



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

I need to begin with saying Thank You to Pat Scalera for all her dedication to the Association and to the Board of Directors. There are many challenges that Pat has faced, many have gone unnoticed by staff and our members. These consist of funding lags, no funding, cuts in staffing, possible layoffs of staff, meetings in Washington, DC, conferences both NYRWA and National Rural Water and yes, keeping an eye on the Board Members. There is much more behind the scenes that make up an association than a quarterly magazine or a once a year conference.

Pat came to the Board a few years back and gave us a clear path of her future retirement plans allowing the board the time to develop a strategy as to who would be able to

replace her as CEO of NYRWA, and that was Jamie Herman. Jamie has been working as Deputy Director for two years under the direction of Pat, to make the transition as smooth as possible, and Jamie has and will continue to take the lead and make NYRWA successful in the future.

Pat will be joining NYRWA in early January as a part-time Marketing Manager to help New York expand their membership and to bring new benefits to our current members. I, as President and National Director, will miss Pat for her wisdom and her loyalty to NYRWA, but knowing that Jamie was mentored by the best I can only see a bright future ahead. 💧💧