

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF

By Steve Freeman, Circuit Rider II

Hello Aquafacts readers. I would like to formally introduce myself. My name is Steve Freeman and I am honored to have been offered the opportunity to try and fill the large shoes of the retired Doug Smorol. I would like to personally thank Doug for his twenty-four years of dedicated service to the NYRWA membership. Doug has also earned the title as, longest tenured NYRWA Circuit Rider. Doug was always there to share his knowledge and wisdom with the Rural Water community, and never let me down when I needed his expertise.

I have been a New York State Certified Water Operations Specialist for thirty-three years, holding a Grade IIB, C and D certification along with also being a New York State certified backflow prevention device tester. Before starting my employment with NYRWA, at the ripe old age of twenty-two, I was hired to operate a community rural water system in northern New York, a job I thoroughly enjoyed for over thirty-three years. My responsibilities included everything involved in operating a small water system including, but not limited to, meter repair, meter reading, billing, reports, distribution, distribution repair, new construction, hydrants, valves, daily pump house activities, sampling, dealing with regulatory authorities, regulatory issues, associated permits and operational plans, leak detection, line and valve location, vehicle maintenance and repair, operation and repair of heavy equipment, backflow device testing, hydrant flushing and occasionally waiting on customers at the payment counter to name a few. And of course, being on call twenty-four-seven. Basically, the same duties as all small system operators. I have been married to my supportive wife, Michelle, for twenty-five years and have two daughters, Addison who is in graduate school and Callie who will be graduating from high school in June.

Through the years of operating my own water system, I was often called upon to assist neighboring water systems with their operational issues, a task which I was always willing to complete. I have always found it very rewarding to have the ability to help others. I am looking forward to serving the rural water community in the same fashion. Rural Water has been an integral part of my career since the beginning and I am now proud to be a part of this team of true professionals that has provided the membership with unsurpassed service for over forty-two years.

I am looking forward to getting out and meeting the heroes that keep our rural water and wastewater systems running and providing to you the same quality assistance you have come to expect.

If I can be of any assistance to your system, please give me a call at the office 518-828-3155 ext. 220 or send me an e-mail at freeman@nyruralwater.org. Please check out our website at www.nyruralwater.org.

org to see all the benefits this great organization has to offer. Working together we will continue to provide "Quality on Tap"! 💧💧

