



## RETIREMENT

Pat Scalera | CEO, NYRWA

I read somewhere that during your lifetime you will change careers five times. Long gone are the days of going to work for a company and finishing up your career at the same company. This may be true for most, but not for me. I am happy to say that my career with New York Rural Water Association from start to finish was an awesome experience. I was so fortunate to be hired by Dr. Meredith H. Thompson on August 15, 1980. He was my mentor, a wonderful and thoughtful man who took me under his wing like so many others along the way. Throughout the 37+ years I have had an amazing 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, here in New York and nationwide. So many friendships developed and sustained.

Back in the day, when there were only three or four of us, before computers (oh no, I can't believe I am admitting to this) when all of our mailings were done by hand and copied 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 Hraska, may they rest in peace, provided such amazing service to the communities of New York State that those that followed had some awfully big shoes to fill.

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 and our steadfast relationships with our primacy agencies. It has been an honor to work alongside each of you.

There are numerous memorable moments throughout my 37+ years with NYRWA, some I can share, some I should just keep to myself. Although, if asked for one event that stands out above others, I would have to say when members, staff, and Board came together to build our offices that currently house this Association. Many thanks to Phil Perry (may he rest in peace) for donating the

equipment and manpower to dig the foundation, Walt Vosburgh for his supervision of the project, the City of Hudson and Town of Greenport for their time and talents, Dave Robinson for his engineering and all those members that contributed financially to the project. The Grand Opening of our offices in 1998 was a very special day when so many came to celebrate this event including now Congressman Faso and students from the local elementary school. Amazing what the power of an Association can accomplish.

I just can't begin to thank everyone that has influenced, guided, and mentored me during my tenure as CEO of NYRWA. I sincerely thank all of those individuals that have touched my life in some form or fashion and have helped to steer this organization.

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 am confident that this organization will continue to grow and flourish under the leadership of Jamie Herman as CEO and the NYRWA Board of Directors, and with our talented and dedicated staff here at NYRWA.

Finally, I want to personally thank you for your commitment to this Association. I will close by reminding you to take pride in the essential services you provide and give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done. In all my travels with Rural Water, I have met some of the most humble, dedicated and amazing people along the way and I thank you for your friendship and your support.

Although I am retiring at the end of this year as CEO for NYRWA, I hope to continue to see many of you in my travels as a newly appointed Marketing Manager for this Association, helping to promote several affinity programs that could benefit you and your communities. Looking forward to a new chapter in my book that will bring me to your door, see you soon. 💧💧