



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TECH CONFERENCE 2014, 2013 REVIEW, RALLY AND TRAGEDY STRIKES AT HOME

Matthew A. Thorp, Sr. | NYRWA President

Just a reminder we will be holding our Annual Conference in APRIL this year at the Turning Stone Resort. Notifications have already gone out as of this writing.

As I am writing this article for the spring edition of Aquafacts I'm reflecting on last year. First of all I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

As I wrote in the last issue of Aquafacts, New York Rural Water Association reached a milestone and also received a nice award. John O'Connell our Director at Large and Vice President was elected to the National Rural Water Association Executive Board of Directors as Director at Large. This is the first time in the history of this association that we in New York have a member on the national executive board. Little Falls, NY, received the National Award for environmental excellence. That a great award for NYRWA to have one of our member systems be recognized nationally from the over 30,000 utility members of the National Rural Water Association.

Also at the national level, we were awarded the new FSA contract for the sourcewater protection program. There were many issues at hand that National Rural Water worked on most significant was the exemption of the lead rule for fire hydrants. This will be a savings to rural America, along with the manufacturers, as they will not have to re-tool and produce new products and ultimately pass those costs on to the end user, that being US!

As of this writing reservations are being made for the annual NRWA February rally in Washington, DC. Our CEO Pat Scalera may be asking for letters of support, and if she does, PLEASE SEND them! They do have an impact with your national congressional members. This year we are trying to get an exception to use our current inventories of brass products and then use the new lead free products that were mandatory under the new lead rule. This will save small rural systems a great deal of money, especially those on limited budgets.

On a sad note, on December 2, 2013, we had a tragic event here in Maybrook. The incident involved a structural collapse during a concrete pouring operation. The contractors were doing a mock make up of a tunnel section for the NYC DEP. It was to be a tunnel section for the aquaduct project to run through Ulster and Orange Counties, replacing the existing leaking pipeline. The

forms collapsed, seriously injuring 2 workers and unfortunately killing a third. The forms failed burying one gentlemen under debris and 35 yards of concrete. Again unfortunately a second of the 3 involved succumbed to his injuries 2 weeks later. The last of the 3 is still recuperating from his injuries..

As I end each article asking all of you to be safe, remember these 3 gentlemen who went to work expecting to come home. If something doesn't look safe or appropriate, say something and don't let yourself or co-workers enter into anything that isn't safe. The first gentlemen who was killed had just filed his retirement papers with the local union and this was to be his last project.

Until next time, BE SAFE at all costs!!!! 💧💧💧

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