

Honorary Resolution for John F. Guastella

Whereas, John F. Guastella was a prime mover in 1974 in the creation of the National Association of Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Utility Rate School, beginning with the Eastern school in 1974 and adding the Western school in 1980;

Whereas, John was employed by the New York State Public Service Commission for 16 years;

Whereas, in 1970, the New York State Public Service Commission promoted John to Chief of Rates and Finance in the Commission's Water Division;

Whereas, in 1972, John was made Assistant Director of the Commission's Water Division;

Whereas, in 1974, John was promoted by New York State Public Service Commission Chairman Alfred E. Kahn to Director of the Water Division with duties to include performance and supervision of engineering and economic studies concerning rates and service, and responsibility for more than 450 water companies in New York State, and led a professional staff of 32 engineers plus 3 technicians;

Whereas, during John's tenure with the New York State Public Service Commission he served as vice-chairman of NARUC's Staff Subcommittee on Water and prepared a detailed instruction on the kinds of operation and accounting records that should be kept by small water utilities and how to use those records, for a NARUC publication, "Model Record-Keeping Manual for Small Water Companies;"

Whereas, in 1974 he prepared study materials for what was the beginning of NARUC's Eastern Rate School, coordinating over the years with the University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of Utah, Florida State University, the University of Florida and Michigan State University;

Whereas, John served for over four years as President of Country Knolls Water Works, Inc., that served some 5,500 customers in Saratoga County, New York;

Whereas, in 1978, John left the New York State Public Service Commission and established his own firm, Guastella Associates, LLC, ultimately serving clients in 28 states in matters of utility regulation and rate setting, encompassing revenue requirements, revenues, operations and maintenance expenses, depreciation, taxes, return on investment, cost allocation and rate design;

Whereas, through Guastella Associates, John has performed depreciation studies to establish average service life, depreciation rates for utility property and performed appraisals of utility companies for management purposes and condemnation proceedings;

Whereas, John has qualified and been accepted as an expert witness before regulatory agencies and municipalities in the states of Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware,

Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia;

Whereas, John served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC);

Whereas, John has continuously lectured at nearly each of NARUC's Eastern and Western Rate Schools during the past 50 years, and has served as an instructor and panelist on water and wastewater regulation for the Independent Water and Sewer Companies of Texas, the New England Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies, and developed and conducted a special seminar for developer-related water and wastewater utilities in conjunction with Florida State University and the University of Florida;

Whereas, John prepared and conducted special workshop seminars on financial structuring of small water and wastewater utilities and participated in an expert workshop on full-cost pricing conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and has conducted numerous rate-setting and valuation seminars on behalf of the New York, New Jersey, Florida and New England Chapters of the National Association of Water Companies;

Whereas, John has presented on a wide variety of rate, valuation, and regulatory issues before NARUC, the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the New England Water Works Association, the National Association of Water Companies, the New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners, the Mid-American Regulatory Conference, the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Pennsylvania Environmental Conference, the Public Utility Law Section of the New Jersey Bar Association and the NAWC Water Utility Executive Council, and was instrumental in the development of the M-1 Water Rates manual of the AWWA;

Whereas, John has taught thousands of students, including regulatory staff, utility personnel, commissioners, and members of accounting, engineering, legal, and consulting firms throughout the country;

Whereas, past rate school students can say that John's brief explanation of the Theory of Relativity surpasses anything Einstein could do, demonstrating that if he could teach you that Theory in five minutes, you would have nothing to fear from Rate School;

Whereas, John remained loyally dedicated to the NARUC Rate Schools for 50 years, even during years of extreme state budget constrictions;

Whereas, even during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic John continued to share his knowledge, teaching virtually with students online via ZOOM, maintaining his devoted years of unbroken service;

Whereas, John's teaching method was brilliantly humorous, memorable, and effective;

Whereas, John is one of the kindest people you would ever meet;

Whereas, John has always been ready with a smile on his face and eagerness to help improve and contribute to the Rate Schools in any way;

Whereas, John has stayed involved for 50 years because he knows that “one must do, what one must do;” now therefore be it

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2023 Winter Policy Summit, congratulates and thanks John F. Guastella for his life-long commitment to utility technical and rate-setting education and professional services to regulated and unregulated utilities nationally, and 50 years to NARUC, specifically.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Water and the Education and Research Committee
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 15, 2023*