

Message From the President - Bits & Pieces

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NYRWA President



96 days left! 96 days until the year 2007, so where does the time go? It is October 2, 2006. I am debating whether to consider it “crunch time” to be ready for winter or is it time to tally up the accomplishments of 2006 and call it a year. I would prefer to use this time to summarize the accomplishments of 2006 and to begin a plan for 2007, but

in Speculator, it is a little of both right now. How about you and your systems?

Dallas, Texas, was the host for the National Rural Water Conference this year, and I was able to attend along with my co-worker Rob Peck, winner of the Meredith Thompson Award. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet people who have careers in the water and wastewater fields from around the country. FYI, if your system has fewer than 400 connections National Rural Water waives the conference registration fee. The 2007 conference will be held in Philadelphia PA, and it is not too early to think about attending. You will be able to see the “bigger picture” of how the individual states Water Associations come together as one, united, National Rural Water Association.

New York State received the National Rural Water Environmental Award for the work that Dana Harris accomplished in Wellsville, NY, and Josh Bossard received the Source Water Specialist of the Year award. Congratulations to

each and congratulate them when you see them.

Job opportunities are everywhere! After meeting people from various state associations, I took time to look at the websites from some of the states around the country. One common link is everyone is looking for people to work in the water and wastewater field. I found that the salaries vary with the region and the job description. New York Rural Water has taken the lead with cooperation from several agencies, in producing a DVD addressing the need for finding people willing to be trained and employed in water and wastewater occupations. If you would like to share the DVD with your municipal board, please call the NYRWA office.

Letters, although you will be reading this in the winter issue, it is never too late to send a letter to the New York Rural Water Association office. If our staff has helped your system in any way, we appreciate hearing from you. The letters are shared with your senators, and congressmen and women. It is one of the best ways of letting our representatives in Washington know that NYRWA is meeting our needs as operators when it comes to technical assistance and training.

Membership continues to grow and we are thankful for that. Please do not hesitate to communicate with the staff. The association is here to meet your needs.

In closing, I hope you had all met the “crunch time” deadlines and are prepared for the start of 2007. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ♠