



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT SAYING GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO A LONGTIME FRIEND

Matthew A. Thorp, Sr. | NYRWA President

As I am writing this article for the summer edition of *Aquafacts*, I'm once again wondering what is up with this wacky weather. Freezing temperatures and snow until the end of April, geez.

As you may know, Jerry Barron decided to step down from the Board of Directors on March 1, 2015. It was with great regret and many mixed emotions that this board accepted his resignation. Jerry has been a dear friend and one of the staunchest supporters of this association since the Town of Holland joined. Jerry has decided it was time to be with the grandchildren more and who can blame anyone for that.

Jerry joined the NYRWA Board of Directors on June 15, 1989. On May 24, 1994, he was appointed Secretary Treasurer; May 23, 1995, he was appointed Vice President; and on May 21, 1996, he was elected as President of this Association, a position he held for five years until May 21, 2001. Jerry was a very strong leader and worked well with all of us on the Board. He was always prepared for our board meetings and ready for any issues that may arrive with a copy of the by-laws in hand. He was instrumental in the creation of the CEO position, along with the building of our office/training and education center in Claverack. He was, and is always, fun to be with and I will miss our war stories regarding Rural Water.

Jerry has served rural water communities here in New York and throughout the country with dignity and pride for 26 years, that my fellow members is true dedication to the cause. Godspeed to you, Jerry, Claudia and the family, may your days be filled with happiness. We all wish you the best of luck and want to make sure we keep in touch. I just want to say thank you for being a **true friend**.

The NYRWA Board would like to welcome Jason Opferbeck from Gowanda, NY, to fill the remainder of Jerry's term as Director for the Buffalo Region. Jason has showed much interest and enthusiasm for this appointment and knows he has some big shoes to fill. Thank you Jason for stepping up to the plate.

As summer-like weather has finally hit, it's time for us to get the winter cleanup from the storms done and prepare for what seems like a shorter and shorter "work" season to commence. Whatever projects you are all working on, I remind you as always SAFETY – SAFETY – SAFETY, it truly is no accident. Your families depend on it!!!!

Until next time: be safe and God bless all of you. 💧💧💧