

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Matthew A. Thorp, Sr.

2022, a year of accomplishment and pride.

Looking back on 2022, I believe this great association had an amazing year. We were able to add additional programs and staff to help you, the membership, to provide more training and technical assistance to expand your knowledge base regarding regulations, emerging technologies, mapping, and credit hours to maintain your professional certifications as operation specialists.

Our apprenticeship program has been very successful, and we look forward to continuing to bring another generation of operation specialists to the water and wastewater field. We are looking forward to a great year ahead as well.

NYRWA made history with our own Past President and 24-year Board member John O'Connell taking over the reigns as President of the National Rural Water Association. John has hit the ground running at NRWA, and already has helped all the state affiliates with a couple of his directives and the help of the National Board of Directors.

Currently we are in the midst of some of the craziest weather I can remember in a very long time. Here in the lower Hudson Valley where we had seen drought conditions throughout the summer months and many instituting water restrictions to a winter of literally minimal measureable snow (except for the higher elevations) to mostly rain events which have been helpful to some extent. In western NY and the Great Lakes Region with the massive snowstorms that hit that area in November and the Blizzard in December to the winter sports capital in the Central Adirondack region where the snow came and went with the heavy rains, I am beginning to wonder what the heck is going on.

A reminder that our Annual Technical Training Workshop & Exhibition will be held in Lake Placid May 22-24. Please check this issue of Aquafacts and the website for registration information and attend if possible. Make sure to see the vendors who will be there exhibiting and thank them for their support of this great organization. Without them we couldn't do what we do for our membership.

As an association we strive to do what's best for our membership. If you have any suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Board Members or our CEO. I'm looking forward to seeing a great turnout in Lake Placid.

Last but certainly not least I want to thank Florence Braunius for her service and dedication to this association. Florence stepped down as a Board Member from the Capital Region in November after 22 years and she will be truly missed. She served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, and President for a 5-year period. She is one of the most genuine people I have ever met, and I value her friendship more than anything. She did and always will speak her mind and give a true and honest answer to any question you may ask. Thank you and God Bless you and your family.

In December the Board welcomed Richi Horne as the new representative for the Capital Region and I believe she will be a valuable asset to this association.

Please be safe and may God bless all of you and your families. 💧💧

Matthew A. Thorp, Sr.
NYRWA President

