



OGA News & Views

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

Tom Rider
Executive Director
Oklahoma Gas Association
308 N.E. 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717
E-mail: tom@okgas.org

OGA News & Views is published four times a year by the Oklahoma Gas Association. Any comments or article suggestions should be forwarded to:

Oklahoma Gas Association
308 N.E. 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717

Phone: (405) 528-1752
Fax: (405) 524-5095
Website: www.okgas.org

OGA Annual Conference scheduled for October

Planning is well underway for the 2021 OGA Annual Conference to be held in person October 4-6, 2021, in Norman, Oklahoma.

“We appreciate the on-going support from our members during this COVID Pandemic,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. “As we continue to navigate what we hope is the end of the pandemic, we are looking forward to seeing everyone in-person, and we will work with the hotel and within CDC Guidelines for any necessary precautions.”

Registration information for both attendees and sponsors will be sent out soon.

Scheduled general sessions for the conference include:

- “How to Prepare for Unexpected Times” – MG Michael C. Thompson, Adjutant General, Oklahoma National Guard (invited)
- “I am Their Leader – Which Way did They Go?” – Dr. Chuck Jackson, Motivational Speaker
- “Inclusion & Diversity: Why Have the Conversation?” – Seth Smiley-Humphries, Inclusion & Diversity Director, ONE Gas, and Justice Waidner Smith, Director – Inclusion & Diversity, ONEOK
- “Hydrogen: The Conversation” – Ed Guidry, Strategy Execution, Marketing & Product Management, TDW

For more information about the upcoming conference, contact Jeff Kaufmann, OGA Director of Communications, at jeffk@okgas.org or Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director, at tom@okgas.org.

OGA hosts webinars

Before COVID 19 restrictions began easing up, the Oklahoma Gas Association (OGA) presented two webinar sessions at no charge to members.

The first session was Understanding the Different Roles of Damage Prevention and Public Awareness. It was held in late April, and it included a panel of industry experts: Renee Collier, ONG; M.G. Govia, OKIE811; Seth Davis, Plains Pipeline; and, Trey Pool, ONG. OGA Board Chair, Jason Crowe from Green Equipment Company, moderated the session. There were approximately 40 people who attended the session.

The conversation focused on how damage prevention and public awareness must work hand in hand in a safety program and provided a clearer understating of each other’s role along with examples of successful safety programs.

(see WEBINARS, page 3)

Meet the OGA Board of Directors

The Oklahoma Gas Association (OGA) Board members works tirelessly to serve and promote both the association and the industry. They are recognized industry leaders. All of the time and effort put into the OGA is on top of their “real” jobs and is greatly appreciated.

In the next several issues, we will introduce you to these dedicated professionals.

Jason Crowe Green Equipment Company

Q: What do you see as the biggest issues facing the natural gas industry today?

A: I hope we can all agree that natural gas needs to play a big role in our country’s energy future, but I wonder how it will be viewed by the government. Will they consider natural gas as one of the best energy sources available in our country for at least the remainder of my lifetime and, hopefully, long beyond that.

Q: What do you see as the biggest issue or challenge your organization is facing today?

As a company looking to create long-term relationships and partnerships with our customers, we traditionally have been very much about relationship building face to face, in-person, and by demonstrating our products. Due to the pandemic, we continue to find creative ways to connect to continue to support our customers and build new relationships. As restrictions ease up I can get back out working with my customers and supporting them in the field. I have been supporting my customers virtually and in person as outlined by their internal protocols.



Jason Crowe

Q: Tell us one thing about yourself that most people don't know?

A: I have a genuine passion for personal development and growth, and one of my favorite things to do is to get out and ride my motorcycle. It really helps to recenter me.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: I have a hard time shutting my mind off, so I’ll take time and read (personal development/entrepreneurial book of some kind) before bed to focus my thoughts and quiet my mind.

Q: What is the biggest mistake you ever made and what did you learn from it?

A: I put too much focus on career advancement early in my career and didn’t have a great balance of focus on myself or my family. I learned, the hard way, that I simply find great personal fulfillment by serving others by being the best friend and resource I can be.

Q: Is there one thing that you tell every member of your team?

A: You are important to me. Your ideas, your words, your actions all matter.

Q: Do you like the Sooners or Cowboys? If someone else, why?

A: Between those two, I’d have to say Cowboys. I am originally from Nebraska, and one of my favorite memories is watching Nebraska Cornhusker football games with my grandma. I know she would not approve of me being a Sooner fan.

(see MEET OGA BOARD MEMBER STEVE TAYLOR, page 3)

Meet OGA Board Member Steve Taylor

(continued from page 2)

Steve Taylor CenterPoint Energy

Q: How did you get your start in the natural gas industry?

A: I began working for Arkla Gas back in customer service as a temporary employee in 1998 in Ada, Oklahoma. I went into meter reading, became a service technician, and then took on the role as a marketing consultant in 2012 working for the district office in Lawton.

Q: Tell us one thing about yourself that most people don't know?

A: I was in radio for 20 years before going into the natural gas business.

Q: Will you tell us something you think is cool about your hometown?

A: When I worked in radio in Blackwell, if it flooded I took a rowboat to work.

Q: What is the biggest mistake you ever made and what did you learn from it?

A: Not locating a gas line correctly and causing an outage. You have heard the line "measure twice cut once?" In our business, it needs to be "locate twice and mark once."

Q: Is there one thing that you tell every member of your team?

A: Don't let one instance define you. Learn from it and move forward.

Q: What do you see as the biggest issues facing the natural gas industry today?

A: Electrification movement and building codes. While it started as a west coast trend with city councils passing ordinances to keep gas out of new construction and drive residential and commercial buildings to all electric. I'm seeing these types of codes making their way into other areas of the country. The result will be the possibility of severely restricting the growth natural gas as a safe and efficient fuel source in some areas.

Q: Consumers may not always understand the natural gas industry, if you teach them one thing, what would that be?

A: It is more efficient energy source than electricity.

Q: What do you think the benefits are of natural gas?

A: It is the most efficient way to heat your home or business and provide hot water and cook our meals. I feel it necessary for our country's energy needs including being used to generate electricity.



Steve Taylor

Webinars

(continued from page 1)

OGA Executive Director, Tom Rider, presented the second session, Self-Leadership in Changing Times, in mid-May, and more than 50 people attended the webinar.

Rider discussed how too often individuals allow others to dictate how they think, act or what they believe. They are led, rather than leading.

Understanding Self-Leadership moves a person from being controlled to being a person in control.

These webinars were not the first online events hosted by OGA. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the 2020 OGA Annual Conference and the 2021 Legislative Update were both conducted in a webinar format.

OGA Scholarships Awarded

For more than twenty years, the Oklahoma Gas Association (OGA) has awarded college scholarships to dependents or grandchildren of OGA Member employees or retirees, and this year three outstanding candidates were selected.

Elisabeth Allen

Elisabeth is the daughter of Cody Allen, CenterPoint Energy. She graduated from Konawa High School with an overall GPA of 3.94.

She was active in with local 4H and FFA programs along with many other high school programs. She was a member of the Oklahoma State Champion Livestock Quiz Bowl team in 2020 and a member of the Top 10 National Livestock Quiz Bowl team in 2021.

She will attend Connors State College where she will be a member of the Livestock Judging Team and will be on the road many weekends.



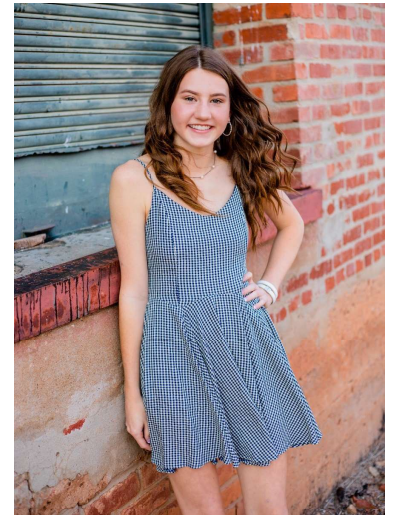
Elisabeth Allen

Whitney Costello

Whitney graduated from Elk City High School with a 4.0 GPA. She is the daughter of David Costello, Enable Midstream.

She will attend Oklahoma State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering and a minor in Design.

Her active high school career included: Key Club, the National Honor Society, the Elk City High School Marching Band, Student Council, the varsity Golf Team, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Color Guard Captain. She is active in her local church, St. Matthew Catholic Church, and has volunteered at their Food Bank for the past five years.



Whitney Costello

Mayaka Crisp

Mayaka, the daughter of Jared Crisp, Municipal Utility Board – Pryor, graduated Number One in her class at Pryor High School with a 4.0 GPA.

In addition to her excellent academic record, she found time play softball, basketball, and soccer. Her other activities included: Student Council, National Honor Society, and volunteering for the Special Olympics.

She earned 18 hours of college credit during high school. She plans to play soccer at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah for her undergraduate degree and to pursue a career in cardiology by attending the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Mayaka Crisp

Save the date!
2021 OGA Annual Conference
October 4-6, 2021
Norman, Oklahoma

AGA Board of Directors takes step to advance cybersecurity, safety, & environmental stewardship

From the American Gas Association

At a recent American Gas Association Board of Directors today, the Board moved to advance their commitment to cybersecurity through a resolution to support reasonable cybersecurity regulations. Elements of reasonable regulation would:

- Allow risk-based methodology
- Support a framework organized by the function's identity, protect, detect, respond and recover
- Permit operator flexibility to pivot to a constantly evolving cyber threat landscape
- Align with natural gas industry cybersecurity guidelines and standards for operational technology

This is the next step in the evolution of [AGA's Commitment to Cyber and Physical Security](#), which was developed to demonstrate dedication to ensuring that natural gas pipeline infrastructure remains resilient to growing and dynamic cyber and physical security threats.

AGA and its members have consistently increased their cybersecurity awareness through critical programs including the AGA Peer Cyber Review Program, Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model Workshops, Cyber Metrics, and development of API 1164 version 3.0 consensus-based cybersecurity standards for pipeline operational technology.

"AGA members take their cybersecurity responsibility seriously and clearly recognize how their vigilance contributes to ensuring the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas," said Karen Harbert, AGA President and CEO. "While AGA and its members have made significant progress in maturing cybersecurity efforts, the cybersecurity landscape has grown more complex and malicious actors have increased their attacks on our industry. Reasonable regulations on the natural gas operational technology systems which are consistent with the NIST (National Institutes of Standards and Technology) Cybersecurity Framework make sense. Right now, industry and government need to remain laser-focused on our common mission: working faster and smarter than our adversaries."

Additionally, the AGA Board of Directors passed a resolution to advance safety, security and environmental stewardship across the industry through an expanded AGA Commitment to Enhancing Safety, Environmental Stewardship, and Security. This Commitment builds on AGA's Commitment to Enhancing Safety, which was first adopted in 2011. Included in this commitment are elements promoting advanced safety cultures, implementing [Pipeline Safety Management Systems](#) (PSMS) and self-executing mandate in the 2020 [PIPES Act](#) Section 114 Inspection and Maintenance, executing [AGA's 10 commitments for reducing emissions](#) to help address climate change and accelerate initiatives to advance energy efficiency and incorporating [TSA \(Transportation Security Administration\) Pipeline Security Guidelines](#) into company security plans.

(see AGA BOARD, page 6)

2021 – 2022 OGA Board of Directors

Jason Crowe

Green Equipment Company
Chair

Randy Mashburn

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Vice Chair

Larry Alspaugh

T D Williamson
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Heath Consultants, Inc.

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LASEN™ Inc.

Remembering Vonda Zimmerman

The Oklahoma Gas Association (OGA) family was saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Vonda Zimmerman on June 3, 2021.

“Vonda’s humor, sense of purpose and commitment to the association will be missed greatly,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director.

Vonda was a long-time member of the OGA Board of Directors and in that role she made significant contributions. Her special passion was for the young people who applied for the association’s annual scholarship and their academic success. This year’s scholarships were presented in honor of her memory.



Vonda’s Obituary

Vonda Kaye Zimmerman left us unexpectedly on June 3, 2021, after a strenuous 8.5 year battle with cancer and the side effects from cancer treatment.

She was born a Davis in Fort Smith, Arkansas on December 28, 1965, where she was raised in her Black Dutch/Welcher bloodline. In 1979 she left for Germany where she spent four years as an army brat (and she was indeed a brat!). By 1983, she moved back to the States, where she finished her last two years of high school in California and Oklahoma. Due to a broken home and family, she was often left to fend for herself like a stray cat. Vonda bounced around from porch to porch, creating new friendships and gaining new families everywhere she went. Whether that was fighting attic bats in Texas, underage bar-hopping in Germany, luring in (sexy) firefighters with false alarms in Boston, or finally setting down roots and finding the love of her life in Tulsa (David). She was a scoundrel! Just ask some of her friends, they could tell you a thing or two about all the trouble she found her way into (and out of).

Though Vonda and David didn’t start with a lot, they built a home in West Tulsa with love and grit. Vonda lovingly became a mother to David’s teenage daughter and gave life to two additional daughters. She raised all of her girls to value love, integrity, and family. All three of whom have grown to love and respect her, and miss her dearly.

Pride and heart went into everything Vonda did; personal and work related. She was so determined and faithful to her employment that she quickly earned nicknames, such as ‘The Vondanator’

(production team), ‘Sticka Gump’ (decal sales), and ‘Meanness’ (clients). It deeply affected her when health prevented her from working to her full capacity.

She loved traveling, reading, dancing, writing poems (or as she would say it po-eems), and anything where she could express her creativity (sewing, painting, gardening, etc.). While she had her staples, she loved to try new things, and dragging her husband along for the ride. Sometimes he got even, like the time he convinced her to conquer her fear of heights and zipline across the forest in the Dominican Republic. Vonda also adored being a grandmother to her grandchildren. Rocking those babies to sleep was a favorite pastime, though she equally enjoyed fostering their creative sides as they grew older.

While her life was short, it was full of love, live, and adventures we will never forget. She is survived by her husband (David), daughters (Gina, Samantha, and Alana), grandchildren (Zach, Deven, Jace, and Izzy), great-grand child (Addison) and sisters (Merriane, plus five estranged). She also leaves behind life-long friends and cohorts (Patty, Sidney, Terri, and many others).

Vonda took great pride in ending the cycle of abuse that played such a big role in her early life. She wouldn’t be ashamed to tell you her story, but she would never say she was a victim. She was a survivor, and advocate, and an ally. In lieu of flowers, we respectfully request that if you would like to send a gift, please donate in her name to the charity: Prevent Child Abuse America. Even though Vonda may be gone, we can still do our part to the end the cycle.

AGA Board *(continued from page 5)*

“Not a day goes by that AGA’s members are not proactively advancing safety and security,” continued Harbert. “From continually replacing pipelines to participating in AGA’s Peer Review Program, companies are dedicated to ensuring Americans have the energy they need while keeping

communities, customers and employees safe. Today’s Board resolution underscores just how committed these companies are to the safe and reliable delivery of clean energy to American’s homes and businesses.”

Thank you

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