



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

I sit writing this article as we prepare to travel to Washington, D.C., to attend and participate in the National Rural Water Association Rally. The NRWA Rally is an annual event where representatives of all the state rural water associations gather to attend meetings and call on our congressional members to support our program funding for the NYRWA, and also funding initiatives that benefit the water and wastewater industry in general. This year I will be joined by Board Directors Florence Braunius and Steve Freeman, as well as our CEO, Jamie Herman. This year our effort will focus on funding levels for 2021, as the 2020 appropriations have already been established.

The Rally also includes various committee meetings for our state associations, and the annual NRWA Board Meeting. I along with others will announce if we will be seeking a higher office at

the National Board level. I will announce my intention to run, and request the entire boards support for the position of Executive Vice President. If successful, after two years serving as the Executive Vice President, I will announce in 2022 that I will ask for the NRWA Board of Directors support for the position of President of the National Rural Water Association. I hope this service will continue to help with the future of the NYRWA and all other state associations in the future.

I would like to thank everyone for their past support and for the future support as we continue to grow as an association. In closing, let's not forget our NYRWA conference in May 2020, in lovely Lake Placid. I also would like to mention that one of our guests will be NRWA President Kent Watson from the great state of Texas. 💧💧

