



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

As I am writing this article for the spring edition of the NYRWA magazine, it's actually January 15, 2018, and it is 4 below zero. I'm hoping when this reaches all of you we will have thawed out with spring like temperatures.

Not everyone who reads our magazine is familiar with New York Rural Water Association's affiliation with the National Rural Water Association, so I am taking this opportunity to explain our connection. The National Rural Water Association is responsible for delegating the monies received from USDA and EPA to the individual state associations. Just as we have a Board of Directors at the state level, National has a Board of Directors as well. One difference, at the National level there is an Executive Committee which consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President, as well as three additional Directors from member state associations. I currently am the National Director from New York and hold the office of Treasurer on the Executive Committee. There have been some things going on at the National level that have put a spin on the upcoming election cycle for our National organization. The election is customarily held at the National Conference in the fall. One of my colleagues and one of my best friends, NRWA Senior Vice President Steve Wear was faced with an important decision, retain his position as Senior Vice President of NRWA and run for President in September, or take a significant promotion at his current work place. Steve had a tough decision in front of him, as it takes years of time and dedication to reach this position at NRWA and with just seven months shy of what he had worked so hard to achieve, the position of President of NRWA. After much thought Steve chose to accept the promotion and to resign his position as National Director and Senior Vice President.

How Steve's decision will affect the election cycle: according to the bylaws, an election will need to take place not only in February, 2018, at our National Rural Water Rally in Washington, DC to fill his position, but again in September of 2018 at the National Conference.

It is customary for people who are on the executive committee to move up according to their seniority; however that's not carved in stone and anyone is free to run for any position. So that would typically leave Ken Watson who is the Director for Texas and currently the Secretary of NRWA with the option to run for President in September. Ken plans on running for the position and David Baird will run for Vice President in September. If the election cycle goes without change, I will run for Secretary, and hopefully will continue

to advance through the offices in the 6 years to come. Change is inevitable and we wish Steve the best with his new endeavor. I congratulate Ken and David on their new offices within NRWA, and look forward to working with both gentlemen as we have in the past.

The National Rural Water Association, through its State Rural Water Affiliates, is the nation's largest water and wastewater utilities association with over 31,000 members. Together with the State Affiliates, we work closely to educate and consult with agencies, such as EPA headquarters, on how policies and rule modifications will affect the small rural water and wastewater systems across our nation. NRWA has a seat at many working groups on related issues that can and will affect our members. We are here to advocate for you and the public you serve. 💧💧