



## CONFERENCE, SWAP LEGISLATION, AND APPRENTICESHIP

Jamie Herman | CEO

We are gearing up for our 40th Annual Technical Conference and Workshop, to be held May 20 – 22, 2019, at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center. Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend this great event. Our board and staff are hard at work making sure the training, exhibit hall, and events are the very best products available. I sincerely appreciate all their hard work and effort. We are blessed to have so very many outstanding Associate Members and Exhibitors...without whom this conference would never be a success. Our Associate Members not only provide excellent one on one services in the exhibit hall, but they also provide a great deal of the renewal training, which is the heart and soul of our conference. We would like to recognize a few of our Associate Members who have continued their support of our association, and have now agreed to provide financial sponsorship for door prizes and registration materials.

**We extend our sincere thanks to the following sponsors: Koester Associates, G.A. Fleet Associates Inc., Mueller Company, Auctions International, GP Jager Inc., Statewide Aquastore Inc., H2M Architects and Engineers, Fluid Kinetics Inc., DynaTech Control Solutions, and Lamont Engineers. Sincerely, Thank You One and All.**

We are grateful for NYS Senator Tedisco, and NYS Assemblyman Steck for once again introducing the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP) legislation this year. The Senate Bill is S554 and the Assembly Bill is A424. Our very own Steve Grimm has been involved in this effort from its inception, and we are thankful for his commitment in getting the word out to our members. Last year, Pat Scalera notified all of our members systems individually via email to encourage our members to urge their state representatives to support this legislation. The NYRWA will be putting together letters which our members can copy and paste on their own letterhead, and ask for support. Unfortunately, we will not have time this year to individually reach out to our membership. However, we will email the materials to all of our members at least twice in the coming months, we will provide our field staff with electronic copies for download at your request, and hopefully we will add them to our homepage as well.

Just as a reminder, the SWAP Bill, if passed would provide a maintenance funding source for municipalities in NYS based on the amount of water lines, wastewater lines, and storm water lines within the community, at which point the state would provide

the municipality with an annual amount of funds to assist with maintenance and improvements. This program would resemble the very popular CHIPS program which assists so very many communities with street maintenance funding.

**Please help us as we try to promote and support this very important legislation.**

Our staff has been very busy with a wide array of new initiatives. Of course, our field staff are out there providing the very highest level of technical assistance and training. Our office staff has been busy with training, magazines, home study, conference, and an upgrade to our existing databases. Your association has also worked hard to research and in some cases, implement new services. We are working diligently to offer more online renewal training that will include 1, 2, and 5 hour courses. Jump Start Testing has also provided us with an online tool to offer to members who are prepping for water or wastewater certification exams. Initial feedback has been very positive, we hope these new services will be helpful to our valued members.

One very exciting new program we have been working toward is a NYS Registered Apprenticeship Program. Over the past two years, the NYRWA has been working with the NYS Dept. of Labor on the development and implementation of (2) Apprenticeship Programs which are titled; Water System Operations Specialist and Wastewater System Operations Specialist. The NYRWA has completed all the necessary information for the state submittal and we are hopeful to realize a registered program by the end of 2019. We would like to express our thanks to NYRWA for all their guidance and support during this process. At this point we need our members help. We are looking for water and wastewater systems willing to “sign on” stating they would be willing to employ an apprentice when the need arises in their system. One of our staff will meet with any system wanting to learn more, especially those willing to employ an apprentice, and review the entire program with you and answer any questions or concerns you may wish to discuss.

We are very excited about this potential program, and given the turnover rates in our industry, we believe this may be an excellent way to promote succession planning and have the potential to have a more rounded Operations Specialist upon completion.

We will keep our membership informed as we progress through the registration process. Thank you for your continued support, and always remember, YOU, our members, are the Association! 💧💧