

Message from the President



by Florence Braunius,
NYRWA President

As I write, the leaves are at peak color here in the Adirondacks, and snow flurries are predicted for tonight. Where does the time go? I was fortunate to attend the second annual NY Rural Water Expo in Rhinebeck on September 17. It was a great day and everything went very well. Good training, good food, lots of opportunity to speak with the vendors, all made for a well spent day. Kudos to the Expo Committee members, Rich Winters, Doug Smorol and Mike Batz for putting this together and to all the staff who pull together to produce such a successful event. The planning, organization, and implementing an event of this size at a site away from the office are not easy tasks, but through everyone's efforts it appeared to be just another day for our talented staff. Thank you everyone for a great day!

For all of you who were able to attend, I hope you found the day informative and took advantage of the opportunity to meet people and learn from the vendors who were there. I would like to thank all of our Associate Members who were able to participate.

NY Rural Water Staff, National Director John O'Connell, Jerry Barron and I all represented NY Rural Water at the National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. October 5-8, 2009. At the time I am writing, I am still not sure just how I will be getting to Louisville and I write this so hopefully everyone will be more aware of the state of the economy in the US. Things are not the way they used to be. I drive a 2005 GM Equinox AWD. My car has 59,000 miles on it and we took it to the shop to have a vibration checked out before we drove to Louisville. To make a long story short, the part I needed is on nationwide backorder and no guarantee on when it will be available. I was advised to leave my car there because if this particular part failed, my drive shaft could fall out of my car. Now I realize this is the price we pay for GM taking the economic downturn that it did, but what if this were a part we needed to operate our water or wastewater system? I think I will be looking over my emergency management plan and preventative maintenance schedules. I will also be contacting our suppliers just to get a feel for the availability of parts. All of our municipal vehicles for water and wastewater are GM products.

The time when everything was available at the drop of a hat may have come and gone. With winter knocking at the door, we always take time to do an inventory check of what we have on hand for emergencies, and now I think we will be a little more conscientious. Communities like ours represent rural America and it is a way of life that calls us to stay one step ahead of what might go wrong.

With the holiday season upon us, I wish all of you health, happiness and I encourage everyone to look at the New Year with a sense of expectation. None of us can predict the future, so cherish what you have for today and know that you can take care of tomorrow when it comes.

Happy Holidays!! 💧