

It's All Good

By Pat Scalera, CEO

New York Rural Water Association proudly received national recognition at the National Rural Water Association's Annual Conference this October in Reno, Nevada.

NYRWA won the Platinum Pump Award for Excellence in Website. The website award is presented to a state association striving to maximize their technological communication venues for improved information delivery to their membership. Websites enhance an association's public and professional image while exposing the service and benefits offered to a wider audience. Websites fill a critical need for networking and makes the association accessible to the world 24 hours a day. Special thanks go



out to Tim Shudt, Assistant Director for the NYRWA, who maintains our website and to all the staff that contribute to the website weekly to keep it current and fresh.

NYRWA also received a Merit Award for Excellence in Public Relations. This award is to recognize a state



association and their membership involvement in public relations. Today, public relations are more important

than ever! NYRWA and it's members have risen to the occasion with Quality On Tap - our commitment, our profession campaign which is LITERALLY on thousands of items across the USA and New York from water towers to trucks, caps to jackets, race cars to snow plows. From public relations tools such as "Protecting Our Environment" for wastewater systems, to school education, these public relation initiatives speak directly and confidently of the professionalism and commitment we have as water producers and the quality product we serve.

NYRWA continued to receive a Merit Award for Excellence in State Legislation. A National representative was quoted as saying "New York constantly works to maintain legislative liaisons and during sessions, works to keep their membership informed on bills that will impact their utilities. Their legislative efforts have been a great benefit to their membership".

Finally, probably the most prestigious and most honored award is the State Association of the Year. NYRWA received the Merit Award for its team effort in all areas of professional association operations and membership service. We, at NYRWA, attribute this accomplishment to our teamwork, strong leadership and member support.



Present to receive the awards were National Director for NYRWA John O'Connell, NYRWA Board of Director Jerry Barron, and Training Specialist Jamie Herman.

We are all proud of the contributions our Board of Directors, Staff and Membership continuously provide to this organization, and as a team, we have now received national recognition for our efforts.

In closing, I would like to follow up on my previous article about "Patience" and report that having patience has paid off. We had a great 1st Annual Equipment EXPO and we appreciate all the vendors, attendees, Board and Staff that made this event such a success. Thank you, Mother Nature for a spectacular Fall day, you couldn't ask for better weather. I believe all that attended and participated had a great time. In this issue of Aquafacts, you will find a list of those vendors that supported our event.

The State Circuit Rider program is up and running again thanks to the award from the State Department of Health. Our State Circuit Riders are busier than ever with on-site calls and planning training events.

Our Backflow Prevention Device Testing has really taken off and we are getting busy servicing through our certified professional testers. If you wish to learn more about this service, please call our toll free number at 1-888-697-8725.

NYRWARN currently has 26 members and NYS DEC will be getting more involved. The NYS DOH will be sending out letters urging water systems to join. Please consider your system getting involved.

And finally, my daughter has started her career as an art teacher and will finish her masters hopefully by the time you are reading this article.

We are only still waiting on the appropriations process but due to the election year this will take more time and patience on everyone involved.

So, here's wishing you all the best holiday season, good cheer, good health and good times ahead. Thanks for all your support and we look forward to seeing you in Saratoga for our 30th Annual Technical Conference May 11-14, 2009, more to celebrate. 💧

