

30th Annual Technical Conference

by Pat Scalera,
CEO



Amazing, the NY Rural Water Association just celebrated its 30th Annual Conference at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in Saratoga, NY. New York Rural Water Association has grown and changed over the years. That is apparent and the Association has built a solid foundation and will continue to grow with new ideas and services. We really appreciate all of our members that came to Saratoga to help us celebrate this milestone. Mother Nature gave us spectacular weather for this spring conference.

Something new added to this conference was the dine-around each evening. Since we were in a city with so many wonderful restaurants, we arranged for our members to get out each evening and select from 10 local restaurants, using a voucher system. They were able to have their municipality cover the cost of the voucher within their registration, allowing them the choice of dinner each night. We received rave reviews on this new system. We will hopefully be able to do the same at the Turning Stone Resort & Conference Center next year with the on-site restaurants throughout the resort.

At our Annual Business Meeting, the election results were read and our current Board of Directors remains the same, including another year with Jim Heiser from Lamont Engineers as our Associate Delegate.

We were honored to have Mr. Charles Hilton, Secretary for the Executive Board of the National Rural Water Association, from the great state of South Carolina, at this year's conference. Charles gave an inspiring speech at our Opening Ceremony and again at our Awards Banquet Dinner. We were fortunate to have Charles well prepared to fill in on a session when one of our speakers was unable to be there. Charles gave an excellent presentation on "Lessons Learned from a Chlorine Disaster". You know it was a great session when everyone stayed after to speak with Charles and the evaluations from the attendees noted they were fascinated by this presentation. A special thank you goes out to Charles.

Some other highlights from this 30th Annual Conference was the two days of lab classes offered, the general sessions each morning that started with pictures on dual screens displaying photos from the previous days activities, funding discussions on the stimulus monies, over 100 exhibitors and our highest attendance on record.

So, who won what at the 30th Annual Conference:

- Bill Culligan from the Town of Thompson won the "Meredith H. Thompson Training Award" and will attend the National Convention this October in Louisville, KY
- Bill Culligan also won the \$100 cash prize at the Annual Meeting
- Rick Bisig won the 50/50 raffle in the Exhibit Hall Tuesday night
- Katie Hurrle from Koester Associates won the \$250 cash prize at Tuesdays CHA sponsored party that featured the band called "The Schmooze"
- Jim Nordberg from the Village of Sidney won the Turkey Calling Contest sponsored by E.J. Prescott and Sensus, he received a Winchester 12 gauge turkey gun
- Tom Dunbar won the Closing Ceremony prize of an overnight stay and dinner for two at the Saratoga Hilton Hotel
- Bruce Plekan won the Closing Ceremony \$50 cash prize
- Golf – Moochie Bero won longest drive; Chuck Franzese won closest to the pin. First Place team was Randy Hoad, Alan Jones, Kevin Harrison and Bob Matte. Last place team was Jim Pierce, Larry Swanger, Rob Stapleton and Mike Snyder. We thank Master Meter and Koester Associates for co-sponsoring the Golf Tournament

We wish to thank all of our vendors, attendees, special guests, speakers, sponsors, Board of Directors and our staff. It takes this entire team of professionals to make a conference a success and it certainly showed at our 30th Annual Conference.

Hope to see you all at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center May 24-27, 2010. Exhibitor registration for this event is open Tuesday, January 19, 2010. Exhibitor registration can be done online only. ♣

See award winners on next page