

It Just Keeps Getting Better

By Pat Scalera, CEO,
New York Rural Water Association



Well another conference has come to pass, and we can't say thank you enough to those that participated by attending, exhibiting, speaking and all of our honored guests that traveled many miles to help celebrate our 25th Annual Technical Conference. These events just keep getting better!!!

The Hudson Valley Resort and Spa in Kerhonkson, NY, was our host hotel this year and what an outstanding job they did to accommodate our group. The conference kicked off with our annual golf outing sponsored by Sensus Metering Systems. The winners of the golf skins were extremely generous this year to donate their winnings to our scholarship winners.

We wish to thank Clough, Harbour and Associates for sponsoring the entertainment under the tent during our barbeque night, I believe all had a good time, and Thunder Ridge was terrific.

Once again, throughout the entire conference, the focus was on education, whether in a classroom setting, networking with your peers in the lobby, or visiting with our vendors.

We are fortunate to have quality speakers that volunteer their time to help educate our water and wastewater professionals and keep you up-to-date on this ever-changing industry.

Carnival Nite with the exhibitors was a huge success and besides all the fun had, we hope some business relationships were built. These exhibitors are what make this conference a success and we truly appreciate all they do for Rural Water. Our big cash prize winners that evening were Mark Hinckley from Thousand Island Park and Stephen Barba from the Village of Tuxedo Park. We wish to thank Koester Associates for sponsoring this event and to thank all those vendors who participated in the games and donated prizes throughout the evening.

We are happy to announce Claude Sykes from the Village of Baldwinsville was elected to our Board of Directors as Director at Large. Claude will serve a three-year term for the NYRWA. We wish to thank John O'Connell for all his dedication and service to this organization and industry, and are happy to report that John will continue to represent us as our National Director. Also, John Fiedler from Mueller Co. was re-elected to another year term to continue to represent the Associate Members. We appreciate John's contributions.

Steve Panton from the City of Corning was selected as the winner of the "Meredith H. Thompson Training Award"

and he will join us this October in Biloxi, Mississippi, for the National Rural Water Association Convention. Each year, the NYRWA selects one member present at the Annual Meeting to receive intense training at the National Convention. NYRWA will provide air travel, registration, and hotel accommodations for Steve. If Steve Panton is unable to attend, then Jeff Mills Sr. from the Town of Wawayanda will go in Steve's place. Congrats!!

Our highlight of the conference is always our Awards Banquet Dinner and we are pleased to announce and present this years Award Winners featured on page 34, for their hard work and dedication to this profession. We are proud of these devoted individuals and their systems.

We do hope that those that were unable to attend this year (you know who you are and hope you know we missed you), will consider joining us next year in Saratoga Springs May 1-4, 2005. We also look forward to this years attendees returning to join us again for the education and fellowship.

Until next time.....keep up the good work.💧