



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

As I write this article, we are at the end of January 2017, and we have just witnessed the swearing in of our new 45th President of the United States. I have heard many comments both bad and good, but as for me, I believe that we do need a change and we need to give him the respect and the chance to see what he is able to do.

As New York Rural Water approaches the month of February, many of the board members will be traveling to Washington, DC, to bring our message to Congress and our Senate Representatives to continue to support rural water communities with both technical support and financial support for our water and sanitary projects. This message is delivered every year and takes a considerable amount of time and effort from the NYRWA CEO and the Board of Directors, representing our small systems. We are especially encouraged this year as President Trump has pledged to increase the funding levels to support infrastructure projects throughout the United States. We at Rural Water want to ensure that Rural America gets their share to help water and wastewater projects throughout the State of New York. That being said, please feel

free to reach out to the NY Rural Water office whenever you are able and ask our staff how you can help in the future to ensure our success in bringing monies back to New York State.

There are also a couple of bright spots that are worth mentioning. We are looking at several people that are friends with Rural Water that are being considered for key positions in the new President's Cabinet. The Secretary of Agriculture is a former Georgia Governor and has a long relationship with Georgia Rural Water, which will help our efforts in that area. Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt has been selected to head up the USEPA. Mr. Pruitt has been a friend of Oklahoma Rural Water and is a big supporter of reducing the EPA's regulatory policies. And let's not forget our own Fitz Elder who has been hired as the Director of Appropriation. Fitz worked for National Rural Water for several years at our Washington, DC, office and has been a supporter of ours during, and after, his employment. So in closing, I'm encouraged by what has happened so far in 2017, and let's hope it continues. 💧💧

Dear Members:

As the new Administration takes hold, we have been informed that our program funding may be in jeopardy. As members of New York Rural Water Association, we ask that you take time out to contact your Congressional Representatives on the value of our programs that provide on-site technical assistance and training opportunities to you.

Think of what it would be like without a Circuit Rider or Wastewater Technician to contact when issues arise. What would you do about training credits towards your recertification hours if these programs no longer exist?

If you wish to stand up for New York Rural Water and make that phone call or write that letter, please contact me at our office and I can provide you with the contact information. We would greatly appreciate your immediate attention to this request.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Pat Scalera, CEO