



New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling Inc.

Spring 2017

NYSAR3 President's Column,

By Kelli Timbrook

I have been a member of NYSAR3 for several years now, and have always admired and been inspired by the drive, passion and experience of its members. To now be serving as your President is a privilege and an honor. I will do my best to continue to guide our organization along the same progressive and sustainable path as the past presidents, and of course the hard working Board and committee members.

As we head into spring and leave the cold days of winter behind us, I'd like to take a look back at the first 100 days of 2017. New York State has seen promising signs in the food scraps recycling world, such as the Governor's budget and the Organics Summit that was held in March. The College Council has awarded two grants for 2017 and the Green Schools Committee is gearing up for its spring round of grant applications. We have two new Board members to welcome in 2017 and a new Plastics Litter committee. These are all in addition to the numerous other legisla-

tive issues that NYSAR3 has supported, such as an extended Poly-Styrene ban in Albany and requesting Governor Cuomo to recognize Compost Awareness week in NY.

Let's start with the Governor's budget: Governor Cuomo added a line into the 2017-2018 budget for mandatory Food Scraps Recovery and recycling, to take effect in 2021. This is a huge step toward getting valuable resources out of landfills and into the hands of hungry people or using them to increase soil health. \$3 million dollars was provided in the EPF that will go toward providing educational materials and infrastructure for municipalities. NYSAR3 reviewed the language in the budget proposal and suggested additional wording based on feedback from members. This feedback was accepted and added to the current draft of the budget. The budget was not passed by the April 1st deadline, but it looks promising that this line item will remain in the final budget.

The Organics Summit was again very successful this year, bringing in

a larger crowd than ever! The Education and Events sub-committee did an amazing job organizing and running the Summit and Gary Feinland did a wonderful write up for this newsletter. You talked and we listened! At the 2016 Annual Recycling Conference, a special pre-conference day was held on plastics and the confusion around recycling them. The decision was made for NYSAR3 to start a new committee focused entirely on this—the Plastic Litter Committee, with Gary Carrel (new to the Board of Directors in Chapter 9) as the chair. The group has been extremely productive, already hosting a webinar and requesting representation on the Plastic Bags Task Force put together by the Governor. Watch for upcoming news about the campaign against plastic litter as this committee continues to grow and develop.

Lastly, progress is marching forward to the Federation Conference in May at the Sagamore Resort in Bolton's Landing. Don't forget to register early and book your room before they are all gone, hope to see you there!