

Message From the President

Submitted by Steve Freeman
NYRWA President



Hello everyone and welcome back from the frigid winter season. I say this because as I'm writing this article it is 30 degrees below zero and I'm wondering when the phone is going to ring. Oh well, just another benefit of living in Upstate New York.

In the ever-increasing world of law suits, attorneys and insurance companies, it seems like everywhere you look or listen there is some sort of message or legal document indemnifying such party from any legal ramifications or responsibilities. An example may be a commercial for a new medication, or an infomercial for exercise equipment. These are used as a protection tool in the event that something happens beyond the control of the company or advertiser. Many people feel that these, "Hold Harmless Agreements" are unneeded, and in most cases, so do I.

Under the direction of our insurance provider and attorney the New York Rural Water Association must create such an agreement that we will begin asking each system we assist with smoke testing, to approve and sign prior to receiving our assistance. It is unfortunate that some recent

incidences created this new direction we must take. Our assistance has always been, and will always be, a training mechanism that we provide to help with their day-to-day operations. Our training gives these facility personnel a better understanding of the systems operation; the latest rules and regulations and how to comply; and better management practices, etc. Our training also provides the community with the opportunity to borrow our equipment for future work, with the knowledge of the proper use of such equipment and in most cases, it provides the operator a test run with the equipment, should they wish to pursue the purchase of such equipment.

This Association will do everything in its power to keep it simple and maintain the service you have come to count on. We would appreciate your cooperation.

We thank you for your patience and support as we continue to grow and expand our services to you.

Before I leave, as always, we look forward to seeing each of you May 17th thru the 20th 2004, for the 25th Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition. Look inside this issue for the details. There's the phone and it's for me, I guess it's off to work!! ♠