



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT WHERE DID THE TIME GO? ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Matthew A. Thorp, Sr. | NYRWA President

As I am writing this article for the winter edition Aquafacts, I'm wondering where the time has gone. As of this writing, I am returning from the annual NRWA Water Pro Conference in Seattle.

The Annual NRWA Water Pro Conference in Seattle was a great conference. The weather was amazing, sunny and in the seventies. My first trip to the west coast was an enjoyable one. The scenery was amazing, Mt. Ranier breathtaking to say the least. There were many interesting sessions that our staff attended. It was great to see some old friends from across this great country and make some new ones in the process.

I want to thank outgoing President Doug Anderton, from Georgia, for his service to NRWA and wish him the best in his future endeavors. I also want to congratulate Charles Hilton, from South Carolina, as he takes over the reigns of NRWA. Both of these gentlemen are very good friends of New York Rural Water. Doug actually told his story about his trip to our annual conference this past April as his final tribute to rural America as NRWA President. I would be remiss to not mention that our own John O'Connell was re-elected to the NRWA Executive Committee. Congratulations again my friend as you are doing New York proud!

Phil Badman from the Village of Sodus, our Meredith H. Thompson training award winner, had a great time and the New York contingent enjoyed his company. Phil had the opportunity to see the Seattle area and attend many sessions, along with seeing many of the vendors who support rural water.

I'm wondering where the time has gone. As fall sets in upon us, I hope all of you are preparing for what is next, winter! Down here, in the lower Hudson Valley, we are experiencing drought conditions and I hope we get some substantial rainfall before the ground freezes. I must be getting older as it seems like the years are flying by. I'm going to be working on the winter equipment and start getting my treatment facilities ready for the cold season starting next week.

As I state in every Aquafacts article, funding for the programs we provide is getting tougher to come by and there is now competition from other groups for limited resources. As you all know, no one does it better than rural water across this great nation. When Pat Scalera asks for letters of support, please send them to her, they go a long way with our representatives in DC. It will be another long road for resources, especially with

the congressional election cycle and general voter disdain for our national elected representatives. Hopefully those who have supported our cause will get re-elected.

As always, please be safe and make sure you get home to your loved ones every night. Be proactive about your safety and that of your fellow co-workers. SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!!

On a personal note, I want to thank all of my friends and rural water family for their thoughts and prayers to my family with the recent tragic passing of my sister in law. It's been tough on us all and if there is one thing I have to say, it's always let your loved ones know how much you love them. Even after an argument, make sure you let them know. We never know and life is too short to leave things unsettled and being angry with those you love. We are all here on borrowed time, make the best of it and try to end every day on a happy positive note.

Until next time: God bless all of you.

Matt Thorp Sr. 💧💧