

# Message from the President



by Florence Braunius,  
*NYRWA President*

Here we are, October already! Looking back at the events of the past year, our Tech Conference was a success at the Turning Stone, summer flew by, and we experienced our third Annual Expo at Wayne County Fairgrounds. We've addressed the Marcellus Shale Drilling, most of us were held out of DC due to record snowfall and National's Conference in Nashville as well, was relocated by Mother Nature. New York Rural Water is actively marketing its mapping program, we have a presence on Facebook and our "new" website should seem like an old friend to all of us by now. We've experienced the ARRA funding, the budget situation in Albany; election campaigning and now we await the fall and winter of 2010/2011, poised for what any of these forces of nature may offer up to us once again.

That is quite a bit to take in during the last ten months. I sincerely hope our members see the progress we are making at increasing our sustainability through these difficult financial times. The work our staff has done to develop different ways of doing business is commendable. I wish there was time at our conference to highlight these people and the talent they bring to our association. We will have to work on developing a "Meet the Staff" section in our magazine so our members can learn about the association from the people that are either on the road each day or in the office. They do so much more than what their job titles imply on our web page.

Of the new tools and services we have available to members, I think the mapping program is going to be the most practical. Once, we as operators, see first-hand what this type of program can do for our recordkeeping, I think it will become one of the most sought after services in the state. Has anyone checked with the NYS Archives Dept. to see if they will be including this type of program on their grant funding list? It could be there already, I just haven't checked the website this year.

The Conference at the Turning Stone was the largest facility we have utilized for this event. I heard nothing negative from the staff with regard to the location and its logistics. The only part of the conference experienced that I personally missed was the opportunity to step away from it all for an evening. The location is a little isolated without driving somewhere, and I didn't care to do that either. Regardless of the location, I still feel it is the best conference opportunity in the state.

I hope everyone has participated in the salary survey featured on the website. I have been watching this as the numbers of participants grew, and found it to be very interesting. It is always good to see where you are in comparison to the community's operators with the same level of certification as your own. If you find that your pay scale is drastically out of line with the survey, the survey could become a useful tool in discussing your situation with your employer. It could work the other way as well. You may realize that you are better off than other operators with the level of experience and certification. Either way, it is a good piece of information to have at your finger tips.

And finally, my favorites of the new services, I would have to say are the new website and Facebook. I love the social outreach capability. The new forum section on the website gives everyone an opportunity to ask about almost any topic or situation they may be experiencing. I think problem solving at our facilities has benefitted from "word of mouth" experience from one plant to another and now we can do this 24/7.

I hope you all get some time to check out the new services and express your thoughts, ideas and suggestions on any of our venues.

Florence Braunius 💧