



DegreeDays

News from the Virginia Propane Gas Association

Big Attendance at Annual Beach Meeting!



VAPGA members, their families, and guests came together July 10-12 at the Marriott VA Beach Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, VA for the 2022 Summer Meeting! Despite some early rain in the forecasts, attendees ended up with plenty of sun and fun. This year's meeting attracted some of the largest attendance numbers of the past several years, with over 90 Marketer and Supplier attendees from 59 different organizations! We also hosted over 50 spouses, guests, and children with our attendees.

The event kicked off on Sunday with a Captain's Choice golf tournament at Virginia Beach National Golf Club. Despite wind and rain, the drinks were cold, and a great time was had by all. Many thanks to the 36 golfers who came out and braved the British Open-esque conditions, and congratulations to the team of Colin Wood-Bradley, Kent Cochran, and Tom Krupa for coming out on top as the winning team! Our generous hole sponsors raised \$2,625 for the Young Gassers Scholarship Fund and thanks to the Supplier Committee, who sponsored the beverages and snacks at the course.

Monday was a full slate of committee meetings, with each committee having an opportunity to discuss their work over the previous months, preview upcoming initiatives, and solicit input from committee members and the

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West Virginia v. EPA: Supreme Court decision bolsters propane's position

By Steve Kaminski

The U.S. Supreme Court issued its opinion in the landmark case *West Virginia v. EPA*. While by no means a silver bullet, this decision provides the propane industry with another arrow in its quiver to challenge anti-gas agency rule-making at the federal level.

In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA overstepped congressional authority when it adopted a regulatory scheme to control power plant emissions. That is, when the EPA capped emissions at a level that effectively forced a transition away from coal-powered electricity generation, it went further than Congress allowed.

To be clear, this decision does not exclude the federal government from picking winners and losers in the energy sector, from pro-electric and anti-gas policymaking, or from forced energy switches. The decision does, however, provide a potential basis for court challenges if a federal agency—whether EPA, Department of Energy, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Transportation or otherwise—pushes the regulatory envelope too far past what Congress authorized.

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| Past President's Message



Good Day To You All!

How blessed am I to have been able to serve as your President for the last 12 months! God has given me an amazing period of my life to serve you and it has been an honor indeed.

As I look back on my time as President, I am most proud of what I have accomplished for those who will be helped in the future. Putting the final pieces of the puzzle together to ensure that our endowed scholarship at John Tyler Community College/Brightpoint Community College is ready to be granted on an annual basis to a deserving student is so rewarding. Furthermore, the changes which we made to our By-Laws that helped clarify our classifications, voting rights, and subsequent dues, will assist future leaders and administrators as well as streamline the onboarding process for new members. While it doesn't sound like a big deal, it will have a significant and positive impact on those who are involved in the process. We have also been able to build a bit of a "war chest" within VPAC, increase our reserve for the Suppliers Committee, and are now on a solid enough



The VAPGA Board and Staff would like to extend a huge thank you to **Colin Wood-Bradley** for his leadership as President over the past year. It was quite a productive year, and Colin's vision, commitment, and dedication to the association were key in helping guide us forward. Cheers, Mr. President!

"One of the wonderful things about ending one's time as the President of the VAPGA is that it's not really a goodbye—it's just a change in your role within the Association."

financial footing to be able to begin replacing the money that we had to draw down from our savings account.

One of the wonderful things about ending one's time as the President of the VAPGA is that it's not really a "Goodbye". It's just a change in your role within the Association. And every role is important. Whether you are the President, part of the Executive Committee, a member of the Board of Directors, a Committee Chair, or a Member – every one of us needs to be engaged and doing all that we can to make our Association the best that it can possibly be. We owe it to ourselves, our teams, our communities, and all those coming after us. We achieve the most when we are "other centered".

Thank you to all of those who have supported me. It is impossible to achieve the goals we envision without a great supporting team.

A big "thank you" to Tarantin Industries for all of their support during my time on the Executive Committee and as President – I am very grateful.

Thank you, Lord, and thank you Karin, my wonderful wife, my biggest cheerleader – my soulmate and partner for eternity.

Colin Wood-Bradley

President



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membership at-large. Thanks to all the committee chairs and committee members for their hard work. There was also a special panel on Monday morning, with participants discussing the legislative challenges and potential partnerships ahead for natural gas and propane. The panelists include: Morgan Whayland, Government Affairs Director for VA Natural Gas, VAPGA Lobbyist Mike O'Connor, and VAPAC Chair John Phillips. The panel was moderated by outgoing President, Colin Wood-Bradley. We appreciate Morgan for joining us and having a productive conversation on how propane and natural gas can work together going forward. After the morning sessions of meetings, attendees had the afternoon free to enjoy the beach, pool, or play some more golf!

Tuesday morning began with the Executive Director's Report, and an NPGA Update from NPGA VP of Communications & Member Services, Sarah McLallen.

Next up was an in-depth overview of PERC's ongoing initiatives and projects delivered by Virginia's own, Tucker Perkins, President, and CEO of PERC.

Next began the VAPGA Annual Membership meeting, with VAPGA lobbyist, Mike O'Connor, providing his update on the state of energy policy and the general assembly, and previewing some things to watch out for in November. Dennis Cruise presented on safety and training, and newly-appointed NPGA State Director John Fields reported on his work with NPGA since taking over the position in June. Following the morning's speakers, the new slate of officers and board members was presented to and approved by the membership. At the culmination of the Annual Membership meeting, President Meghan Kulinski took to the stage and addressed the association for the first time as President.

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Following a break for lunch, the VAPGA and VPREF Board of Directors met for their summer board meetings, capping off a productive two days of association business. Tuesday evening is when the real fun began, starting off with a cocktail reception on a picturesque terrace overlooking the ocean. Then came the Dinner Banquet & Awards Presentation, always a highlight in the summer. Many thanks to everyone who attended, we had over 115 people attend this year's banquet! A full surf and turl buffet made sure no one went hungry this year! During the awards portion of the evening, VAPGA lobbyist Mike O'Connor was honored with the 2022 President's Award. VAPGA President Meghan Kulinski presented Colin Wood-Bradley with the customary wooden bobtail and thanked him for his service and dedication to the organization and personal mentorship.

One thing clearly missing this year, however, was the customary pirate skit traditionally led by Bill Woodward.

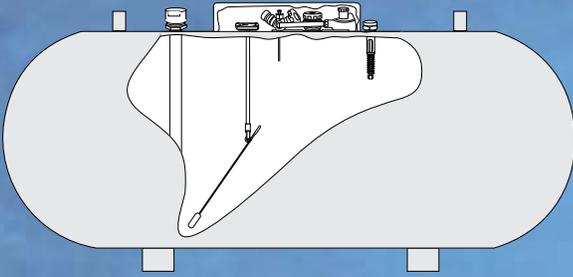
Bill, who recently retired after a long and successful career in the propane industry, was surely missed at this year's event.

Many thanks to all attendees, volunteers, and hotel staff who made the event a success. I'd also like to recognize the 10 companies who showed their support for VAPGA by contributing to the organization as a Conference Supporter. Their financial contributions went a long way into helping us make this year's meeting one of the best ever! Those companies are: Bergquist, Inc. | Cavagna North America | Gardner Marsh Equipment | Propane Trucks and Tanks, Inc. | Quality Steel Corp | RegO Products | Superior Plus Propane | Tarantin Industries | TransTech Energy | Valley Energy. We hope you will join us for our Fall Meeting at The Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, VA on October 2-4! See ya then.

Lach Eisenman
Executive Director

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President's Message



First and foremost, a big thank you to **Colin Wood-Bradley**, our outgoing President. It is safe to say he led with passion and the utmost respect for the position. Thank you to our outgoing Board members and those who have selflessly stepped in to assume new roles on our Board and within our Committees.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
—Helen Keller

I love this quote because it is a gentle reminder that while we all have our day-to-day businesses to run, we are in this great community together. I believe the Virginia Propane Gas Association has some of the best and the brightest in the industry, and together we can tackle any obstacle thrown our way. Over the years, we have seen mergers amongst retailers and individuals exiting the industry through retirement, impacting our membership numbers, dues income, and even committee involvement. However, our numbers are still strong, showing we continue to be on the right path.

This year I would like to focus my attention on three main areas, and none of these items will come as a surprise. I am fortunate to be in a place where I can build upon the stepping stones my predecessors have laid out for me.

1. **Committee Involvement** – I want to find a middle ground to encourage the newest members to find their voice within a committee(s) while ensuring the general membership remains informed and actively engaged.
2. **Education: Government & Public** – We know that our industry is under attack. The electrification fight continues, as does conservation. We will continue the tireless work with our legislatures and incorporate social media messaging to reach a larger, more public audience.
3. **Workforce Development and Recruitment** – Finding the right staff today is a challenge for everyone. But between the NPGA ACE-Entry Level Driving Training facilitating the CDL process and the trade school opportunities set up through our Safety and Education committee, I am confident we can continue to make strides in recruiting and hiring.

I am very humbled and thankful for this opportunity. It has taken me many years to learn to admit what I don't know. But I find comfort in knowing there is an entire membership community with years of industry knowledge to help guide and support this leadership position. Therefore, I graciously ask you to share your thoughts, input, and even critiques throughout the year with me. In conclusion, I sincerely hope to get to know each and every one of you this coming year because ***together we can do so much.***

Meghan Kulinski
2022–2023 President

Get to know Meghan Kulinski

How long have you been in the propane industry? Twenty years, this past April.

How did you end up in the propane industry? I grew up in the heating oil industry. I spent my school breaks doing clerical work for Valley Energy. In college, I decided to try out something different. That only lasted eight months before I moved back to Virginia and officially took a Propane Sales job at Valley Energy.

Do you have a mentor? If so, what's a lesson they've taught you that you'd want to pass on to others? Absolutely. My dad. I never truly appreciated his sacrifices for us growing up until I had a family and tried to balance work with a large, busy family.

A valuable lesson he taught me is to treat each person you come in contact with with kindness, patience, and respect because you never know what they may be going through.

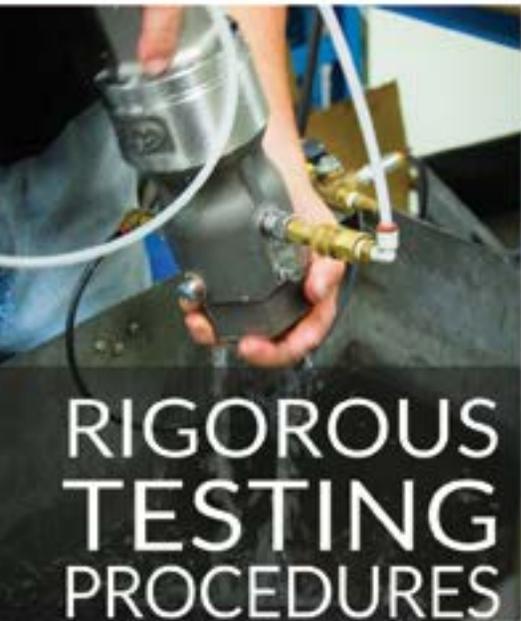
If you could advise young professionals in the industry, what would it be? Ask questions! Seek out the experts in the field. We are fortunate to have many great people in our Association with years of experience. Don't be afraid to admit what you don't know.

What are some favorite memories from past VAPGA events or meetings? I had a great time at the 75th Anniversary last July. I wish we could swing a band at every meeting, but maybe we can plan accordingly for the 80th anniversary!

What are your hobbies/favorite activities outside of work? I love to be on the bleachers of my family's sporting events, cheering them on. Otherwise, you can find me at our beach house in Delaware reading, taking long walks, and spending time with my family.

What's on your music playlist? I am more of a Podcast type of person. I listen to many business and social sciences podcasts, even while I am on a walk or run. Music tends to come second to any of my daily podcasts. But if I must choose, it would definitely be county music.

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Registration Opens Soon for Fall Meeting



October 2–4, 2022 at the The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke, VA

Join us in beautiful Roanoke for the Virginia Propane Gas Association's Fall Meeting at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. Enjoy the beauty of Southwest Virginia in the Fall, along with networking/meal events with clients and colleagues.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Room reservation link and meeting registration will go live in August.



How About A VAPGA Workday for Habitat for Humanity?

Are you interested in participating in a Habitat for Humanity build project just prior to VAPGA's Fall Meeting in Roanoke? We are currently gauging interest in setting up a VAPGA workday. Details are as follows:

Saturday, October 1, 2022

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Maximum of 12 volunteers for this project

No experience is necessary, but all volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

Habitat will provide all required tools and safety equipment.

Volunteers need to bring their own lunch, refillable water bottle, and work gloves.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please sign up [here](#) or email [Zach Eisenman](#) or [Meghan Kulinski](#).

Depending on the level of interest, we will be asking the Hotel Roanoke to add additional rooms at the group rate for Friday, September 30th, so please also indicate if you would like a room for Friday night so we can have an accurate count.

YoungGassers

Congratulations to our 2022 Young Gassers Scholarship winners. Our five winners demonstrated excellence in the classroom and in their communities, and VAPGA is proud to support their academic endeavors with a \$1,000 scholarship.

Click on the award winner's name to view a short video.



[Kylie Grace Billups](#)

Hometown: Rocky Mount, NC
Freshman
East Carolina University



[Rebecca Carlson](#) (no video submitted)

Hometown: Missouri City, TX
Sophomore
Clemson University



[Christianna Gray](#)

Hometown: Bowling Green, VA
Freshman
Liberty University



[Ethan Lyons](#)

Hometown: Gloucester, VA
Freshman
Old Dominion University



[Brandon Morgan](#)

Hometown: Ruther Glen, VA
Germananna Community College

Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Young Gassers Scholarships.

A total of \$3,395 was collected at our Summer Meeting through sponsorships, the 50/50 raffle, and Mulligans.

Introducing the 2022-2023 VAPGA Officers & Directors

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Trent McKenzie
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Make a PAC Donation Today!



The mission of VAPGA's PAC is to distribute contributions to candidates for the state legislature who, by their acts, demonstrate support of the propane industry and the private enterprise system. Your donations help VAPGA gain visibility and leverage access to promote our industry. Now more than ever, we need your support to combat the electrification and fuel ban efforts that threaten our industry. Please consider making a donation to the PAC today.

If you'd like to make an investment in the future of Virginia's propane industry, contact [Zach Eisenman](#), Executive Director, or [John Phillips](#), VPAC Committee Chair.

In addition to PAC donations, please let us know if you would be interested in hosting and/or meeting with a legislator this fall.

Thank You for Your Generous PAC Donations

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Marshall Excelsior – Kenneth Dubay \$500

NGL Supply Terminals – Thomas Krupa \$500

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The decision—at its core—weakens federal agencies and strengthens reviewing courts on actions pertaining to agency rule-making. For nearly 40 years, a court reviewing an agency’s interpretation of a federal law was required to uphold the agency’s view of ambiguous statutory language so long as it was reasonable. In plain English: Laws are relatively short documents providing general requirements, and the federal agencies fill in all of the gaps with granular rules that are “reasonable.”

The decision in *West Virginia v. EPA* essentially adds a step when a court is reviewing whether a federal agency overstepped its bounds—it requires the court to first determine whether the agency’s interpretation of a law involves a “major question” as opposed to being more run-of-the-mill. If it involves a “major question,” the agency interpretation is only valid if there is “clear congressional authorization” for the agency’s regulation.

West Virginia v. EPA is the first time the term “major question” has been used by the Supreme Court in a majority decision. To guide lower courts on how to determine what constitutes a “major question,” the Supreme Court provides:

Precedent teaches that there are extraordinary cases in which the history and the breadth of the authority that [the agency] has asserted and the economic and political significance of that assertion, provide a reason to hesitate before concluding that Congress meant to confer such authority.

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Practical Effects

First, the decision provides a party—such as the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA)—a legal avenue to file suit against a federal agency if it believes that the agency acted on a “major question” without specific congressional authority. For example, if NPGA feels the Department of Energy is trying to set aggressive pro-electric, anti-gas standards in a manner that goes beyond what Congress authorized, NPGA could cite *West Virginia v. EPA* in its formal comments to caution the agency to stay “in bounds” in its rule-making. And if the agency persisted in establishing requirements that NPGA felt were “out of bounds,” it could file a lawsuit, forcing a court to determine whether the agency’s action was in line with the dictates of *West Virginia v. EPA*.

Other effects of the decision could be that some federal agencies might be more cautious in regulating, though I wouldn’t hold my breath. In addition, where the doctrine established by *West Virginia v. EPA* cuts back on federal authority to regulate, authority may be asserted by the

states. As we have seen in recent weeks, the Supreme Court is effectively shifting strength from the federal government to state governments. This decision, therefore, could embolden states to more ardently implement state-level energy laws whether they be pro-electric/anti-gas, pro-energy choice or otherwise.

Every Supreme Court decision produces dozens upon dozens of lower court opinions in its aftermath. *West Virginia v. EPA* will likewise be interpreted in a multitude of ways under a multitude of different circumstances in the coming years to become more fully fleshed-out “judicial doctrine.”

But for today, in my opinion, this decision makes it more difficult for a federal agency to wholesale regulate propane out of business unless Congress tells it to do so – and it provides the industry a powerful defense if any agency tries. It does not make it any more difficult for states or localities to do so and does not insulate the industry against narrower actions that could impinge upon usage of propane under agencies’ bread-and-butter rule-making authority.

Republished from LPGas Magazine. Stephen Kaminski serves as the president and CEO of the National Propane Gas Association. At the outset of his career, he spent over a decade as an attorney. His law degree is from Harvard Law School.

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VAPGA CETP Training

At this year's summer meeting it was decided to return association sponsored training programs to the format used prior to the Covid outbreak. For the remainder of 2022, programs will continue to be delivered individually for each company making a request. Beginning January 1, 2023 we will return to an established schedule that provides classes at central locations on scheduled dates allowing members to register and attend when and where most convenient.

A schedule will be published by mid-March to allow plenty of time for personnel scheduling. Members with request for specific programs should make those request known as soon as possible to [Trent Johnson](#) or [Dennis Cruise](#).

Additionally, the annual Training Day providing multiple training opportunities at one location in a single day will return in May of 2023 to the Richmond area.

Finally, planning is underway for the Bobtail Rodeo, as provided in years past, to return next year. Additional information will be made available as the event gets closer.

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IndustryNews

Bill Woodward Retires



After 44 years in the propane industry, VAPGA's resident pirate leader, Bill Woodward, announced his retirement from CUI last month. Bill is looking forward to spending more time with his family (granddaughters) and doing some fishing and gardening. He also has an extensive "Honey Do" list to tackle from his wife. A Past President of the association, Bill

was a part of the VA Propane Gas Association for nearly 25 years.

"My first meeting was Bayside in Virginia Beach and I arrived wearing a tie, which was promptly cut off by old Emerson Deese, who proclaimed, 'You're at the Beach, get with the program and have fun!' That's when I knew I was in the right place!"

Bill's dedication and leadership to the association will surely be missed, and we wish him the best in retirement.

NPGA Scholarship Recipients

The National Propane Gas Foundation Scholarship Fund (NPGF/SF) recently awarded 110 scholarships totaling \$147,000 to students for the 2022/2023 academic year. These awards provide financial assistance to the children of NPGA member company employees enrolled full-time in two- and four-year college and technical programs across the country.

Congratulations to the two Virginia recipients of the Charles and Sally Gayle Revere Family Scholarship, **Logan Pasley** and **Ethan Lyons**.

Logan is from Penhook, Virginia and is a senior majoring in Psychology at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. Her father, Tim Pasley, is employed by Davenport Energy in Chatham, Virginia.



President's Award Winner

Congratulations to **Mike O'Connor**, VAPGA Lobbyist and President & CEO of Virginia Petroleum & Convenience Marketers Association, for winning the 2022 President's Award.



Ethan is from Gloucester, Virginia and is a freshman majoring in Mechanical Engineering concentrating in Aerospace Engineering at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. His father, Matthew Lyons, is employed by Phillips Energy, Incorporated in Gloucester Point, Virginia.

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Workforce Development Update



Meagan LoBuglio, V3 Regional Program Manager for Southwest Virginia will be in attendance at our Fall Meeting! Be sure to check in with her to see how your company can be getting the most out of the V3 Program.

VAPGA leadership has made the decision not to continue its partnership with Vets2Techs and GenerationNext in 2022. We appreciate their work and all of their efforts over the past year to assist our members. However, the Workforce Development Task Force, led by **Trent Johnson** and **Randy Doyle**, has reached out to the Virginia Values Veterans Program (V3) as a new partner in workforce development.

V3 is a program run by the state's Department of Veterans Services. As a state funded program, V3 is completely free to use and enrollment is as easy as 1...2...3!

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2. Employer completes the [training requirement](#) within one year.
3. Employer completes and submits an Executive Cover Letter to their assigned V3 Regional Program Manger to supply to the Governor's Office requesting certification.

V3 certification is valid for 5 years. Certified employers can proudly display their V3 Certified Seal and V3 program logo to highlight their commitment to military employment.

Read the Executive Summary [here](#). Learn more [here](#).

2022 Rebates



We offer \$300 Safe Appliance Rebates and a limited number of \$2,500 Vehicle Autogas Rebates.

[\\$300 Safe Appliance Rebates](#)

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[Vehicle Autogas Rebates](#)

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for additional information or to request an application and pre-approval numbers.

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Vacant

EDUCATION & SAFETY

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VAPAC

John Phillips, *Phillips Energy*

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Comply with Entry Level Driver Training Using NPGA's New ACE Service

Trying to comply with new federal regulations on your new CDL and HME applicants? NPGA can help!

As of February 7, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) requires all new CDL- and HME-applicants successfully complete classroom and behind-the-wheel training before applicants are eligible to sit for state CDL or HME exams. This new Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) requirement applies to all potential commercial drivers.

Worried how you will comply? Here's where NPGA comes in. NPGA's Administrative Compliance Experts (ACE) service can complete the regulatory requirements, filing paperwork, and submitting information to the FMCSA. While you focus on your day-to-day business, NPGA's ACE navigates the regulatory red tape. Through ACE, the more than 30 steps mandated by ELDT can become just five simple steps with NPGA guiding you from start to finish.

And using ACE can help your state association! NPGA is offering a special revenue sharing program for Virginia Propane Gas Association members. Just enter code VA10 at checkout so the association gets 10 percent of your purchase.

For additional information on ACE, including frequently

asked questions, fee structures, and a sample of the educational modules, click [here](#).

Questions? Email eldt@npga.org.



Focus on the road ahead.



**Support your
state association!**

Use referral code [VA10](#)



Administrative Compliance Experts

Find your CDL training program today at

npga.org/ace

Michelle Bimson Maggi Becomes NPGA Chair

In partnership with the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA), UGI Corporation (NYSE: UGI) is pleased to announce that Michelle Bimson Maggi, Vice President of Law—AmeriGas, has been appointed the first woman to chair NPGA. AmeriGas Propane (“AmeriGas”), the nation’s largest retail propane marketer, is a subsidiary of UGI Corporation.

“On behalf of UGI and AmeriGas, I am thrilled to congratulate Michelle on her new leadership role within the NPGA,” said Paul M. Ladner, President of AmeriGas. “This appointment is a testament to Michelle’s hard work and dedication, her passion for advocacy and her extensive knowledge of the propane business. We are proud to have Michelle and AmeriGas as a leading voice in our industry.”

“I am honored to have been selected as Chair of NPGA,” said Ms. Bimson Maggi. “I look forward to working closely with the NPGA leadership team and our 2,400 members to expand NPGA’s advocacy, education and diversity and inclusion efforts. The propane industry, powered by more than 57,000 American workers, is a critical part of our nation’s economy. We can use our collective voice to convey

to the public important messages about the benefits of propane—and to advocate for how propane companies make positive contributions to the environment.”

As AmeriGas’VP of Law, Ms. Bimson Maggi is responsible for advising the Company on legal, risk management, industry and political matters. She has held positions of increasing responsibility in the UGI/AmeriGas Law departments since she joined the Company in 2007, including Associate Counsel, Counsel, Senior Counsel and Group Counsel. She is a founding member and a current leader of UGI’s Women’s Impact Network (WIN) employee resource group. Earlier in her career, Ms. Bimson Maggi worked as a litigation associate at Blank Rome and Reed Smith. She is a graduate of the Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Delaware, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in government and politics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

“Michelle is a modern leader and the perfect fit to chair NPGA,” said Stephen Kaminski, President and CEO of NPGA. “She’s a strategic thinker, a champion for propane, and an ardent advocate for driving the industry forward. I am excited to work hand-in-hand with her.”

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