



OGA News & Views

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OGA Prepares for 2018 Events

The OGA has set the dates for the association's annual events. "We are looking forward to 2018, and we expect to provide our members value at our annual events," said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. "I would encourage you to mark your calendars."

2018 will kick-off with the OGA's annual Legislative forum scheduled for February 1, 2018 in Midwest City. Michael Teague, Oklahoma's Secretary of Energy & Environment, will headline an interesting group of speakers. Final details are expected to be announced soon.

The 2018 OGA Scholarship Classic is scheduled for April 19, 2018 in Guthrie. Proceeds from this event go towards the OGA scholarships awarded to member dependents.

The 2018 OGA Leadership Conference returns to Norman May 17. The annual one-day leadership conference covered "Generation Separation" and "Leading In Spite of Chaos." Plans for the 2018 session are underway, and topics will be announced soon.

The association's premier event — the Annual Conference — will be held August 27-29 in Norman. The OGA Board has begun preliminary discussions on session topics. Details are expected to be announced late Spring or early Summer next year.

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

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Registration Is Open for THE LEADERSHIP COURSE for 2018

THE LEADERSHIP COURSE — a six month course focusing on leadership opportunities, challenges, and skills — returns to the OGA in January 2018.

OGA Executive Director, Tom Rider, will teach the course. For the past 25 years, he has worked with organizations and individuals helping them realize success through focused effort.

"We know for an organization to remain successful, potential leaders must be identified and developed," Rider said. "My goal for this course to provide foundational training for future leaders and those who are beginning their leadership journey.

"Each class concentrates on a specific aspect of an individual's understanding and application of leadership skills and traits," Rider added. "I expect participants will learn how to improve and maximize their talents and resources through classroom sessions and exercises,

(see LEADERSHIP COURSE, page 2)

Leadership Course

(continued from page 1)

required outside reading assignments, and completion of a leadership project.”

Class sessions (and dates) are:

- Leadership 101 (January 18)
- Leading Change (February 15)
- Visioning (March 29)
- Communicating the Vision (April 26)
- Developing Others (May 31)
- Leading People: Conclusion (June 28)
- Project Presentation (December 5)

The cost is \$800 and includes class material, books, and additional reading materials. Classes will be held in the OGAMESO Training Center, 308 NE 27th Street, Oklahoma City, with sessions beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The provided course books are:

- On Becoming a Leader by Warren Bennis
- Leading Change by John Kotter
- The Secret by Ken Blanchard & Mark Miller
- Leadership & Self-Deception by The Arbinger Institute

To successfully complete the Course, participants must complete a Leadership Project. To qualify as a Project, the participant will identify an opportunity

in which they can have a leadership role. The participant must plan, conduct, evaluate and present the project. This must be an actual project not a “hypothetical” or “possible” project idea.

Project Report should address the following:

- A summary of the project and its purpose, to include who benefited from the project and the participant’s role.
- A discussion of what the participant contributed to the project – time, effort, ideas, etc.
- A discussion regarding the participant’s utilization of a mentor(s) to assist them in success in their role.
- A discussion on the project’s outcomes – successes, shortfalls, unintended consequences. A review of the participant’s performance – what they did well; what they need to work on or manage better; what they learned; what they would do the same; and, what they would do differently.
- A discussion on what aspects of the Leadership Course class material, discussion and/or reading did the participant utilize as a resource during the project.

Questions about the course may be directed to Rider at tom@meso.org, and the registration deadline is January 5, 2018.

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OGA Holds Annual Conference

“What is he doing here” was the questions buzzing around the room when the OGA Annual Conference attendee noticed a “protestor” in the hallway.

It was the conference’s opening speaker, Monte Morgan, Public Safety & Security Manager, Williams, who kicked off the conference with his presentation — Responding Effectively to Opposition Groups. He used the opportunity to “protest” to introduce his presentation held the following morning.

Other featured speakers included industry veteran, Dewitt Burdeaux, TRC Companies, and David Darcey, Vice President of Corporate Strategic Development, Williams.

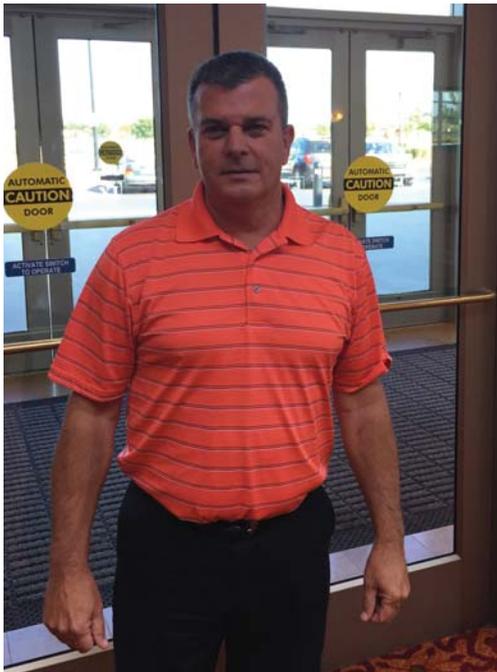
Burdeaux’s session was Understanding the Changes to Section 192: An Overview which introduced the possible regulatory changes which was the topic of several breakout sessions.

Darcey closed the conference by discussing Critical Issues Facing Our Industry. In his role at Williams, he offered his unique perspective.

The 2018 Annual Conference will return to the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference in Norman August 27-29.



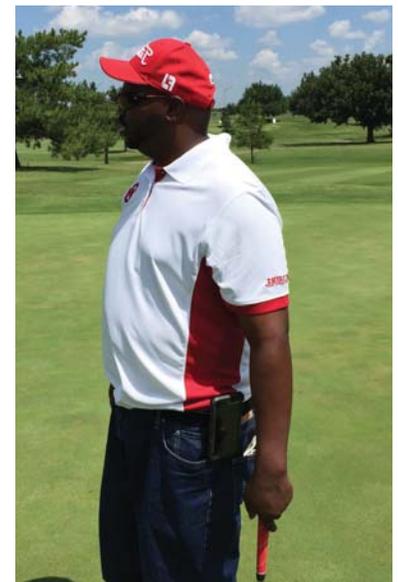
Don Olson, IRT Rectifier Technologies Inc. and OGA Boardmember, presenting on Rectifier Fundamentals.



Monte Morgan, Williams, BEFORE his presentation “Responding Effectively to Opposition Groups.”



Monte Morgan, Williams, AFTER his presentation “Responding Effectively to Opposition Groups.”



MESA’s Herb Jones at the pre-conference golf event.

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Colder Winter Means U.S. Natural Gas Customer May See 5% Bill Increase

Clean Natural Gas Will Continue to be the Most Affordable Option for Home Heating

From the American Gas Association
October 17, 2017

The American Gas Association (AGA) said today that natural gas customers nationwide may experience a five percent increase, on average, on their heating bills this winter compared to last year. Following two unseasonably warm winters for much of the country, residential customers are likely to use an average of three percent more natural gas this winter due to colder temperatures, which may result in a moderate increase in overall bills.

Natural gas will continue to be the most affordable option for home heating in the United States.

“Americans may use slightly more natural gas this winter to heat their homes, but due to the excellent energy value provided by natural gas, people are not likely to see a very different bill than what they have seen over the past seven years,” said Chris McGill, vice-president of Energy Analysis and Standards at AGA. “We are entering the third winter heating season following the extreme cold of 2013-2014 which included the polar vortex. We expect to see temperatures this winter that are more near normal – not as cold as three winters ago, but not as warm as last year. This accounts for an expectation of three percent more consumption and an estimated five percent increase in overall bills.”

AGA held their annual Winter Outlook event today where they presented analysis of supply, demand, temperature, weather events and pipeline capacity, and how these factors may impact customer bills. The results are based on a survey of 42 local gas utilities throughout the nation.

“The price of natural gas this winter for residential customers has largely been influenced by stable and now growing production, a flexible underground storage position and the presence of strong pipeline exports to Mexico, as well as growth in LNG exports. Utilities work all year to prepare for the possibility of extreme temperatures and employ a portfolio approach to help ensure they can meet the needs of their customers at affordable prices on the coldest days of the year,” McGill said.

- 177 million Americans enjoy the benefits of natural gas in their homes and that number continues to grow
- 39 states are now looking at ways to expand natural gas infrastructure so that more citizens and businesses can access this domestic fuel source
- Households that use natural gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying save an average of \$874 per year compared to homes using electricity for those applications

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AGA Welcomes NARUC Report on State Efforts to Expand Natural Gas Infrastructure

From the American Gas Association
November 15th, 2017

Millions of Americans do not currently have access to the benefits of natural gas and have asked their local policymakers to enable the expansion of natural gas infrastructure to deliver the affordability, efficiency and environmental benefits that natural gas provides to their communities.

Today, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Task Force on Natural Gas Access and Expansion released a report to educate local regulators on what states are doing to promote and facilitate natural gas expansion and provide guidance on policies, mechanisms and best practices that regulators can use to help extend natural gas service to unserved and underserved

areas. The American Gas Association (AGA) commends the report and the dedication of the public utility commissioners that led this effort.

“It is critically important that regulators be educated about the creative ways utilities are expanding service and delivering the benefits of natural gas to more consumers in underserved and unserved areas,” said Kyle Rogers, AGA’s Vice President of Government Relations. “This expansion drives economic development and gives consumers more energy choices. We applaud the efforts of Task Force chairman John Coleman (PA), co-vice chairs Brandon Presley (MS) and Julie Fedorchak (ND), as well as NARUC Gas Committee chairman Stan Wise (GA) and vice-chair Diane Burman (NY) for leading

(see AGA, page 8)

DOE Recommendations Echo AGA Suggestions for Smart Energy Use

From the American Gas Association
November 1, 2017

The American Gas Association (AGA) has held discussions with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the best way to utilize our abundant natural resources to increase energy affordability, enhance national security and protect our environment. Many of these recommendations are included in the “Final Report on Regulatory Review under Executive Order 13783” issued on October 24, 2017.

“AGA has a long history of working closely with DOE and we respect the service and dedication of

its federal employees. We are supportive of DOE and the efforts of its Regulatory Reform Task Force to identify areas ripe for reform and make thoughtful recommendations for how to improve the efficiency and transparency of its responsibilities while reducing burdensome regulations and requirements,” said Kathryn Clay, Vice President, Policy for the American Gas Association.

The following are areas where Task Force recommendations meet with the mission of America’s natural gas utilities to deliver clean energy to their customers safely, reliably and affordably:

(see DOE, page 8)

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Pryor's Kimberlin Martin Receives OGA Scholarship

For more than a decade, the OGA has awarded scholarships to offset the cost of college. While in previous years, the association has awarded as many as four scholarships to some of Oklahoma's brightest students, this year one outstanding applicant was selected.

Kimberlin Martin was the Salutatorian for the 2017 graduating class from Chouteau High School with a weighted grade point average of 4.28.

She will attend Oklahoma State University and plans to study Psychology. She wrote in her application about her decision to pursue a career as a psychologist, "This is my way of helping people, even if it can only be one person at a time."

Kimberlin is the daughter of James Martin who works for the Municipal Utility Board Pryor.

The OGA Annual Scholarship are awarded to qualified applicants who are a dependent child, grandchild, or ward of an employee or retiree of an OGA member company in good standing.



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AGA

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the process and putting together this important report.”

The report:

- Studies current access, expansion and service extension policies for underserved and unserved areas;
- Examines the need for access and expansion including case studies and review of the barriers and obstacles to such access;

- Recommends potential mechanisms to address the benefits and opportunities for access and expansion and identifies alternative or unconventional approaches to reaching unserved and underserved areas; and
- Compiles a national best practices collection on natural gas access and expansion to underserved and unserved areas

Forty-one states have adopted or considered innovative expansion proposals, and that number continues to grow.

DOE

(continued from page 6)

- Review of DOE Appliance Standards Program: AGA supports updating the processes and procedures by which DOE sets minimum energy efficiency standards for covered appliances and equipment. We have made exceptional progress in energy efficiency, even nearing maximum efficiency levels for many appliances. AGA supports DOE’s efforts to examine regulatory actions that can make the standards setting process more efficient and less burdensome for all stakeholders.
- DOE’s Process Rule: This seemingly straightforward rule has been ignored in recent years, causing added ambiguity in recent efficiency standards. DOE is right to focus on improving the Process Rule and issuing a Request for Information to solicit additional

stakeholder feedback is a sensible step in the right direction.

- Serial Rule-Makings: The requirement for DOE to review efficiency standards every six years - a statutory requirement - is overly burdensome and unnecessary. AGA supports amending the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to make changes in statute and applauds the Department for seeking out regulatory actions that can help ease this burden in the meantime.
- Early in the report, DOE mentions it will review agency actions concerning fossil fuel consumption in Federal buildings. We believe DOE is referring to the requirement to phase out fossil fuel use in new federal buildings by 2030. DOE recognizes that this unmanageable and costly requirement is at odds with the current executive order to reduce regulations that obstruct the use of domestic energy resources.

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