

Message from the President



by Florence Braunius,
NYRWA President

As I write this article it is April 30, and there are snow flurries in the air. When you read this it will be summer time and the 29th NYRWA Annual Tech Conference will be a memory. Thank you to all of our Associate Members for their support and sponsorship throughout our conference. We appreciate your efforts. Thanks also go out to all our member systems that were represented at this year's event. I hope you all enjoyed the conference and went home with new ideas or insight for your workplace.

The Annual Rural Water Rally took place in April and was attended by Board Members Jerry Barron, John O'Connell, myself, as well as, CEO Pat Scalera. I personally want to thank these people for taking time away from their schedules to attend this event.

To quote directly from National Rural Water Association's webpage for the Annual Rally in Washington DC:

"Nothing is more important than clean, safe, affordable water and Rural Water's initiatives are the most effective! Your effort and system's representation at the Rally is critical to ensuring that RUS loan and grant monies remain available to build, extend and upgrade the nation's rural and small water and wastewater systems.

Protecting ground water and source water, effective training and "on-site" assistance are all powerful initiatives that deliver results to thousands of rural and small communities. Small utility systems must pull together at the grassroots level to achieve efficient environmental progress.

Funding from Congress allows the Rural Water network of state rural water associations to better serve each state's small and rural utilities. Your voice in Washington, D.C. is important in educating Congress on the needs of rural systems and the success your Rural Water Association has helped you achieve!"

That is the message we deliver to our Congress and Senate. I have participated in Rally for quite a few years now and have learned that there are ways to really grab the attention of those we are speaking with. The two at the top of the list are: "Here is a list of all the systems NYRWA has assisted in your District" and "This is a list of all the members of NYRWA in your District." We

connect the dots between the allocation of funding and how the funding impacts systems in their Congressional District. This year New York Rural Water had a very low number of representative's support our State delegation letter for funding. There were many reasons why this happened, but we do not want to see this become status quo. With the presidential election taking place this year, next year will be a transitional year for everyone and Rural Water needs support! How can you help? If our training, technical assistance, and services that we offer are important to you, please let your congressional representative know this. Send a letter directly to his or her office. You can call NYRWA office and obtain the correct address for your particular congress person if you don't already know who this is. You can find out from the office if your congress person supported NYRWA with a signature on the state delegation letter and if not, ask them to support us with their signature in the future.



NYRWA Board member Jerry Barron, NYRWA National Director John O'Connell, "George", Earl McKinney, Wyoming Rural Water National Director and NYRWA Board President Florence Braunius enjoying some down time at NRWA Rally in DC.

The people in Washington are elected to represent you, but sometimes this seems so far removed from what we do on a daily basis. We need their support for our training and for any of the assistance from Rural Water that we have become so accustomed to using to meet our needs. When we traveled to DC, we represented Congressman McHugh's District, as well as, Congressman Higgins, Congresswoman Gillibrand, and Congressman Walsh. That leaves 25 districts with no personal contact unless they hear from you, the members in their district. Congressman Walsh, Congressman Reynolds, and

Congressman McNulty have been longstanding consistent supporters of rural water's programs, and they will be retiring at the end of their current term. Whoever is elected to these districts will be new to the issues of Rural Water and the funding we rely on. I am especially asking members in those districts to become involved and help educate the newly elected officials on the importance of Rural Water programs to your hometown.

In closing, I would like to invite anyone who would like to help deliver this message to Congress next year at Rally, please contact Pat Scalera for more details. Reservations must be made in January for Rally to be held in the spring of 2009.

Have a safe, enjoyable summer! 💧



In Appreciation continued....



Town of Jerusalem

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Monday - Friday

June 3, 2008

New York Rural Water
Dan Touliev
PO Box 487
Claverack, NY 12513

Dear Dan,

I would like to express our thanks for the nomination for The New York Rural Water System of the Year.

You are part of the team that made this possible and we appreciate all of the hard work throughout the years.

When the Town of Jerusalem began utilizing your services, the department was in financial ruins. If these services were not provided for free, we would still be out looking for our unaccounted water.

This year we were able to lower our water rates, and this is partially due to the fact that our unaccounted water is down by nearly 27% thanks to you.

Again, thank you for being part of this great achievement.

Sincerely,

The Keuka Park Water Department

Cc: New York Rural Water

