



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Matthew A. Thorp, Sr. | NYRWA President

As I am writing this article I want to say thank you to my friend and colleague John O'Connell for his service and leadership as President of this great association for the past 5 years. John currently serves as 1st Vice President of National Rural Water Association and will be going in as President of National in September of 2022. John has worked very hard and dedicated over 20 years serving as our National Director and it's great to see his hard work pay off.

While I am writing this article, I must wonder what the future has in store for us. The past year was difficult for all of us with the pandemic and the issues that impacted the world. A very special thank you to all the water and wastewater operations specialists along with our public works professionals, whom all of you are the most essential of all essential workers and deserve the same recognition and thank you given to doctors, nurses, police, ems, and firefighters. Just imagine what the effects of a water borne illness or contamination of the public drinking water supply would have done during the height of the pandemic. For us in this profession it's simply about doing our jobs correctly and with a sense of pride as we are the first line of defense for public health.

During the following months as the country tries to recover, and we attempt to get back to some type of normalcy, please remember your mental health is as important as your physical health. I know many who have lost loved ones not just necessarily from Covid-19 either, and we truly never got a chance to say goodbye to friends and loved ones.

This past year was a first for the Association by doing our first ever web-based workshop and by all accounts it was a big success. I want to thank all our Staff and our Associate vendors who participated doing presentations. It was definitely different and truly not the same as in person training. Let's hope our 2022 Annual Technical Training Workshop & Exhibition at the Turning Stone Resort will get us all back together to see old friends and make many new ones.

To the Staff of this great Association thank you for everything you do, as I have said thousands of times, you're simply the best.

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