



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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MWRD celebrates Women's History Month



(L-R) MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan, Chairman of Finance Frank Avila, Chicago Women in Trades Executive Director Jayne Vellinga, Commissioner Kimberly Du Buclet, Administrative Specialist Lynn Hughes, President Kari K. Steele, Police Sergeant Juanita Linder, Commissioner Debra Shore and Manager of the Industrial Waste Analytical Lab Rebecca Rose.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's annual Women's History Month celebration was held on March 21, and representatives from an array of professions were on hand to share their stories.

To kick off the evening's program, Alexandria Du Buclet, daughter of MWRD Commissioner Kimberly Du Buclet, gave a vocal performance. She is a singer songwriter studying at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Jayne Vellinga, Executive Director of Chicago Women in Trades, served as the keynote speaker. Jayne said that a large number of tradespeople in the Chicago area are approaching retirement, and there is a tremendous amount of building forecasted in the next decade. Only one percent of tradespeople are women, so now is the time for women to enter the trades.

In keeping with the trades theme, the first MWRD awardee was Lynne Hughes who joined the agency in 2007. Lynne is an Administrative Specialist for M&O Master Mechanics/Trades Office at Stickney and has provided administrative support in Maintenance & Operations for the Engineer of Treatment Plant Operations, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering groups.



Alexandria Du Buclet sings "I'm Every Woman."

The second honoree was Police Sergeant Juanita Linder. Juanita is a Gulf War Veteran of the United States Army and she received her B.A. in Criminology from Saint Leo University, FL. For 12 years, she worked in a variety of management positions in the Social Service field and in 2007, she changed her career path and accepted the position of District Police Officer.

The final honoree was Rebecca Rose. Rebecca has worked at the District for 31 years at the Stickney and Egan plants. She started as a Lab Assistant and worked her way up to Supervising Environmental Chemist and is currently the Lab Manager of the Industrial Waste Analytical Lab.

"We honored three of our hard-working women this evening, and their work is more important now than ever in light of the changing climate," said President Kari K. Steele. "We are no strangers to flooding, and sadly, our neighbors to the west are dealing with the cleanup from catastrophic flooding right now. Here at home, Becky is monitoring water quality, Sgt. Linder is keeping our water resources safe and Lynn is ensuring that the proper trades and staff are in place to ensure our water environment is protected."

Congratulations to all of our honorees!

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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.