



A SUMMER REVIEW FOR THE NYRWA

Jamie Herman | CEO

The last few months have been a blur around here, each and every action taken or required is relatively new as I start down this next chapter of my life. I am truly blessed to have had such a magnificent mentor, and fortunate to be surrounded by an amazing board and staff who are always there for guidance and support. Having the opportunity to take a breath, I reflect on the summer and realize just how much we accomplished, and optimistically look forward to our 40th year ahead.

Thank you all for attending and participating in our 39th Annual Technical Conference in Verona. Attendance was fantastic, the training was well received, and we had a full slate of golfers participate in the 1st ever Pat Scalera Scholarship Golf Outing. As always, our Associate Members and Vendors make this whole event possible, and we thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

During the summer we also received word of unprecedented funding levels established by Congress for USDA, RD loans and grants. This also included the valuable funding required to continue our Wastewater, Circuit Rider, Energy Efficiency, and Sourcewater Protection Programs. We thank our congressional members for their commitment to infrastructure improvement, and to our rural utilities here and across this great Nation. As a part of this process, Doug Smorol and I were fortunate enough to escort Congresswoman Claudia Tenney on tours of the water systems in Deansboro and Vernon Center. Representative Tenney toured the systems, met with operators and local officials, and listened to their needs pertaining to funding and infrastructure replacement. This first hand knowledge of the issues faced on a local level is needed now more than ever by our representatives in Washington, D.C. Our sincere thanks to Rep. Tenney and her staff for making the time!

This summer also reminded me of how fortunate we are. First, I covered a training session for one of our programs and ran into an old friend, Keith Herbert. We talked about just how expensive training has become in other parts of the country. Thank you to our Associate Members, Staff, and State Officials who continue to provide valuable classroom training at no charge. Without all of you, our members would be paying far more per contact hour in order to maintain their certifications. To our members, please remember this commitment when researching products, technologies, and services. Look through your directory and consider giving our Associate Members the opportunity to meet your needs.

I was also reminded that our staff does amazing work!!! Thank you all for taking the time to call or write "thank you" letters regarding the services our staff has provided. We truly have the best in the business. Their passion and dedication is witnessed every day by the systems they serve.

As we rapidly approach our 40th year, we are committed to our members. We have many goals for the coming year including a new membership/training database, membership drive, continuing our partnership with Diamond Maps for your water and/or wastewater system mapping needs, as well as new initiatives for our 40th Annual Conference.

Our 40th Annual Conference will be held at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center in Verona on May 20 – 22, 2019. While items are not set in stone, we hope to welcome our new NYRWA App which will be a free download for all members, for use at not only our conference, but year round, allowing for training registrations, important notifications, etc.. We plan to have door prizes this year as well. We are asking our Associate Members for varying degrees of sponsorship which will be used to provide door prizes throughout the conference, including a grand prize available only to those with a full registration. There will be a \$1 entry fee to be included in the door prizes. Further, we will still have the WaterPac Chinese Auction, but plan to incorporate a small "Rural Water" clothing store and raffle for our educational foundation. As always, the training is our key focus, and we promise to provide the very best training possible with the maximum contact hours to meet your needs. Again, none of these opportunities would be possible without our dedicated Associate Members...thank you one and all!!!

Last, I would personally like to express our appreciation for all of you who reached out with kind words, stories, or memories of our dear friend Brian Romeiser. His loss this past spring was such a shock to all, and we miss him every day. Brian was an excellent Board Member, he thought issues through, and came to a rational and intelligent decision. He was my friend, and I enjoyed our time together. Brian would often call and ask how things were going, or if I had heard of a new regulation, or something to that effect. What else can I say, Brian was just a good person, and he cared more for others than he did for himself. I'm sorry to say that I learned far more about Brian after his passing. What an amazing person, and a role model for each of us in work and life! 💧💧💧