



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Matthew A. Thorp, Sr. | NYRWA President

As I am writing this article for the Summer *Aquafacts* edition, I'm sitting pondering what the future will hold for this association and more importantly our profession. After 31 years of public service I am reviewing my options about the possibility of retirement. This is a dilemma we are seeing nationwide, with very few young people entering this field. I still enjoy what I do and the politics of our line of work has been pretty stable here in Maybrook and that makes the job much easier.

As I stated in the spring edition, Mother Nature was wacky this past winter and there is a big disadvantage to the lack of snowfall in my region. On average this area is 6 to 9 inches below the normal precipitation level. The rains have finally started to come in a beneficial way, slow and steady with only a few downpours. I'm hoping her role shifting of April showers to May flowers, now May showers to June's flowers and foot high grass will benefit the water table, and avoid future drought conditions. I'm thinking maybe she was confused this year!

When you read this article, our 37th Annual Technical Workshop and Training Exposition in Lake Placid will have concluded. I hope all of those who attended were able to network with old friends, make some new ones and more importantly learned something to bring back home to your respective systems. I want to thank all of the vendors for their continued support of this association and to all of you, our members who truly make this organization the best in the country.

I want to recognize the following award winners, Congressman Paul Tonko as the Friend of Rural Water. Congressman Tonko has been the leader in Washington, DC in regards to keeping and, in some cases, increasing the funding for our programs. He was recognized by National Rural Water Association at the annual February Rally in Washington, DC. Thank you so much Congressman. Al Banks from Prowler as our Associate Member of the Year, again thanks for supporting us Al. Water Operations Specialist of the Year Phil Badman from the Village of Sodus. Water System of the Year, the Village of Perry. Wastewater Operation Specialist of the Year Robert Henninger from the Town of Potsdam and the Wastewater System of the Year, the Village of Homer. To the Operation Specialists and system winners, thank you, for your dedication to our profession and truly providing Quality on Tap, our real mission.

Congratulations to our Founders Scholarship winners Samantha and Julia DeBellis from Brewster and Andrea Ingrassia from the Town Of Wallkill in the White Plains region. Kathleen Hagelberger from Darien Center in the Buffalo region, and Ryan Roseboom from the Village of Marcellus in the North Central Region.

This is my last article for *Aquafacts*, as my longtime friend and colleague Vice President John O'Connell will be taking over the reigns as President of this great organization. John is and will be a great leader. He has worked diligently and tirelessly on behalf of NYRWA as our National Director and Director at Large. John is also a member of NRWA's Executive Committee, and is the Chairman of the National Regulatory Committee. Good luck my brother, you know I have your back.

I want to thank my Village Board, the NYRWA Board of Directors, staff and you, the members for allowing me to be a part of the NYRWA family and giving me the opportunity to serve as President of the greatest organization and group of people I have ever been involved with for the last 5 years. It has been a distinct honor and a privilege to lead this association. In 30 plus years of public service, this group has made the journey enjoyable and fulfilling because I know we have actually accomplished many things and have made a difference in the profession we have chosen.

I especially want to thank CEO Pat Scalera and the entire staff of this association for their support and all of their hard work and dedication to NYRWA. They truly are the backbone of the organization. I have said it many times they truly are **"THE BEST IN THIS INDUSTRY BAR NONE"** this is from the bottom of my heart.

As always please be safe and God Bless all of you. 💧💧💧