



NYRWA - THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT AHEAD

Jamie Herman | CEO

What a strange summer here in New York. The heat and humidity started early and remained constant all summer long. Many areas were begging for rain, while others cleaned up and made repairs following many relentless rain events. Hopefully we all enjoy a beautiful fall and a moderate winter.

As most of you are aware, we lost our friend and long-time board member, Brian Romeiser, this past April. While Brian can never be replaced, we needed to move forward and fill his seat on the Board. The NYRWA Board of Directors requested "Letters of Interest" from potential candidates in the Finger Lakes Region. We were fortunate to receive a number of letters from a wide range of very qualified and deserving members. What a relief it is to know that our membership is willing to step up and take on these responsibilities, crucial to our association, when called upon. After a great deal of review and discussion, Mr. Phil Badman from the Village of Sodus was selected to fulfill the unexpired term in the Finger Lakes Region. We all feel that Brian would have been pleased with Phil's appointment to the Board.

Please join us as we welcome Phil to the board, and wish him great success in this new venture in his life. Phil started his career with the Village of Moravia, and in 1988 accepted the position of Chief Operator for both the water and wastewater plants with the Village of Sodus. He began his affiliation with our association early on in his career, and has been a mainstay ever since. Phil can typically be found at one of our renewal training sessions and always at our annual conference. We believe Phil will provide a perspective of both water and wastewater to our board, and be that calm voice of reason we have all grown to know over the years. We congratulate Phil on his appointment, and thank him for his willingness to take on the many challenges we face in this volunteer position!

A huge "Thank You" to all of our Associate Members for their continued support of our renewal training sessions, allowing us to be able to continue to provide low cost, high value training. We thank them also for their continued support of our Annual Technical Training Workshop & Exhibition. Without their consideration and generosity this event would not be possible, and we sincerely appreciate everything each and every one of you do to contribute throughout the entire year.

Please consider joining us May 20 - 22, 2019, at the Turning Stone Resort & Conference Center for our 40th Annual Technical Training Workshop & Exhibition. Wow, 40 great years of serving the needs of our members, providing on-site and classroom training, and of course

this wonderful annual event. We anticipate having shirts and hats for all attendees this year, as well as a "Grand Prize" drawing for full registrants only. As a first, we will also try a very limited clothing store, where NYRWA logo apparel will be on sale for those who may be interested. Lastly, our Associate Members have proven their support by providing (3) tiers of sponsorship for our event. Many Associate Members have already pledged their support including: Premier Sponsors – GA Fleet and Koester Associates; Gold Sponsors – Mueller Co., Auctions International, GP Jager, Statewide Aquastore, and H2M Architects; and Silver Sponsors – Dyna-Tech Control Solutions and Lamont Engineers. If you are interested in a sponsorship please reach out to Jake Gardner at Gardner@nyruralwater.org or Valerie Ogden at ogden@nyruralwater.org or call 1-888-697-8725 Ext 120 for Jake, Ext 150 for Valerie. Thank you all once again for your continued support!!!

As our President John O'Connell referenced, the funding for infrastructure and rural America is at an all time high. We continue to work hard with our elected officials and agency representatives to ensure our rural needs are considered and represented, for both financial and regulatory considerations. Along those lines, we are proud to be working as a partner with the National Rural Water Association on an Apprenticeship Program. For years we have been bombarded with concepts such as asset management and succession planning, it's a relief to finally be working towards a potential solution to this issue. As we always say, each of you ARE your systems greatest asset! Never forget that.

National Rural Water Association was recently awarded a \$6M grant to assist in every state with the Apprenticeship Program. As I write this article, it is unclear as to how those funds will be utilized. Rest assured, we will use any and all funding to best benefit this concept and help each of you to gain access to this valuable program. I will provide more details as they become available.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge what a challenging year this has been as I assumed this position. Pat sure made this look easier than it is in reality. It has been a challenge, but with the help of our amazing staff and exceptional board, we feel the future is bright ahead. The wisdom and support I have received from so many of you has been overwhelming, and I could never begin to properly and sincerely show my gratitude! This association is made up of all of us, system members, associate members, agency contacts, staff and board, and together we will continue to provide...Quality On Tap! 💧💧