



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD finance team leads government finance conference sessions

As recognized leaders in the government finance profession, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) finance officers lead educational sessions for their counterparts during the annual Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) conference held at McCormick Place in Chicago earlier this month.

MWRD Treasurer Mary Ann Boyle, Clerk/Director of Finance Jacqueline Torres and Budget Officer Beverly Sanders lead conversations designed to educate participants about more efficient ways to engage in government accounting practices. Boyle moderated a session entitled “Optimizing your Total Compensation Package,” Torres presented at the “Automate and Innovate: IT for Accounts Payable” seminar, and Sanders moderated the session “Hosting Alternatives for Financial Management Systems: Cloud Computing.”

“The conference provides a wonderful opportunity for staff development,” said Sanders. “Employees return energized and full of ideas. The GFOA conference is definitely a highlight of the year.”

Commissioner Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, chairman of the MWRD committee on Budget and Employment, participated in the conference. “It was a very informative conference,” said Commissioner Spyropoulos. “Not surprising, but many of the sessions focused on the importance of social media and its role in bringing government finance and decision making closer to the consumer and taxpayer.”

Last February, the MWRD received four awards from the GFOA for 2010 and 2011, including the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (27 consecutive years) and the Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting award. MWRD is in the top two percent of governments receiving a consecutive award in this category (36 consecutive years received).

The MWRD Retirement Fund received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 18 consecutive years and the MWRD Retiree Health Care Trust received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for four consecutive years.

Since 1906, the GFOA has provided practical assistance and support to public sector finance officers to help them better serve their communities. The annual conference attracts participants who strive to improve current practices and who see innovation as the key to high performance government.

“Our staff are dedicated public stewards, committed to their professions and working hard to protect and optimize every taxpayer dollar,” said MWRD Commissioner Cynthia M. Santos, Chairman of Finance. “We have an excellent team, and the public should be confident that their funds are protected.”

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C. Additional information about the GFOA can be found at www.gfoa.org.

Our water environment, take it personally

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