

## A Letter from Our President

When looking back at how I first became involved with CPWQA, it's hard for me to believe that it has already been 15 years since I was first introduced to this industry as an entry level Operator in Harrisburg. I was lucky enough to have several coworkers who were actively involved with the association and encouraged me to join them for some upcoming Central Section plant tours. I was fascinated how each facility, unique in its own right, achieved the common goal of protecting our receiving waters through a seemingly infinite combination of process technologies. By meeting with vendors, I was introduced to a variety of equipment and services that I otherwise would not have known. I was meeting some of the brightest minds the industry has to offer through networking at these events. With the encouragement of CPWQA leaders and my workplace managers, I decided to become active in the association by participating at the committee level. All these years later, I'm truly honored to serve as CPWQA President in 2019.

I take over at a time of great transition for the section as we are finally going digital. Over the past several years we have been developing a new website, new membership software which enable us to communicate with all of you more efficiently via email, and the ability to accept online payments for CPWQA membership fees and event registrations. Our 2017 President, Mike Mehaffey, laid the groundwork by leading the research and design of these upgrades. Erin Threet, last year's President, led the construction of these improvements by holding workshops and countless brainstorming sessions to ensure that we would be implementing something appealing to our membership. I am an Operator at my core, so it will be my focus in 2019 to ensure our newly designed website, email communications and online registrations operate as seamlessly as possible. This is a very important transition in our association's history, and it deserves a constant focus to ensure that the goal of these improvements is achieved---to provide an increased level of service to our membership.

I understand there may be some growing pains with this change, but we are committed to making this as painless as possible for our membership and are willing to work with you to do so. If you are having any difficulties with the new digital transition or would like to discuss any suggestions for how we can improve, I urge you to call me directly to discuss (717-736-9742). Again, these changes were designed to improve service to our membership, so your input is critical.

That's not to say there won't be other exciting things to come for CPWQA membership in 2019. We will be renewing our initiative to offer Webinars to our membership, eventually for DEP continuing education credits. CPWQA has also put together an Operations Challenge team to compete at PennTec and WEFTEC in 2019, and we are hoping to showcase one of the events at each of this year's Plant Tours, so we hope for your support. Lastly, we will be cosponsoring a new event with the Western Section with a Sporting Clays Shoot, taking place on April 15<sup>th</sup> at

Seven Springs. This event will benefit CPWQA's scholarship fund. Event registration information will be sent to all members in the coming weeks.

Your CPWQA Board is determined to do the best job we possibly can for our membership, but we need your help! Please consider becoming more involved in the Association. We have multiple committees run by one volunteer so any time commitment, no matter how small, can mean a huge difference in the service we can provide. Please, if you have any interest in serving the Association, I again urge you to contact me directly. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Again, I'd like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President of such a great organization. I'm looking forward to a fun and exciting year for the section!

Jess Rosentel