



OGA News & Views

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*We want to hear from you!
Ideas, concerns, ways to make the
association more effective for you.*

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Register Today for the OGA 2016 Leadership Conference

The annual OGA Leadership Conference will challenge participants with a simple question — WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 5, 2016 at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma and registration is open at www.okgas.org. The registration fee is \$99 per person which includes lunch. All preregistered participants will receive a copy of the book *Making Smart Decisions*, Harvard Business Review.

"Leaders are called upon to make good decisions in various situations," said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. "This one-day conference will focus on real-life circumstances and the decision making process."

Conference participants will be assigned to small working groups. Groups will be given leadership and business scenarios and asked to develop a response to the situation as presented from different perspectives. Recommendations will be presented and discussed.

In addition to working sessions, the conference will hear from two industry leaders — One Gas' Scott Shepherd and Mari Bailey from TD Williamson. (see LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, page 8)

Tell Deserving High School Seniors to Apply for an OGA Scholarship

Dependent children or grandchildren of an OGA member or retiree who will graduate from high school this spring are encouraged to apply now for an OGA Scholarship.

"Each year the OGA Scholarship Committee selects deserving graduating seniors for a \$1,000 scholarship," said Tom Rider, OGA's Executive Director. "Last year, we were able to fund four scholarships."

Scholarship packets are due by May 1. Those interested in learning more about the scholarship and the application process should go to the OGA website — www.okgas.org — and download both the scholarship policy and application form.

"The Scholarship Policy states clearly what an applying senior is required to submit," Rider added. "We will only consider complete application packets, so we recommend applicants start the process as soon as possible."

For more information about the OGA Scholarship, go to www.okgas.org. Questions should be directed to Tom Rider at tom@meso.org.

Heath Consultants, T.D. Williamson, ONEOK Partners First to Participate in OGA's Annual Corporate Sponsorship Program

The OGA 2016 Annual Corporate Sponsorship Program has three partners in its first year – Heath Consultants, – Bronze Annual Corporate Sponsor, T.D. Williamson – Platinum Annual Corporate Sponsor, and ONEOK Partners – Silver Annual Corporate Sponsor.

“We thank Heath, T.D. Williamson and ONEOK for their continued support of the OGA and their commitment to our programs for 2016,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director.

The OGA Annual Corporate Sponsorship Program allows members to make a one-time annual investment to help underwrite current and future programs such as speakers for the OGA Leadership Conference and annual conference.

“We heard from our sponsors that they would be interested in a simpler way to support the OGA,” Rider said. “We expect to continue to refine and enhance the program for 2017 with the goal of ensuring value to those companies who support our association’s activities and members.”

For more information about supporting the OGA or association events and programs, contact Rider at tom@meso.org.



T.D. Williamson



AGA Chairman Natural Gas, “Helping Us Meet Our National Goals of Boosting Our Economy”

New York, NY – American Gas Association (AGA) Chairman Ralph LaRossa says that natural gas holds incredible opportunity for customers, utility employees and investors. Speaking at the New York Society of Security Analysts recently, the President and Chief Operating Officer of Public Service Electric & Gas Co. in New Jersey said the expansion of natural gas in the United States, driven by abundant supply and affordable prices, will require a diverse and inclusive workforce to upgrade and maintain the energy infrastructure that will deliver natural gas safely and reliably to growing number of customers.

“Americans want natural gas to heat their homes, warm their water and cook their food because it is comfortable, efficient and affordable,” LaRossa said. “Throughout the United States utilities are adding new pipeline capacity and upgrading existing infrastructure to make sure that the gas can get to customers — especially when they need it most. We need skilled workers to dig the trenches, weld the pipes and hook up new customers. Through greater use of natural gas, we have an opportunity to create jobs and continue to revitalize our economy.”

The 30-year veteran of the utility industry also

noted that the direct use of natural gas reduces emissions and can make a huge impact on the bottom line of a home, business or government. Households with natural gas versus all-electric appliances save an average of \$840 per year. In fact, low domestic natural gas prices have led to savings of almost \$69 billion for residential natural gas customers over the past four years. In addition, households with natural gas versus all-electric appliances produce 37 percent lower greenhouse gas emissions. The American Gas Association has released a report entitled [“Dispatching Direct Use: Achieving Greenhouse Gas Reductions with Natural Gas in Homes and Businesses.”](#)

LaRossa told the audience, “Natural gas is great for our communities because it creates good paying jobs and the opportunity for career advancement. It is also helping us meet our national goals of boosting our economy, improving our environment and increasing our energy security. This clean energy source will continue to play a significant role in the energy future of this nation and many others.”

(From the American Gas Association – Published January 20, 2016)

OGA Hosts Annual Legislative Forum

OGA members recently gathered for the 2016 Legislative Forum to prepare for Oklahoma's Legislative session.

"As an association, we want to do our best to keep our members up to date on what they might be able to expect coming from the state capitol from either lawmakers during the session and other regulatory agencies," Rider said. "Our 2016 legislative forum touched some on both."

The audience heard from State Senator Mike Schulz, Altus, and Bill Phelps, Phelps and Associates. Their presentation — "Understanding the Law-Making Process: From Idea to the Governor's Desk" — provided a unique insider's view of the workings at the Capitol.

The agenda read that Secretary Michael Teague, Department of Energy & Environment would be presenting "Issues Facing Natural Gas," but

he provided interesting insight into Oklahoma's challenges with on-going earthquakes and the state's response efforts.

Scott Doyle, CenterPoint Energy Senior Vice President for Regulatory & Government Affairs, discussed "Building Relationships, Before You Need Them." He discussed his experience as an industry professional dealing with public policy makers and lawmakers and the gap in knowledge. He laid a straightforward road map to building relationships with those in the position to impact your business.

Commissioner Dana Murphy, Oklahoma Corporation Commission and a regular speaker at OGA events, discussed "Inspection and Enforcement of PHMSA Excavator Rules (How the rules evolved). Murphy played a key leadership role in the development of these rules.



**State Senator
Mike Schulz, Altus**



**Scott Doyle,
CenterPoint Energy,
Senior Vice President,
for Regulatory &
Government Affairs**



**Secretary Michael Teague,
Oklahoma Department of
Energy & Environment**

SAVE THE DATE

2016 OGA Annual Conference

("Achieving Excellence")

August 29 – 31, 2016

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center • Norman, Oklahoma

Thank you,
T.D. Williamson, Inc.
for being a
**Platinum Annual
Corporate Sponsor**



T.D. Williamson

New Data Highlights Natural Gas Savings for Consumers and Our Economy

American Gas Association Releases 2016 Playbook

Washington, D.C. – Low domestic natural gas prices led to savings of almost \$69 billion for residential natural gas customers over the past four years, according to the [2016 American Gas Association Playbook](#), released recently. Filled with new data and detailed graphics, this essential handbook provides a comprehensive explanation about the role natural gas plays in American's daily lives and how it can help our nation achieve economic prosperity.

"More homes and businesses in America are using natural gas and the numbers continue to increase because it is comfortable, efficient and affordable," said President and CEO Dave McCurdy. "Households that use natural gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying spend an average of \$840 less per year than homes using electricity for those appliances. Millions of Americans are seeing these benefits every day,

and more consumers are choosing this abundant, clean energy."

The 2016 AGA Playbook includes the latest data surrounding natural gas and its role in changing the way Americans use energy. It includes pertinent information about pipeline safety, natural gas supply and usage, industry safety, energy efficiency, economic growth, cybersecurity and more. It also details information on the latest natural gas utility initiatives to enhance cyber and physical security including the [AGA Peer Review Program](#), the [Downstream Natural Gas Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#).

The 2016 Playbook can be accessed [online](#). If you are interested in hard copies, please contact Sherri Hamm at shamm@aga.org.

(From the American Gas Association – Published February 9, 2016)

Register today for the

OGA 2016 Leadership Conference

The annual OGA Leadership Conference will challenge participants with a simple question —

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 5, 2016

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma

Register at www.okgas.org.

The registration fee is \$99 per person which includes lunch.

All preregistered participants will receive a copy of the book

Making Smart Decisions, Harvard Business Review.

UPCOMING OGA EVENTS

2016 OGA Leadership Conference

("What Would You Do")

Thursday, May 5, 2016

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center
Norman, Oklahoma

The Suppliers Show hosted by the OGA

(in conjunction with PHMSA Training & Qualification and Pipeline Safety Training Presented by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's Pipeline Safety Department.)

May 10 – 13, 2016

DoubleTree Hotel at Warren Place • Tulsa, Oklahoma

2016 OGA Scholarship Classic & Exhibit

(to support annual OGA Scholarships)

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Cimarron National Golf Club • Guthrie, Oklahoma

2016 OGA Annual Conference

("Achieving Excellence")

August 29 – 31, 2016

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center
Norman, Oklahoma

2015 – 2016

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Tom Rider

Executive Director

Thank you

ONEOK Partners

for being a

Silver Annual Corporate Sponsor



ONEOK
PARTNERS

Natural Gas Utilities Launch New EPA Program to Reduce Emissions

Natural gas utilities are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Almost 40 AGA member companies today launched the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program](#) whereby oil and gas companies can make and track commitments to reduce emissions and showcase their efforts to improve air quality and capture and monetize this valuable energy resource. The companies, which represent 66 percent of the natural gas customers served in the United States, are Founding Partners of the program and joined EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation Janet McCabe at an event during the Global Methane Forum being held in Washington, DC to kick off the Challenge.

AGA Chairman Ralph LaRossa, President and Chief Operating Officer of Public Service Electric & Gas Co. in New Jersey, spoke at the event saying, "For more than two decades, natural gas utilities have worked productively with EPA to share best practices, helping to improve distribution operations and reduce emissions. EPA has recognized the success of our voluntary efforts by continuing to address emissions from distribution through voluntary

actions rather than regulatory mandates. We look forward to working with EPA and our members on this ambitious voluntary program."

The American Gas Association and many of its members were founders of the original Natural Gas STAR program in 1993. According to the EPA, the 50 AGA member companies participating in the Natural Gas STAR program [reduced emissions](#) by 0.8 billion cubic feet in 2013 and a total of 46.2 billion cubic feet since 1993.

In 2014, the AGA Board of Directors approved a set of [voluntary guidelines for reducing natural gas emissions](#). The report serves as a resource for AGA members to assist in evaluating potential options for distribution systems. Many of these guidelines now appear in EPA's Methane Challenge list of "Best Management Practices."

A concerted effort by natural gas utilities to upgrade our nation's pipeline network in order to enhance safety has also contributed significantly to a declining trend in emissions from the natural gas distribution system. A [report](#) published last year led by a team from Washington State University and

(see NATURAL GAS UTILITIES, page 8)

2016 OGA Scholarship Classic & Exhibit (to support annual OGA Scholarships)

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Cimarron National Golf Club
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Schedule of Events

9:30 a.m.	Registration Begins
10 a.m.	Exhibits and Equipment Show
11 a.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Golf Tournament Begins

Register at www.okgas.org.

Natural Gas Utilities

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sponsored by the Environmental Defense Fund found that as little as 0.1 percent of the natural gas delivered nationwide is emitted from local distribution systems.

Companies can join the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program at any time and several plan to join in the coming months. The companies joining the Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program as Founding Partners today include:

Ameren Illinois
Atmos Energy Corporation
AVANGRID Inc.
Avista Corp.
CenterPoint Energy
Consumers Energy
Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.
Dominion (Dominion Transmission, Inc., Dominion East Ohio, Dominion Hope)
DTE Energy
Duke Energy Corporation
Eversource Energy
Exelon Utilities (BGE, PECO, and Delmarva Power)
Kern River Gas Transmission Company
Knoxville Utilities Board

The Laclede Group
MDU Resources Group, Inc. (Cascade Natural Gas Co., Intermountain Gas Co., Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Great Plains Natural Gas Co.)
MidAmerican Energy Company
National Grid
NiSource Inc.
Northern Natural Gas
NW Natural
ONE Gas Inc.
Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc.
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Peoples Gas (Chicago)
Peoples Gas (Pittsburgh)
Piedmont Gas Natural
Public Service Electric & Gas Company
Puget Sound Energy
Questar Gas Company
Sempra Energy Utilities (San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Gas)
Southwest Gas Corporation
South Jersey Gas Company
TransCanada Corporation
UGI Utilities, Inc.
Vectren Corporation
Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
Washington Gas
Xcel Energy Inc.

Leadership Conference

(continued from page 1)

Shepherd is ONE Gas' Vice President responsible for leading their transformation project. The transformation project, "The Journey," focuses on the improvement of the natural gas distribution utilities' processes, technology and organization, primarily, in field operations. Prior to ONE Gas becoming a standalone publicly-owned company separated from ONEOK Inc., he served in the same role.

Bailey is a Human Resources professional with 30 years of Oil & Gas industry experience. She believes

individuals are responsible for managing their careers and is a dynamic speaker presenting "Personal Branding" through the lens of people's strengths. She invites participants to seek what sets them apart from each other and to articulate their offering in a branding statement.

"We believe we have a great day of learning lined up which combines hearing from industry leaders, and working in small groups developing effective solutions to events, and, in turn, improving communications skills," Rider added.

The deadline to register is Friday, April 22.

Thank you

Heath Consultants

for being a

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