

NPGA State Director Update



As your elected State Director, I wanted to provide you with important updates and a summary of activities that took place at the most recent NPGA Board of Directors meeting.

NPGA's committees and task forces held meetings and discussed issues of importance to all propane industry members. I encourage you to take the time to read my report below.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

Sincerely,

Kara Tucker
Kopy's Propane Inc.
Williamstown, Pennsylvania



The NPGA Board of Directors typically meets three times a year and brings together more than 200 leaders from every industry sector. During these meetings, the Board sets association policies and advocacy objectives, identifies ways to grow the industry, and participates in numerous networking events. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting took place June 15, 2020 via webinar.

Summer 2020

2020-2021 NPGA Officers Sworn in at Board Meeting



Denis Gagne



Robert Barry



**Michelle Bimson
Maggi**



Jeff Stewart

Denis Gagne, Eastern Propane Gas, Inc. assumed the role of Chair of the National Propane Gas Association during the annual meeting of the NPGA Board of Directors on June 15. Denis has served NPGA in numerous capacities including on the Executive Committee, Governmental Affairs Committee, Propane Supply and Logistics Committee, and past chair of the TS&S Committee. He is committed to govern, listen, and support our members and staff.

His mission is to continue the work on issues including decarbonization, COVID-19 response, and supply issues.

The officer slate for 2020-2021 was also confirmed at the Board of Directors meeting. Robert Barry, Bergquist, Inc., will serve as Chair-Elect; Michelle Bimson Maggi, AmeriGas/UGI, will serve as Vice Chair; and Jeff Stewart, Blue Star Gas, will serve as Treasurer.



State Engagement Update

At the beginning of March, NPGA was monitoring more than 600 bills that presented opportunities or challenges for the industry, and most state governments across the country were in the peak of their legislative sessions. By mid-March, with the declaration of the pandemic, almost every state legislature had either accelerated its usual schedule to adjourn early or suspended sessions. At the writing of this report, state legislatures are only now beginning to assume "business as usual," although the new normal in many places involves limited access to state capitols, televised committee hearings and virtual voting, and discussion of how in just two months, many states went from a budget surplus position to billions in deficits. Many governors have announced special sessions for this summer to deal with addressing these deficits, including introducing potential new taxes or fees or draconian cuts to services.

NPGA is tracking nearly 120 bills directly related to the pandemic that could impact the propane industry, especially those involving essential workers. In addition to the federal government response, state governments have introduced their own mandates, including ones for health and workers compensation insurance, unemployment and family leave benefits, and extending tax filing periods.

Most states have announced any legislative priorities beyond concerns directly related to COVID-19 or budget deficits will be passed to 2021. Here are some issues we continue to watch, considering there could be backroom plays during special sessions:

Propane Industry Concerns Following a difficult harvest, one of the things we watched closely was overregulation on the propane industry. However, it does not appear that will happen. We continue to watch a trio of bills in New York that were introduced in 2018 following delivery challenges to residential customers that could set arbitrary standards for "emergency" leading to industry overregulation.

Decarbonization/Electrification This issue, which just a few years ago was an important yet minor concern, was dominating our attention this year before COVID-19 and is now coming back in focus. NPGA is tracking nearly 250 bills in state legislatures that present threats to the industry involving electrification/decarbonization. There has been success this year with "ban on the ban" bills in Arizona and Tennessee, with both of those signed into law. The propane industry, along with a coalition comprised of more than a dozen other organizations, are also supporting similar bills in Kansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Minnesota, and New Jersey, as well as a ballot initiative in Colorado.

Natural Gas Expansion We have seen less action from the natural gas utilities to push subsidized expansion over the past year. In many areas, the natural gas utilities are focusing more effort on survival than expansion.

Expanded State Engagement The expanded state engagement team, including external affairs manager Jacob Peterson and state association affairs manager Eric Sears, continues its work with outreach to various agencies and the state and regional associations.



Marketers Section Meeting Update

More than 100 marketers participated in the section's virtual meeting the morning of Monday, June 15. The first half of the webinar centered on procedural business, including the selection of the section's leadership for the upcoming association year. Shannon McWhorter of Sequoia Gas Co. was elected as the section's next chair, while Chad Kroening of Boehlke Bottled Gas Corp. was chosen as vice-chair. Additionally, intrastate (independent) and interstate (multistate) marketers each selected their three representatives to the next NPGA Executive Committee. Christina Armentano of Paraco, David Bertelsen of Matheson Tri-Gas, and Stephen Kossuth of AmeriGas Propane LP will represent interstate marketers while Joe Buschur of McMahan's Bottle Gas, Thomas Manson of Eastern Propane Gas, Inc., and Thomas Van Buren of Meritum Energy will represent intrastate marketers on the committee.

The second half of the meeting focused on propane supply and demand. Representatives from BP and AmeriGas Propane LP provided an overview of how COVID-19 has affected the market and offered insight as to what to expect heading into the fall.



NPGA Members Briefed by Key U.S. Representatives

NPGA hosted four webinars featuring Members of Congress as a part of this year's modified Propane Days. The webinars offered an opportunity to hear directly from legislators on the current state of affairs on Capitol Hill, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the political implications of the 2020 elections, and how the propane industry can most effectively advocate during these uncertain times.

The format of these calls allowed NPGA members to hear perspectives from a bipartisan group of influential Representatives from different geographic locations across the country. On the Republican side, NPGA spoke with Propane Caucus Co-Chair and member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH), and Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), who serves as Ranking Member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. The Democratic perspective was provided by Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Political Chairman of the influential Blue Dog Coalition and member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and freshman Rep. Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM), a member of the Blue Dog Coalition who serves on the Homeland Security Committee.

While each Representative described the impact of COVID-19 on their district, there was a shared desire for a return to Capitol Hill and resumption of the legislative process. As expected, both parties are optimistic about a favorable outcome in the upcoming November elections. All four Members stressed the importance of the propane industry in their respective districts and encouraged NPGA members to continue to engage their federal representatives in the coming months.

In the coming weeks, NPGA will roll out a program to encourage association members to meet with federal legislators at their local Congressional District offices and host facility tours this summer.

For more information about how your company can engage Congress on propane industry priorities, please contact NPGA's Director of Federal Affairs, [Michael Baker](#).

PAC Updates

PAC Report

PropanePAC Steering Committee Chair Chad Kroening provided an update to the Board about the PAC's year-to-date activities, including progress towards its annual fundraising goal. He noted that in spite of fundraising event cancellations as a result of COVID-19, the PAC was more than half-way to reaching its \$150,000 goal as of the start of June. Mr. Kroening emphasized that while the political narrative is currently focused around Congress's response to the pandemic and social justice issues, it is important to remember that energy policy is still an important and passionate issue to voters and policymakers. This means PropanePAC will be active in supporting Congressional candidates up to Election Day to help ensure a propane-friendly Congress is elected.

PropanePAC

NPGA's political action committee, PropanePAC, hosted an exclusive election forecast webinar for contributors as part of the revamped virtual Propane Days program. Mr. Jim Ellis, the Senior Political Analyst with the Business-Industry Political Action Committee, gave a thorough and insightful breakdown of the Presidential and Congressional races. Mr. Ellis gave particular attention to the U.S. Senate, and how the outcome of various races could severely impact the overall legislative process of Congress for years to come. He also provided perspective on COVID-19's impact on the electoral environment thus far, namely in-person voter turnout and the push (and consequences) for voting by mail.

2019-20 Chair Thompson Presents NPGA Awards



CHARLIE ORY

Safety Award

NPGA's Safety Award is conferred upon an individual or a company in recognition of distinguished service to the cause of safety in the propane industry. Nominations for NPGA's Safety Award are submitted to the TS&S Committee's Chair's Advisory Council, which consist of that committee's past chairs, and the recipient is selected by that group.

What makes this year's award significant is that it is being awarded posthumously to Charlie Ory.

Charlie served the industry in numerous capacities as a member of both NPGA and the Arizona Propane Gas Association. While his most notable position was to serve as NPGA Chair during the 2015-2016 association year, he was very active in NPGA's Governmental

Affairs Committee, and he also served as the Chair of the Technology, Standards and Safety Committee. It was within these committees where Charlie excelled.

For his lasting contributions to the propane industry, Charlie Ory is this year's recipient of NPGA's Safety Award. Charlie is missed by us all, and the award will be sent to his wife Teri, in his honor.

Chair's Citations

Chair Randy Thompson awarded seven citations to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the industry.



Tonya Crow
Growmark Inc.

In recognition of going above and beyond during the challenges of the 2019-20 harvest and winter season.



Stuart Weidie
Blossman Gas, Inc.

In recognition of championing propane as part of the green energy solution.



Tucker Perkins

Propane Education & Research Council

In recognition of ensuring PERC and NPGA are aligned on all things propane.



Steve Kaminski, National Propane Gas Association

In recognition of leading NPGA in a sound, clear direction during unprecedented times.



Michelle Bimson Maggi, AmeriGas/UGI Corporation

In recognition of generating creative ideas for NPGA expansion.



Robert Barry, Bergquist, Inc.

In recognition of his insight in helping to align NPGA and PERC.



Denis Gagne, Eastern Propane Gas, Inc.

In recognition of his voice of reason in making difficult decisions during turbulent times.

State Director of the Year



**Amy Dean
L G Jordan Oil Co. Inc
North Carolina State Director**

NPGA Board of Directors Welcomes New Members

Conventions Committee Chair

Stephanie Hennen
Lakes Gas Co.

Manufacturer Section Director

Mike Waller
RH Peterson Company

Director at Large

Nancy Coop
Cetane Industries

Director at Large

James Devens
Superior Plus Energy Services, Inc.

Director at Large

Thomas Krupa
NGL Supply Co. Ltd.

Director at Large

Scott Manley
AmeriGas Propane LP

Maine Director

Peter Iacobucci
Palmer Gas & Oil

Manufacturer Section Director

Warren Booth
Fisher LP Gas Equipment

Manufacturer Section Director

Robert Kenney
Metsa Tanks

North Dakota Director

Jason Behm
Behm Enterprises Inc.

Propane Supplier Section Director

Frank Long
Targa Resources

Rhode Island Director

Ryan Quiggle
Superior Plus Energy Services, Inc.

Services Section Director

Lisa Gerwitz
Thompson Energy Services Insurance

Services Section Director

Natalie Peal
Butane Propane News

South Carolina Director

James Watson
Superior Plus Energy Services, Inc.

Next NPGA Board Meeting

2020 NPGA Fall Board of Directors Meeting

September 27 - 29, 2020

Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa
Ft. Lauderdale, FL