



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

As I begin to write this article for Aquafact's winter edition, I just took a moment to reflect back to our summer. As we all become older, most of us enjoy the warmer weather and it sure was a great summer for that. I just recently returned from the National Rural Water Conference in Orlando, Florida. The conference was well attended and I would like to thank fellow board members Matt Thorp and Jason Opferbeck, along with all the staff for their support and presence at this year's meeting and conference.

As always, I learn new things every year at the National Conference and this year proved to be the same. I had the pleasure of having lunch with Dr. Peter Grevatt (EPA Water), Dr. Sawyer (EPA Wastewater), and Jacki Ponti (USDA). All these folks are from the DC offices and are great resources for direct information. Dr. Grevatt stated that the Lead and Copper Rule wouldn't be crafted until late 2017, and most likely would not become a new EPA regulation until late in 2018, or beyond. Dr. Sawyer made a comment that they are working hard to strengthen funding for the upcoming years, and Jacki Ponti gave out information that USDA loan interest rates decreased by 1%. If any of you are close to closing on your loans, you have until December to save another 1% on borrowed monies. I highly suggest you contact your regional USDA office to inquire about this. These are just a few questions that were raised and I hope that in the future our relationships with these top DC officials will continue to strengthen.

That being said, I would be remiss if I didn't bring up NYRWA's 38th Annual Technical Training Workshop and Exhibition May 22-25, 2017, at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. I hope to see you all there and hope you all have a great fall and winter.

Sincerely,

John O'Connell,

*President of the NYRWA Board of Directors* 💧💧💧