

Plan To Join Us This May In Saratoga

By Pat Scalera, CEO,
New York Rural Water Association



I would like to encourage each of you to start the process of getting approval and making plans to attend our 28th Annual Technical Conference at the Saratoga Hotel & City Center May 7-10th, 2007. We took your suggestions from last year and have made some improvements, so make sure you are with us to experience a better conference

than ever before.

This is your "Window to Opportunity" in hearing the latest news in the water and wastewater industry and to see the latest products and services available to you, all under one roof, over a course of three days.

We begin with our annual golf outing co-sponsored by Master Meter and Koester Associates. For those that do not participate in the golf outing, we have some early training sessions on the latest regulatory issues from the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Conservation. The exhibit hall opens Monday evening and runs through Wednesday afternoon. We are expecting close to 100 vendors and they will be sponsoring the evening events in the exhibit hall for your pleasure and entertainment.

As always, Carnival Nite (Tuesday) is a great opportunity to visit with the vendors, have fun playing the games; take a chance at winning several prizes, including cash. This year Clough, Harbour & Associates has generously offered to sponsor the evening, so please plan to join us.

We have some great giveaways this year for all attendees and many of you are aware that the vendors always bring wonderful prizes and information to share with you. Mike Harrington from USA Bluebook is going to kick off this year's conference with a World War II presentation at the Opening Ceremony.

We are expanding our training to include more sessions for clerks, elected officials and operators who are looking for a broader based training. In Saratoga, we will have sessions including: design concepts from the engineers viewpoint; computer classes; financing a project – funding agency representation; energy conservation and management; rates and asset management; grant monies to study shared services; replacing the aging workforce; and identity theft. Please help us to promote their participation; it will give you an opportunity to let them experience your world.

By popular demand, Donna Gilberto from the NY Conference of Mayors will return and speak Wednesday afternoon on Dedicated Funds & Legal Issues.

Our Awards Banquet Dinner is Wednesday evening

and this is a great opportunity to honor those that exemplify our industry. We ask that you dress accordingly to help dignify the celebration - neat, casual, and respectful will do.

Our Annual Business Meeting is a great opportunity for you to hear what is going on within your organization and to meet the current Board of Directors. To all our voting members in attendance at this Annual Business Meeting, you will have an opportunity to enter "The Meredith H. Thompson Training Award" drawing to attend the National Rural Water Association Convention this September in Philadelphia, PA. The New York Rural Water Association will pay for your registration, accommodations and transportation to the Convention.

You will find within this issue of *Aquafacts* all the information on the conference, so consider this opportunity and get yourself registered. We look forward to you joining us for a great training event.

As a reminder, please be sure you have forwarded on the "Founders Scholarship" information to your local high schools, encouraging students within your voting systems membership to apply for this scholarship. If you have any questions, please contact our office toll free at 1-888-697-8725. ♪