

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

By Matthew A. Thorp, Sr.

ARPA Funding, Pandemic, Mother Nature and 2022 Technical Conference.

As I write this Presidents message, many of our member systems are digging out from the nor'easter that hit the coastal communities from the Mid-Atlantic States to Maine burying many with up to 30" of snow along with blizzard conditions. I hope all of those small rural water and wastewater systems have survived mother nature's wrath and are doing okay.

In my last article, I mentioned that the NRWA staff reported on the historic funding levels proposed by congress for the upcoming fiscal year, with large gains for us, RURAL AMERICA. The ARPA funding was signed into law is about to be released and there are guidelines for how and what the monies can be spent on. There are guidance documents from the federal government that are to be used by governmental entities receiving this funding. One of the items of interest is payment for essential employees who continued to work during the height of the first wave of the covid pandemic. It allows government agencies to compensate those employees' additional compensation for the hours they worked during the shut-down period. Which is something that those individuals truly deserve.

The effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic are still being felt in every aspect of our industry/profession and all walks of life. I'm still very concerned with the supply chain issues. We are being told by manufactures in the auto and truck industries that we will be looking

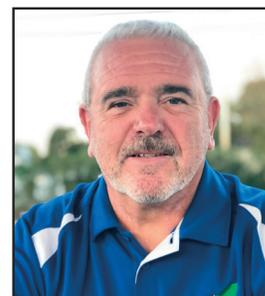
at 2023 and 2024 model years when ordering vehicles due to a lack of workforce, materials, and parts supplies. Fuel costs have risen as have the costs of materials for the products we use in our industry.

As of now our Annual Technical Training Workshop & Exhibition is scheduled to be in person (live) at The Turning Stone Resort in May. Check our website for the registration forms and get them in. We will of course follow all applicable CDC and NYSDOH guidelines for Covid safety protocols in effect at the time of the conference. As you may have seen, they tend to change as new information and statistical data comes into those agencies.

I want to thank you, our membership, and our associate members for their continued support of this great association.

The biggest thank you of all goes to our dedicated staff here at NYRWA who have continued to serve you, the membership throughout all of this craziness. As I have stated many times, you are the best in the business, bar none.

Please be safe and may God Bless all of you and your families. 💧💧💧



Matthew A. Thorp, Sr.  
NYRWA President