



# 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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## Registration Is Open for the OGA 2017 Leadership Conference

Recognizing leaders in today's work environment face two real issues — multiple generations within an organization and the ever increasing pace of change (or "chaos") — the annual OGA Leadership Conference will ask participants, "ARE YOU READY TO BE A LEADER?"

Participants will hear from industry leaders and enhance skills and understanding by working in groups to develop and present effective solutions to real-life scenarios. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma and registration is open at [www.okgas.org](http://www.okgas.org).

The first presentation will be "Generation Separation: Frustrations, Expectations and Achieving Success Together." Two human resources professionals from Enable Midstream — a GenXer, Marti Canida, and

(see LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, page 2)

## OGA to Continue the Leadership Course for 2017

Following a successful trial session, the OGA will again offer The Leadership Course — a six month course focusing on leadership opportunities, challenges and skills — for 2017.

The OGA Leadership Course provides the foundational training for future leaders and those who are beginning their leadership journey. Participants will go professionally through training, opportunities to lead and refine their skills, and will be challenged to step into roles that benefit the organization.

The elements of the Leadership Course include:

- Five three-hour class sessions and one six-hour class session during a six month period.
- Outside reading assignments and written commentary for each assignment.
- Leadership Project developed by the participant. This requires completion of a project of his/her choosing to be presented to the class.

Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director, will lead the course. For the past 25 years, Rider has worked with Oklahoma organizations and

(see COURSE, page 6)

## OGA Kicks Off Professionals Group Meetings

The OGA is hosting a series of lunch and learn / networking events in Oklahoma City and Tulsa to help natural gas professionals learn about current issues and best practices.

“Our Professionals Group Meetings are intended to be a forum of open sharing of ideas, and concerns,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. “We will encourage attendees to participate in the conversation.”

The first sessions covered Pipeline Integrity Threat Analysis (192.917). Upcoming sessions in May and June will cover Interior and Exterior Corrosion (192.465, 473, 478) and Verification of Pipeline Material (192.607).

Sessions are FREE to any employee of OGA Member Companies. There will be a \$20 charge for non-OGA Members. All sessions will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Upcoming Dates:

- Tulsa - Williams (One Williams Center) - Wednesday, May 10, 2017 & Thursday, June 15, 2017
- Oklahoma City (ONE Gas 4901 N. Santa Fe) - Wednesday, May 3, 2017 & Wednesday, June 14, 2017

For questions about the program, contact Tom Rider at [tom@meso.org](mailto:tom@meso.org) or Jeff Kaufmann at [jeffk@meso.org](mailto:jeffk@meso.org). Please direct billing or registration questions to Deborah Gonzales at 405-528-7564 or [deborah@meso.org](mailto:deborah@meso.org).



*Todd Isbell, Engineer - Pipeline Integrity, ONE Gas, discusses PHMSA Update Pipeline Integrity Analysis*

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## Leadership Conference *(continued from page 1)*

a Millennial, Karlea Barnes — will discuss frustration between co-workers from different generations; how to align priorities; and, the ways they effectively work with Baby Boomers. The two unique points of view agree on finding positive ways to communicate effectively across generations.

Understanding best safety practices can minimize the likelihood a company will hit a bump in the road and face a significant challenge. Mark Cluff, Vice President, Safety & Operational Excellence, Williams, understands best safety practices.. During his presentation “Leading In Spite of Chaos,” he will discuss how to communicate urgent and important information during a crisis while keeping leaders and employees engaged and focused on the task at hand and the company’s long-term vision/mission.

In addition to conference presentations,

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

The registration fee is \$99 per person which includes lunch. All preregistered participants will receive a copy of the book "Sticking Points: How to Get 4 Generations Working Together in the 12 Places They Come Apart," by Haydn Shaw.

“To be successful leaders, we need to understand our people from all generations and the strain of chaos in our workplaces today,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. “We expect participants in our annual leadership conference to take away valuable skills to address these two real issues.”

The deadline to register is Friday, April 21.

## OGA Hosts 2017 Annual Legislative Forum

OGA members recently gathered for the 2017 Legislative Forum to prepare for Oklahoma's Legislative session.

"Our annual conference is designed to give our members an update on what they can expect to come out of the state capitol during the legislative session," said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. "In addition to state issues, we were pleased to add a federal update this year."

We believe — as an association — we need to keep our members briefed on what the Oklahoma legislature may do to impact our industry.

State Senator Mike Schultz, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and State Representative Charles McCall, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, both addressed the audience. They discussed the state's budget gap and other issues of focus.

As a first for the annual forum, former United States Representative John Sullivan briefed the audience on happenings in Washington, DC and offered insight into the new Trump administration. He is currently a partner with SBL Strategies, LLC.

Grayson Ardies, Manager, Airport Development Division, Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, briefed the audience on drone operations and regulations. The Commission's Director, Vic Bird, offered insight into legislation to clarify when and where drones may be used.

Long-time industry lobbyist, Bill Phelps, was joined by Craig Perry, Manager, Government Affairs ONE Gas, for a review of filed legislation.



Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Schultz with CenterPoint's Keith Marple.



Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission Vic Bird

## Encourage 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 can apply now for an OGA Scholarship.

"My daughter, Natalie, was a recipient of an Oklahoma Gas Association scholarship," said Geoff Wilkinson, Vice President Engineering Services, Williams Companies, Inc. "She is thoroughly enjoying her college experience and greatly appreciates the support from the OGA."

"As an energy industry employee, I'm thankful we have the OGA, not only to promote our industry's positive work but to encourage students to pursue their educational aspirations," he added."

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](http://www.okgas.org) — and download both the scholarship policy and application form.

"We are able to fund these scholarships due to the support and generosity of our members," Rider added. "When you participate in events such as our annual Scholarship Classic or activities at our annual conference, those funds go directly to scholarships."

For more information about the OGA Scholarship, go to [www.okgas.org](http://www.okgas.org). Questions should be directed to Tom Rider at [tom@meso.org](mailto:tom@meso.org).

## Small Business Energy Use Key to Boosting U.S. Economy, AGA Report Says

Clean, affordable natural gas has led to \$76 billion in savings for American businesses since 2009 according to a report the American Gas Association (AGA) released today. Uncovering the U.S. Natural Gas Commercial Market examines the commercial sector and its many benefits to the U.S. economy.

Businesses such as schools, hospitals, police and fire stations, offices, restaurants, grocery stores, retail outlets and public halls had an average monthly utility bill of \$400 in

2015 - the lowest amount since AGA's continuous collection of commercial sector data going back to 2003. Due to our nation's abundance of natural gas, bills are expected to remain low and stable for decades.

"Greater use of natural gas in the commercial sector provides an incredible opportunity to boost the profitability of America's small businesses which could have a profound effect on our economy," said Richard Meyer, director, Energy Standards and Analysis at AGA. "We found that there are many buildings in the United States that generate electricity on-site with something other than natural gas, despite using natural gas for another application in

the building such as space heating. This represents a key growth opportunity for expanding natural gas use in buildings where service is already present."

The report highlights states that are incorporating natural gas infrastructure expansion into their economic development plans to extend this

opportunity to more businesses, spur growth and create jobs. 39 states have adopted or considered innovative proposals to expand natural gas infrastructure so

that more homes and businesses can have access to this domestic energy source.

Meyer and AGA Senior Energy Analyst Brendan O'Brien presented the findings on a conference call with media today. The commercial sector is comprised of more than 5.4 million customers, 99 percent of which are served by natural gas utilities.

"Commercial natural gas customers represent a diverse mix of energy users. They are essential to the U.S. energy economy and fundamental to our daily lives," Meyer said.

You can see the report at [www.aga.org/commercialsector](http://www.aga.org/commercialsector).



## T.D. Williamson, Enable, TM-EMS LLC Are 2017 Annual OGA Corporate Sponsors

The OGA 2017 Annual Corporate Sponsorship Program currently has three partners. T.D. Williamson returns as the Platinum Annual Corporate Sponsor, and Enable joins as Diamond Annual Sponsor along with TM-EMS LLC as Gold Sponsor.

"We thank T.D. Williamson, Enable and TM-EMS for their continued support of the OGA and their commitment to our programs for 2017," 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.

For more information about supporting the OGA or association events and programs, contact Rider at [tom@meso.org](mailto:tom@meso.org).

### SAVE THE DATE

## "Redlining 192" — OGA Annual Conference

August 28 – 30, 2017

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center • Norman, Oklahoma



## Natural Gas Offers Opportunity to Keep the Domestic Energy Economy Moving Forward Says 2017 AGA Chair

Pierce Norton used the opportunity during his first official event as Chair of the Board of the American Gas Association (AGA) to highlight that the growth of natural gas in the U.S. has been transformative.

Norton spoke today to the New York Society of Security Analysts about how natural gas has been on the right track and is helping lead the way forward in today's energy environment.

Norton, president and CEO of ONE Gas, Inc., a natural gas utility headquartered in Tulsa, Okla., said, "the United States has done a tremendous job of safely and efficiently capitalizing on the abundance of natural gas supply, and we are on track to continue moving forward with a natural gas strategy to meet the nation's energy needs and goals."

During the event, Norton also highlighted a report that the AGA will release later this month examining the diversity within the commercial segment of the natural gas market. Commercial customers have not seen natural gas prices this low in 40 years. Norton told analysts that low prices and continuous customer growth are sure signs that Americans want natural gas.

"Focusing on ways to upgrade, grow and invest in our infrastructure will enable more residential customers to access affordable energy, while allowing businesses to operate more profitably when energy costs are important to their bottom line," the chair said.

Households that use natural gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying save an average of \$874 per year compared with homes using electricity for those applications. Low, domestic natural gas prices have led to almost \$50 billion in total annual savings for customers using these direct-use applications nationwide.

Norton will continue to build a platform and advocate for the domestic use of natural gas throughout 2017 by focusing on the industry's ability to safely and reliably provide service to Americans across the country. The U.S. energy infrastructure is a cornerstone to growth for the economy and energy independence, and natural gas, more so than ever, is prepared to play a key role that strategy.

*Register today for:*

### **The Leadership Course — Develop the Leader Within**

*A six month course focusing on leadership opportunities, challenges, and skills*

**When:**

Classes: April 2017 – September 2017  
Project Presentations: December 2017

**Where:**

OGA/MESO Training Center  
308 NE 27th Street • Oklahoma City, OK

[www.okgas.org](http://www.okgas.org)

### 2015 – 2016 OGA Board of Directors

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Executive Director

## Leadership Course

(continued from page 1)

individuals helping them realize success through focused effort. His programs on leadership, supervision, and interpersonal relations consistently receive high marks from participants.

"We know for an organization to remain successful, potential leaders must be identified and developed," Rider said. "Our course offers them the skills to grow as a leader within your organization by combining classroom learning and real world experiences in a final leadership project."

The class sessions are:

- Leadership 101 (April 18)
- Leading Change (May 16) - All Day (Six Hours)
- Visioning (June 27)
- Communicating the Vision (July 25)
- Developing Others (August 15)
- Leading People: Conclusion (September 19)
- Project Presentation (December 7)

The cost for The Leadership Course is \$800 and includes class material, books, and additional reading materials. All classroom sessions will be held at the OGA/MESO Training Center located at 308 NE 27th Street in Oklahoma City.

Questions about The Leadership Course can be directed to Tom Rider [tom@meso.org](mailto:tom@meso.org). Please direct billing or registration questions to Deborah Gonzales at 405-528-7564 x 1 or [deborah@meso.org](mailto:deborah@meso.org).



OGA Board Chair Catreana Williams with Ryan Martin who completed the OGA Leadership Course in December. Following the course, Martin said, "The course gives you tools you will use throughout your career. I see opportunities in people that I didn't see before. It taught me to push others to succeed which will help me succeed in the end."

## UPCOMING OGA EVENTS

### The Leadership Course — Develop the Leader Within

*(a six-month course focusing on leadership opportunities, challenges, and skills)*

Classes: April 2017 – September 2017, Project presentations: December 2017

OGA/MESO Training Center, Oklahoma City, OK

### Professionals Group Meetings

- Wednesday, May 10, 2017 & Thursday, June 15, 2017  
One Williams Center, Tulsa
- Wednesday, May 3, 2017 & Wednesday, June 14, 2017  
ONE Gas, 4901 N. Santa Fe, Oklahoma City

### 2017 OGA Leadership Conference

("ARE YOU READY TO BE A LEADER?")

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center  
Norman, Oklahoma

### 2017 OGA Scholarship Classic & Exhibit

(to support annual OGA Scholarships)

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Cimarron National Golf Club  
Guthrie, Oklahoma

### 2017 OGA Annual Conference

("Redlining 192")

August 28 - 30, 2017

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center  
Norman, Oklahoma