyone learned something new about the MWRD. Having her participate was a win-win for the Association.”

Commissioner Spyropoulos used historical photos dating back to 1867 to explain the history of the MWRD, which was enacted by the Illinois General Assembly as a special purpose agency in 1889. She discussed how the MWRD constructed the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to reverse the Chicago River in 1900 to protect Lake Michigan, considered one of the greatest engineering achievements in history. She also discussed the agency’s role as the county’s wastewater treatment and stormwater management organization.

“It is an honor to receive this award from AAEA,” said Commissioner Spyropoulos. “This is an impressive group of professionals that were genuinely interested in learning about MWRD, and I was happy to enlighten them on the work that we do.”

Approximately 325 AAEA members and guests attended the banquet, and as in years past, AAEA awarded two dozen scholarships to engineering students. The non-profit membership association was founded in Chicago in 1997 and has over 275 members in its Illinois chapter, as well as chapters in 15 states.



MWRD Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos accepts the Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects’ Public Service Award from President Anas Alkhatib during the organization’s 17th annual awards dinner held in Oak Brook last month.

Our Water Environment: Take it personally.

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Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.