



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

November 25, 2014

MWRD President Meany leads final Board of Commissioners meeting



Pres. Kathleen Meany leads her final Board meeting on Nov. 20, 2014.



Pres. Kathleen Meany (on the right) retired from the MWRD after 26 years of service. She is pictured participating in a household hazardous waste event, an effort she established at the MWRD.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board President Kathleen Therese Meany has concluded 26 years of service to the MWRD, and on Nov. 20, she officiated her final Board meeting.

Pres. Meany has a rich history with the District. From 1987 to 1989, she served as an aide to her friend and future colleague, Commissioner Nancy Drew Sheehan. Pres. Meany won her first campaign for elective office as Commissioner in 1990. She was re-elected in 1996, 2002, and 2008. Her colleagues on the Board elected her as Vice Pres. in 1995, and she served in that ca-

capacity for 16 years. In 2013, she became the first woman elected President of the MWRD Board in its 125 year history.

During her 24 years as Commissioner, Pres. Meany established and served on various committees. One of her legacies was establishing the MWRD's successful Household Hazardous Waste Collection program in 1993 that continues today. Also, as a result of her association with the Windy City Vets and appreciation for the greater veteran community, Pres. Meany implemented the practice of flying POWMIA flags at MWRD facilities.

Pres. Meany's career path began with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Roosevelt University. She then earned her Masters Degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She taught elementary school for several years in suburban Matteson and with the Chicago Board of Education. She later taught at The Good Shepherd Mission on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

"Teaching on the Reservation was a turning point for me," Pres. Meany explained. "I was already aware of the value of (continued on next page)



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an education, but I also become sensitive to the needs of the environment. This experience was the spark that triggered my interest in environmental protection which is the primary mission of the District.”

In the late 1970’s, Pres. Meany began a long association with the City Colleges of Chicago, which included teaching a variety of adult education courses, later earning the status of a tenured Assistant Professor of Political Science. She met her future husband, Salvatore Attinello, a retired Harold Washington College librarian, while working there.



Pres. Kathleen Meany (center) surrounded by friends and family at the garden dedicated in her honor earlier this year at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.

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Our Water Environment: Take it personally.

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