



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOAL

Pat Scalera | CEO, NYRWA

Well, the close of 2013, and start of 2014 have been eventful and successful times. Due to the political climate in Washington, DC that caused challenges of sequestration, continuing resolutions and government shutdown was no match for the "Power of Association" quoted by Sam Wade, newly elected CEO for the National Rural Water Association (NRWA). Our core programs were maintained and we received an increase in program funding to include FSA Source Water Program coming to New York. Our Circuit Rider and Wastewater Programs were labeled essential services and were not impacted. This was great news for our employees and the systems we serve.

In addition, in 2013, we were successful with electronic distribution of the Consumer Confidence Report, or in New York "the Annual Water Quality Report" which was approved by EPA after a legislative push by Rural Water.

We all need to thank **Congressman Paul Tonko** who was one of the initial authors to HR3588 - a bill that exempted fire hydrants from coverage under the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act. The House passed this bill by a 384-0 unanimous vote. Be sure to reach out to your Congressional Representative to thank them for their support. This was a response to guidance issued by the EPA in October that included fire hydrants as water supply fixtures to be covered by the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, starting January 4, 2014. We would also like to thank **Senator Charles Schumer** for being the lead in the Senate to getting this passed, and to all our members that provided support letters to their Senators and Congressional Representatives on existing inventories and hydrant replacement costs. It is only through working together that we can achieve these goals. *At the time of writing this article, we are still uncertain as to the fate on existing inventories.*

Speaking of working together, I would like to express our gratitude to the members of the Water and Wastewater Education and Outreach Committee (WWEOC) for their commitment on educating the public on the "Value of Water" and wastewater and what it takes to deliver these services. This committee developed the brochure which has now gone nationwide and will be available in the near future for download and customizing. Once complete, I will share the web site with you once it is ready for distribution. Please consider using this brochure, which you can easily print and copy at your office and insert in a mailing to your customers. With

that said, the work does not end here. The WWEOC is currently working on a children's brochure that will support the common core curricula for grades 3 and 4. It is our goal to launch this piece by National Drinking Water Week this May, in conjunction with a statewide Best Tasting Water Contest. We will keep you posted on new developments.

Finally, let me remind you once again that our 35th Annual Technical Conference will be held at the Turning Stone Resort beginning on Monday, April 14th with our golf tournament, if Mother Nature allows, and our opening ceremony starting at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Please plan to join us this year for fun, fellowship, educational classes, shopping with our vendors, and networking with your peers from across the state. You won't be disappointed. The agenda for the conference is featured in this issue of Aquafacts. You can see there is something for everyone. Also, first time attendees will be placed in a special drawing during the conference for a free registration to the 36th Annual Conference in 2015. If you have never attended this event, this is the year to start, come join us.

On February 11th and 12th, NY Rural Water went to Washington, DC, to meet with our Congressional Representatives and Senators to ask for their continued support of our programs that provide onsite technical assistance and training to you, our water and wastewater professionals. We discussed the need for increase funding opportunities for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. I wish to thank Florence Braunius, John O'Connell, Matt Thorp and Jason Opferbeck for taking time out of their busy schedules to make the trip and plead our case. It is through their dedication to this organization that we continue to serve you.

In closing, I would like to thank those members that continue to write letters of support and appreciation for the services we provide. These letters are shared with your Congressional Representatives to show the work we are doing in their districts. Keep them coming!! Also, if you are not receiving our monthly enews, please call our office and provide your email address so that you can keep current on news that effects our industry and your daily jobs.

My best wishes to all of you for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2014. We hope to see you in April at the Turning Stone. 💧💧