



35 YEARS WITH RURAL WATER

Pat Scalera | CEO, NYRWA

This past September we celebrated my daughter's marriage to the love of her life and it was an amazing day of reflections, wonderful stories told, and tributes to those along the way. It made me do some reflecting of my own and how fortunate I am for being blessed with awesome family, friends, and my extended Rural Water Family.

I invite you to take a brief journey with me back to my start with NY Rural Water Association. On August 15, 2015, I celebrated 35 years with this great organization. The journey to the here and now has been amazing and I am so fortunate for all of those I have met and had the pleasure of working with along the way. Now, I don't want you to think I am leaving "yet" but I wanted to share a brief story.

As many of you know, I grew up on Long Island but enjoyed upstate New York vacations with my family so when it came time to settle in and start a career, my thoughts kept reminding me of wonderful times in the country. So I packed up my things and ventured up the Taconic State Parkway and started applying for my next adventure. I was fortunate to stumble upon New York Rural Water Association and Dr. Meredith H. Thompson (Tommy), my mentor, a wonderful and thoughtful man who took me under his wing, like so many others along the way. NYRWA incorporated in April, 1979, and Dr. Thompson hired me in August 1980 before computers, cell phones, and automobiles. Okay, maybe not the automobiles and maybe I wasn't hired at the ripe young age of 4, which is what I like to tell people.

And so it began..... I read somewhere that during your lifetime you will change careers five times. This may be true for most, but not for me. Throughout the 35 years I have had a great group of Board of Directors that had faith in me and I was blessed with dedicated staff members that helped to make this organization into what it is today. It truly is a rural water family that includes so many wonderful water and wastewater industry people. Many, many friendships developed and sustained.

Back in the day, when there were only three or four of us we did everything by hand, including all of our mailings, copies in house, envelopes stuffed, etc. Our books were kept by hand in long ledgers; our newsletter was also typed on a typewriter, then copied, stapled and mailed. Before cell phones and elaborate listening devices, our Circuit Rider used witching sticks and George Flummer covered the entire state of New York. George

Flummer and John Hraske, may they rest in peace, provided such amazing service to the communities of New York State that those that followed had big shoes to fill. Our field staff are now equipped with the company vehicles carrying all the necessary tools, and the latest equipment to assist and train our water and wastewater facilities to ensure "Quality on Tap".

Our conference continued to expand, along with our services, as we added Wastewater Trainers and Technicians, Sourcewater Protection efforts, and now an Energy Efficiency program. We continue to find other avenues to help our members and those we serve to stay on top of this industry and the regulations that they have to meet each and every day serving the public. As regulations continue to increase, this is not an easy task for those dedicated operation specialists serving their communities, but together we continue to prevail.

We have really come a long way. NYRWA has grown remarkably over the years and continues to grow due to the support of our members, our Board of Directors, through the hardworking and dedicated rural water staff (past and present) and our steadfast relationships with our primacy agencies. It continues to be an honor to work alongside each of you.

I read somewhere that an association is never about one person but a large group of people sharing a common dream and manifesting the will to achieve it. Be proud of your participation in reaching this achievement. I personally thank you for your commitment to this Association.

Take pride in the essential services you provide and give yourself a "high five" for a job well done.

Sincere wishes to all for hope, happiness, and peace during this holiday season and throughout the coming year. 💧💧💧

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Mutton Hill Water Works