The President's Column - Summer 2018 newsletter

By Kelli Timbrook
NYSAR3 President

Hello NYSAR^3 members, I hope everyone is having a fun and sun filled summer! I know my garden is loving all the sunshine we are getting!

The Board of Directors has been very productive this summer, hosting the Annual Retreat in June. This is an opportunity for us to assess successes and challenges from the past year, as well as form campaigns and initiatives for the coming year. In the successes column we can chalk up wins under passed legislation for pharmaceutical take-back, expanded grant opportunities through the DEC and ESD, and a highly attended Organics Summit in the spring. The Single Use Plastic's committee is also in the midst of launching a Bring Your Bag campaign, and anticipates participation from grocery and box stores from across the state - keep an eye out for your reusable bag and more info at this years' Annual Recycling Conference in Cooperstown.

One challenge we faced this summer was losing our Staff Assistant Savannah when she moved to North Carolina. Many of you had met and dealt with Savannah in the year and a half she worked for NYSAR, and her upbeat, friendly personality will be missed. She will not be easy to replace, but the Board is currently in the process of searching for a new assistant, hoping to have someone in place in August.

I am excited to announce that NYSAR^3 has picked its campaign for the 2018-19 year: "Clean the Bin- Playing the Recycling Game to Win." This committee, chaired by Chapter 2 representative Michael Rieser, will focus on educational outreach in New York to encourage recyclers to minimize the contamination going into their recycling bins. This campaign is very timely as many municipalities, MRFs and private companies are feeling the pressure of the National Sword issue. Look for more information and initiatives to come from this committee in the coming years.

Another development for 2018 is the formulation of the Women 4 Recycling- a group of women who are committed to reduction, reuse, recycling and rethinking the role women play in sustainable materials management. This fledgling group has targeted prominent women in the industry to learn from their knowledge and experience. Want to know more or become involved? There will be a session at the Annual Recycling Conference, all are welcome to attend.

I'll wrap up this column with one last exciting announcement: As many of you already know (and have seen!), I will be on maternity leave starting early August. I leave you in the very capable hands of the Board Vice President Debbie Jackson and the rest of the Board. Any inquiries and assistance you need in August and September can be directed through Debbie. I look forward to seeing all the progress NYSAR^3 makes in that time and plan on bringing a new environmentalist to the Fall Conference in Cooperstown!