

# Chair's Message



MIKE MARINO  
CHAIR

It is hard to believe that summer 2011 has come and gone already! Whether dealing with the impacts of natural disasters or keeping current with the evolution of drinking water and hydro-fracking regulations, it surely was a busy season for you. Section volunteers have also been very busy!

The remnants of Hurricanes Irene and Ivan unfortunately left a path of destruction through portions of the State, many of which are still dealing with the recovery efforts. As many of you are aware, the Section encourages its members to join NYWARN, formed to ensure utilities have a means to quickly get support during just such an emergency situation. If you are not currently a member, please let this be a reminder to sign on in the near future ([www.nywarn.org](http://www.nywarn.org)).

As discussed later in this issue of *Aquarius*, the Section established an Ad-hoc committee to study and comment on the developments related to high volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State. As you will read, there has been no shortage of developments and documents for the committee to work on. We are currently in a public comment period for the revised Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact

Statement (SGEIS) prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. I encourage you to take full advantage of the Ad-hoc committee we have established and make known your thoughts and concerns on this subject. The public comment period closes on December 12, 2011.

The Section Board of Governors held its annual planning meeting during August. At that meeting, Carrie Meek Gallagher made a presentation related to the formation of a Sustainability Committee within the Section. The Board felt our membership would be well served by this initiative and established an Ad-hoc Sustainability Committee. This new committee is being Chaired by Carrie and met for the first time during the Tifft Symposium. Please take the time to see her column in this issue of *Aquarius* and consider participating in the committee.

Hopefully you were able to join us at the Tifft Symposium held during September at the Liverpool Holiday Inn. Once again, the volunteers that participated in both the planning and execution of the Tifft did an outstanding job! In addition to the excellent learning opportunities provided at our first ever Corrosion Institute and the daily sessions, our

members were able to have some fun playing Texas hold 'em or golf at the beautiful Bellevue County Club, both to benefit Water for People.

The 100th anniversary of the New York Section, AWWA's first Section, is fast approaching! Our planning committee is making arrangements for a grand celebration which will be held May 13-15, 2014 in Rochester. 100th Anniversary planning committee chair (and Section Vice-Chair) Amanda Bauner updates you on additional event details and how you and your utility can participate in her story in this issue.

As much fun as the fall and winter are (especially in Western New York), I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Annual Meeting in Saratoga Springs, April 2012. Thank you to all the volunteers that help make this great Association what it is. We are always looking for ways to better serve our members. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Section office with any comments or suggestions you may have for new programs or improvements to our existing programs.

I hope you all enjoy the holiday season, and here's a toast (of water) to a safe and prosperous 2012!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Marino". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

# Section Director's Message



DENNIS KELLEHER  
SECTION DIRECTOR

**T**oday's economic environment is affecting everyone; the water supply industry is no exception.

Whether you are a municipality, a private utility or a private business, you are taking a hard look at your budgets, your expenses and your bottom line. Water utilities are questioning whether they should keep their memberships in professional organizations such as the AWWA. They also are evaluating the need to attend conferences, seminars and workshops. Sometimes, the answer is no, they won't renew their membership in AWWA or they'll skip the ACE this year.

This "tightening of the belt" has had an adverse impact on AWWA. We continued to see a drop in membership and attendance at Association events, which directly impacts the revenue side of the operations.

So what is AWWA doing about it? Over the past three years, the Association has reduced its annual budget by \$4 million and cut its staff by over 10 percent. The Association conducted a program analysis of all AWWA programs and eliminated those that do not provide a sufficient benefit to our members.

The Association is actively evaluating ways to increase the value of our membership, and is promoting those benefits now included with your membership. Many members do not realize the numerous benefits that AWWA provides. One major benefit that sometimes goes unnoticed is the AWWA government affairs office in Washington, D.C. and the staff there that monitors legislative and regulatory process. This alone can justify a utility membership in AWWA.

One significant change the Association Board had to make was to modify the Life Member category. Currently, AWWA has over 5,200 life members (over 10% of total membership) who, after 30 years of membership, are not required to pay dues. This costs the Association over \$650,000 a year. Life Members are expected to increase to 25% of total membership within the next few years for a cost of over \$1 million per year.

After much discussion, the Board agreed that, as of January 1, 2012, current Life Members will be required to pay dues of \$85 per year, a discount of half the individual membership rate. Life Members who are retired also have the option of changing their membership to Retired at a cost of \$44 per year.

In addition, the new Life Membership requires individuals to have 30 years of membership plus be at least 65 years old. This will slow the growth of our Life Membership group.

We hope that our Life Members understand the economic need for this change.

Hopefully, the economy will turn around soon. If not, please be assured that the AWWA Board of Directors will do what is necessary to keep the organization healthy and strong.

**Do you have a technical article  
that would be of interest  
to Aquarius readers?**

**Send it, and any photographs  
to accompany it, to  
[aquarius@nysawwa.org](mailto:aquarius@nysawwa.org)**

# Executive Director's Message

ROCHELLE CASSELLA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**F**or 18 years, I worked as a broadcast journalist and as a documentary producer. I came from the Jack Webb School of Journalism—you know, “just the facts.” Both sides of the issue had to be covered and you had to attribute your information to a specific source. There was no taking sides, no emotional statements, no unnamed reports, and no bloggers calling themselves citizen journalists. “Just the facts, ma’am.”

Would that it were so today. Especially in the coverage of hydraulic fracturing to drill Marcellus shale for natural gas. The ratings battle and fight for readers makes it difficult to pass up headlines about water you can set on fire and the number of jobs that drilling will create. I’ve seen plenty of emotion in the coverage but I haven’t heard much fact.

During a presentation on hydrofracking, I saw the statement “shale gas work in PA has produced 48,000 jobs in just 2010 alone.” Says who, my reporter self shouted at the news conference I created in my head. “What kind of jobs? How many hires were local residents and how many people were brought into the area by drilling companies? How long will these jobs last?” And another statement: “the gas industry projects an average of 1,600 wells drilled per year in NY over 30 years.” In my imaginary news conference, Reporter Rochelle responded with “how long does a well last? What happens when a well is used up?” When someone asked the presenter where Pennsylvania was

storing its contaminated flowback water, he said that many used holding tanks. “How much do the tanks hold? How long before they leak? How long are the tanks left on the drilling site? Where do they go when the well shuts down?” I wanted to know.

You get the idea. I want some facts to help me decide if allowing hydrofracking is a good idea or not. And I want New York State officials to base their decision about the issue on facts, some of which should come from people who work in the drinking water industry.

I know that in a state where more than 7,500 people lost jobs in August (NYS Department of Labor), it’s tempting to go for something that offers the promise of employment. And it’s easy to get caught up in the emotion of homeowners protesting against a contaminated environment and landscape-scarring wells. But I don’t want policy to be created on either promises or emotion. I want the lawmakers conducting public hearings on the issue to ask insightful questions that cut through the politics and heated arguments. I want my representatives in the state Assembly and Senate to make decisions about my drinking water on facts. And just the facts.

## New York Section's 100th Anniversary - Rochester - May 13-15, 2014!

**O**ur 100th Anniversary Committee is setting timelines and getting details in place for this historical event. John Frazer is leading the efforts to produce a historical journal. We are interested in any historical dates, facts, and photos from our members regarding New York water. Please contact John Frazer with any relevant information.

We will once again hold an auction during the Water Event in April 2012. More detailed information will be sent out soon detailing how you can make donations. Many thanks to those who donated to help make this year’s auction successful — we raised over \$2,800 to put towards making the 100th Anniversary Event a valuable and memorable experience for all of our members.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Amanda Bauner ([abauner@greeley-hansen.com](mailto:abauner@greeley-hansen.com)).



AMANDA BAUNER  
100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

# Welcome, New Members!

(From June 30 - Oct. 12, 2011)

**Doryan Anaya**

**Gene Arthur**  
Endicott Municipal Water

**George Baberkov**

**Tim Clayton**  
Holland Company

**Brian Colgin**  
City of Long Beach  
Water Dpt.

**Dedrick Damato**

**Mary Firoozan**

**Jean Fremont**  
Veolia France

**Scott Freyburger**  
Tioga County Public Health

**Jovan Greenhill**  
City of Long Beach Water Dpt.

**Robert Hill**  
Jacobs

**Earl Jann**  
Erie County Water Authority

**Nicholas Josten**  
GENTERRA Consultants, Inc.

**Timothy Jowell**  
A.O Fox Memorial Hospital

**Muhammad Khalid**

**Gareth King**

**Todd Krizelman**  
Magazine Radar

**Dana Lindsay**

**Jeff Moffett**  
Odyssey Investment Partners

**Harold Morton**  
Ellicottville Water Department

**Ross Rodrigues**  
Odyssey Investment Partners

**Pat Roney**  
Village of Waverly

**Kaushik Shetty**  
Rentricity

**Andrew Simmons**

**Erin Spadavecchia**

**Jean-Luc Strehaiano**  
Veolia France

**Joe Tokarz**  
Long Lake Water Department

**Ang Zhu**  
Rentricity



## Aman, Hansen Tapped for Board

The Trustee Nominating Committee responsible for presenting nominations for Trustee and Trustee-at-Large to NYSAWWA Board of Governors has nominated Martin Aman for the six year Trustee position. Marty currently serves as a Trustee-At-Large on the Board. He is the Executive Director of the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority and is a regional chair for the New York Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN).

Judy Hansen has been nominated to fill the Trustee-At-Large position being left vacant as Charlie Gonzalez completes his two terms. Hansen is the superintendent of the Kingston Water Department. She currently serves as vice chair of the Section's Program Committee.

If Aman is elected, the Board will name an individual to complete his Trustee-At-Large term.

Per Section bylaws, petitions to submit additional nominations for Trustee or Trustee-at-Large are due to Section Secretary/ NYSAWWA Executive Director, Rochelle Cassella, by January 1, 2012 with at least 20 member signatures supporting the nomination. If the Section receives a petition, there will be an election during January 2012. If there are no additional candidates, the Board will vote on the slate as recommended at the winter board meeting scheduled for January 10, 2012 in Rochester.