



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

I will begin by saying, “thank God for the Covid-19 vaccine, and for life beginning to return to a normal track”. I attended the National Rural Water Association’s Board of Directors meeting in Florida at the beginning of April and it was great that many of the restrictions were eased and that mask protocols were becoming less stringent. Businesses were booming, people were out and about, and hotels were busy, a sure sign of activities starting to return to normal. It will be welcomed when we see that happening here in New York State, maybe as early as mid-May. Plans are to hold our Annual Technical Training Workshop & Exhibition in 2022 at the Turning Stone Resort, with in-person attendance and training. I expect though to see virtual training as something that will be here to stay, supplementing the in-person classroom training NYRWA provides.

Throughout the pandemic, we tried to learn, progress,

keep our employees safe, all while still meeting the needs of our members. I want to thank our Board and Staff for holding things together, both financially and personally. As we all know, revenues were on the decline for the past year. Due to the Board and Staff making solid investments, NYRWA is in great shape and will be able to serve our membership as we have always done in the past. I also want to remind everyone of the continuing shortage of wastewater and water operators throughout upstate New York. In my travels, things are getting more challenging by the day, and I believe it will peak mid-summer. I would encourage each system to develop a sustainability plan if they have not done so already.

It looks like a busy season ahead. Many communities are seeking projects to upgrade their wastewater systems throughout upstate New York State. Have a great summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone in May 2022 at the Turning Stone Resort! 💧💧