



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

It's the end of August as I am writing this article. I can say the weather in 2020 has been very good to Central NY, but I'm sad to say that's about all that went well.

I was informed several weeks ago that New York State has come forward with two incentives for NYS employees and those who are enrolled in the local retirement system. This incentive opportunity is currently sitting in the Civil Service and Pension Committees of both the State Assembly as Bill #A7449A and NYS Senate as Bill # S8151A. They are both offering the incentive as a temporary, 3 year window of opportunity. This incentive is for those who are 55 years old with 25 years of service and it would equate to being 55 years of age with 30 years of service. I also heard that in addition to that, there could be a one month, per year incentive for every year of service, up to 36 months. I think that is great for the people who qualify; however this puts added strain on the water and wastewater industry. The water and wastewater industry is already in trouble with finding qualified candidates to

take the many openings that exist right now, so it could prove interesting to see how the DOH and the DEC will address the upcoming shortages.

I would also like to congratulate Bill Pickett from the Village of Brownville. Bill was selected to fulfill Steve Freeman's term as Board member on the New York Rural Water Association's Board of Directors. I have known Bill for close to 20 years. He has dual certification in both water and wastewater. Bill will do a great job.

That's it for now, talk to you in 2021. 💧💧💧