

Message From the President

Submitted by Steve Freeman
NYRWA President



Some time ago, a member of NYRWA asked me a question. "What is a New York Rural Water Board Member?" I replied, "By definition." He said, "Sure." Well, by definition, the duties of the NYRWA Board of Director's are to govern the Association. "Well, I guess that's not the answer I was looking for", he replied. "I guess what I mean is, how do you become a Board Member? What are the qualifications? Does the Association employ you? Do you have real jobs? Are you compensated? Do you work out of the NYRWA office in Claverack?" Woe, "Let me explain", I responded.

What are the qualifications to be a NYRWA Board Member? Simple. You have to be an active member of the Association representing a water or wastewater system in New York serving a population of 10,000 or less. To become a Board Member, you must run for the position and become elected. The NYRWA Board of Directors is comprised of six members, one in each of the five regions of the State, as defined by the New York State Dept. of Health, and sixth defined as a Director at Large. The Director at Large can be from any of the five regions. A director's position is a three-year term, staggered amongst the six member Board. This is to avoid all positions being available at one time. At the end of the three-year term, a director must renew their term by running for election. To simplify, when the term of the Director in your area becomes available, and if you are qualified, you can run for the position and be voted on by your peers.

We, the NYRWA Board Members, are not employed by the Association, and we do not receive compensation for the time that we donate. We do not work out of the Claverack (HOME) office. We all are employed by member systems across the State. I'll give you a brief description of the present NYRWA Board of Directors.

President, Steve Freeman
NYRWA Director, Northeast Central Region Term Exp. 2006
Chief Water System Operator for the Village of Boonville

Vice President, Florence Braunius
NYRWA Director, Capitol Region Term Exp. 2006
Chief Water and Wastewater System Operator for the Village of Speculator

Secretary/Treasurer, Matt Thorp
NYRWA Director, White Plains Region Term Exp. 2005
Dept. of Public Works Superintendent for the Village of Maybrook

Chet Canary
NYRWA Director, Finger Lakes Region Term Exp. 2005
Chief Wastewater System Operator for the Village of Mt. Morris

Jerry Barron
NYRWA Director, Buffalo Region Term Exp. 2007
Chief Water System Operator for the Town of Holland

Claude Sykes
NYRWA Director at Large Term Exp. 2007
Department of Public Works Superintendent for the Village of Baldwinsville

John O'Connell
Rep. to the National Rural Water Association Term Exp. 2007
Chief Water and Wastewater System Operator for Casual Estates in Weedsport, NY, Assistant Water System Operator for the Village of Jordan

John Fiedler
NYRWA Associate Delegate Term Exp. 2005
The Mueller Company

I hope this clears up any questions you may be wondering about. The NYRWA Board is composed of dedicated water and wastewater professionals from across the State, who found their way here out of respect and appreciation of the Association. The Board continually strives to improve the Association and the services it provides to our members. Believe me, being a NYRWA Board Member has its challenges, but anything in life rewarding usually does.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Board Member, contact the office for further information. Don't forget the 26th Annual Technical Conference, located this year in Saratoga Springs. Look inside this issue for more details. The NYRWA Board of Directors looks forward to seeing you there. Until next time, Steve ♠

ATTENTION!!!

Do you have equipment you would like to sell or a job opening you need to post? You can place this information on NY Rural Water Association's website.

www.nyruralwater.org