

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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By Matthew A. Thorp, Sr.

WaterPro, Funding and Lingering effects of the Pandemic.

As I prepare this article for Aquafacts, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the recent NRWA WaterPro conference last month in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This event was a very enjoyable and successful conference by all accounts. I want to thank the staff for their dedication, attending sessions, and their professionalism representing New York Rural Water Association. Vice President Badman and I attended board member training sessions which is part of our jobs as Directors of this great association. Our CEO Jamie Herman attended many meetings with other CEOs from the state associations that comprise the National Rural Water Association umbrella.

It was truly very heartwarming to be able to see colleagues and friends from across the country that we as a collective group have come to know. There was a very positive "vibe" by almost all that attended. To reach out to a friend, shake a hand, give a hug and see each other without a computer screen was to me, a blessing.

The NRWA staff reported on the historic funding levels proposed by congress for the upcoming fiscal year, with large gains for us, RURAL AMERICA. Thank you to all the state associations and The National Directors for working with our representatives in Washington, DC for all their efforts. I want to thank our National Director for his relentless push for the new Wastewater Circuit Rider positions that NRWA was awarded and we here in NY have benefitted from.

The true test for these historic funding levels will be the ability to put this money onto and into our water and wastewater systems. The effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic shut down are still being felt in every aspect of our industry/profession and all walks of life. This is truly a cause for concern. With the supply chain issues, lack of workforce in public and private sector, along with rising costs of everything the historic funding could possibly mean not getting much more done than pre-pandemic because of this snowball effect. I'm hoping for the best in this current environment.

As always thank you to the membership of this great association for their support and to the best staff in this industry. Without you we don't exist.

A special thank you to our Associate Members who have been there for us through all of this with assistance and for providing training for our Operations Specialists to get much needed contact hours for their certifications.

Please be safe and God Bless all of you and your families and the greatest nation on earth. 💧💧💧

Matthew A. Thorp, Sr.  
NYRWA President

