

# 31st Annual Technical Conference

by Pat Scalera,  
CEO



On behalf of the New York Rural Water Association, I would like to thank our vendors, attendees, special guests, speakers, Board of Directors and our hard working dedicated NYRWA staff for the success of our 31st Annual Conference that took place at the Turning Stone Conference Center in Verona, NY from May 24-27, 2010. What a wonderful facility to house our Conference. You really can't say enough about the accommodations, staff of the facility, and the food.

We kicked off the conference with the Annual Golf Tournament co-sponsored by Master Meter and Koester Associates. The day was truly spectacular and all enjoyed a day of golf and fellowship. We thank the winners of the skins for donating to our scholarship funds.

I believe from the evaluations that the highlight of this year's conference was our general session guest speaker Eric Giguere who gave an amazing talk on "The Buried Truth Uncovered". So many of our attendees were moved by this story told by Eric on his real life experience of being buried alive due to taking short cuts in safety on the job site. His message was clear to all in attendance, that in less than a second, your world could change because you made the wrong decision when it came to safety on the job. We are so appreciative to have had Eric with us to tell this story and to hopefully save someone in our audience the same terrifying experience that Eric endured.

Our Conference continued with an excellent training track for everyone. Something new added to this conference was the drawing for the ATV, which took place in the exhibit hall on Wednesday at lunch. Harold Anger from the Town of Hanover was the lucky winner and he proudly loaded up his truck with his prize. We thank all those participants in this drawing for your full registration to our conference.

Another highlight of the Conference was the return of Carnival Nite, which was sponsored by CHA. Our vendors and attendees enjoyed an evening of fun, games and fellowship in our Exhibit Hall. So many prizes were won and relationships between attendees and vendors were developed.

At our Annual Business Meeting the election results were read and our current Board of Directors remains the same, including another year with Jim Heiser from Lamont Engineers as our Associate Delegate.

We were honored to have Mr. Charles Hilton, Secretary for the Executive Board of the National Rural Water Association, from the great state of South Carolina join us again at this year's conference. Charles gave an inspiring speech at our Opening Ceremony and again at our Awards Banquet Dinner. A special thank you goes out to Charles.

So, who won what at the 31st Annual Conference:

Chuck McAuliffe from the Village of Baldwinsville won the "Meredith H. Thompson Training Award" and will attend the National Convention this September in New Orleans, LA.

Scott Conklin won the 50/50 raffle in the Exhibit Hall Monday night.

Lou Ingrassia won the 50/50 raffle in the Exhibit Hall Tuesday night.

Richard Pitts won the cash on Wednesday in the Exhibit Hall.

Tim Turck from West Carthage won the Turkey Calling Contest sponsored by EJ Prescott and received a Browning Camo 12 gauge turkey rifle.

Richard Wrigley from Middleburgh won the Closing Ceremony prize of an overnight stay at the Turning Stone.

Hunt Engineers won the free booth space at our upcoming Equipment Expo this September at the Wayne County Fairgrounds.

Congratulations!

We wish to thank all our vendors, attendees, special guests, speakers, sponsors, Board of Directors and our staff. It takes this entire team of professionals to make a conference a success and it certainly showed at our 31st Annual Conference.

Hope to see you all at the Saratoga Hilton and City Center May 9-12, 2011. ♦