

SUMMER EDITION

GAS LINK NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Louisiana Gas Association



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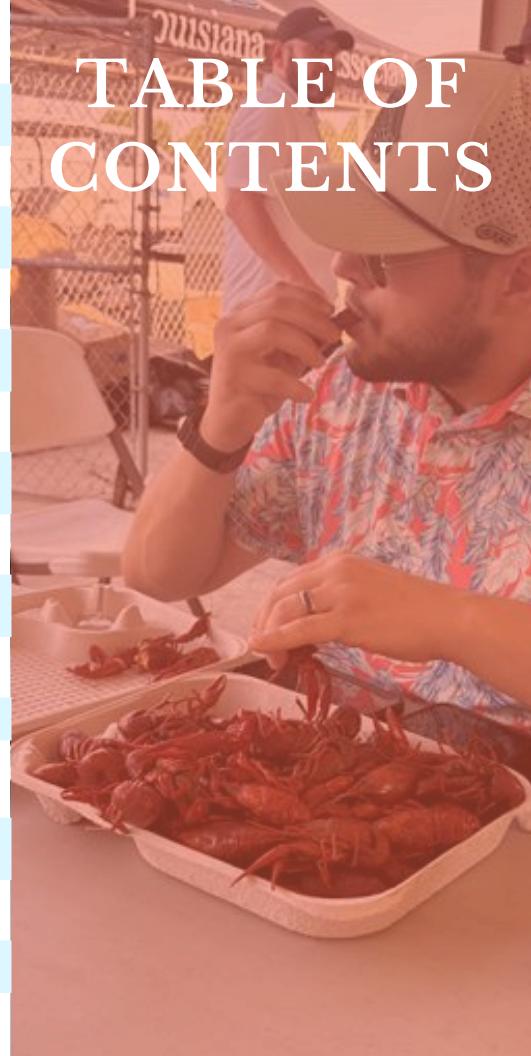
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



FROM THE DESK OF NATHAN GRAY

As we move through 2026, I'm proud to say that the LGA has had an outstanding year so far. The momentum we've built together continues to strengthen our industry, our workforce, and the relationships that make this organization so valuable.

This spring, we welcomed members and industry partners from across the state to our GASTEC Expo Day in March. With great weather and strong attendance, the event provided a fantastic opportunity to showcase the GASTEC Facility, connect with peers, and highlight the training and educational resources that continue to shape the future of our industry.

In May, we hosted another successful Scholarship Golf Tournament, bringing together approximately 29 teams in support of the LGA College Scholarship Program. Events like this not only strengthen our industry relationships, but also directly support the next generation of leaders who will carry this industry forward.

Behind the scenes, there has also been a tremendous amount of work taking place within LGA leadership and committees.

We continue to have important conversations surrounding the future legacy of LGA, particularly as it relates to education, workforce development, and the continued growth and utilization of the GASTEC Facility.

At the same time, our industry continues to face evolving challenges that require collaboration and advocacy. One issue receiving significant attention is the increase in pipeline damage associated with broadband fiber installation activities. LGA leadership and committee members remain engaged in conversations focused on protecting infrastructure, improving communication, and ensuring safety remains the top priority across our state.

While we still have a full calendar ahead of us, we are excited about the opportunities the remainder of the year will bring. Upcoming events include the Pipeline Safety Conference in August, the Scholarship Sporting Clay Tournament in early October, and our Annual Operations Conference later in October in Lafayette, Louisiana.

These events continue to provide meaningful opportunities for education, networking, and industry collaboration, and we look forward to seeing many familiar faces in the months ahead.

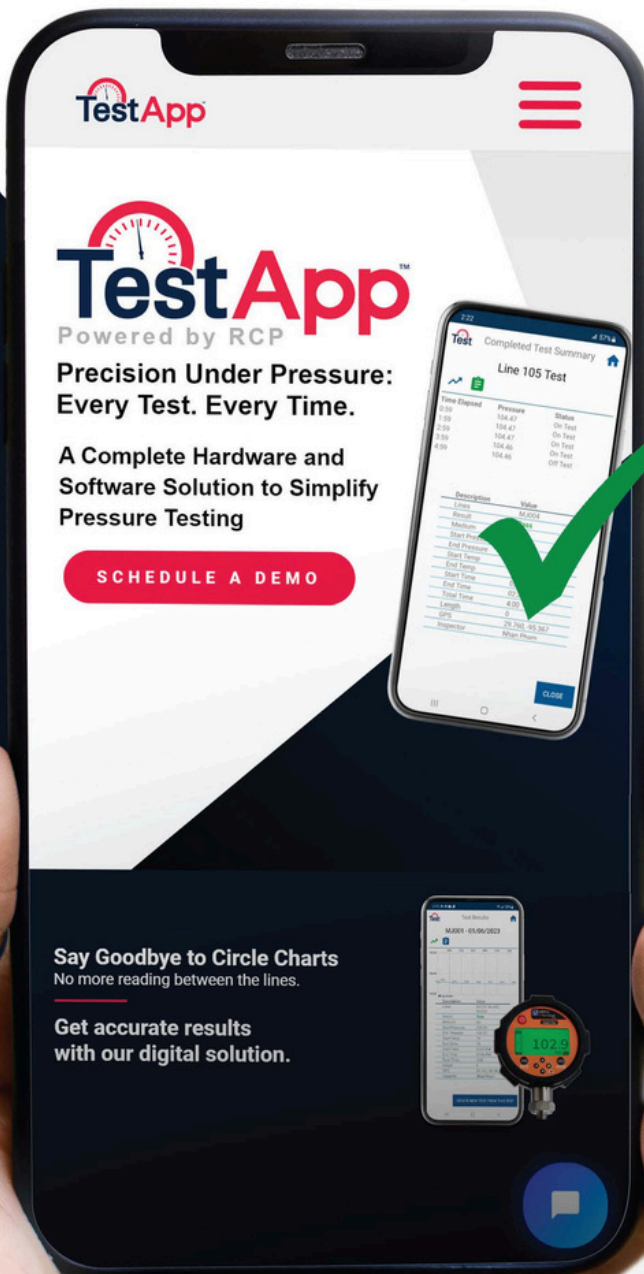
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LGA BOARD UPDATE



FROM THE DESK OF THE LGA BOARD

The LGA Board of Directors met for its 2nd Quarter board meeting in May, with strong participation from distribution, transmission, associate, and committee representatives.

Bylaws Committee

One of the key discussions during the meeting was amending the bylaws to recognize Past Presidents as special members of the association. This amendment will allow Past Presidents to attend meetings, participate in organizational events, and receive invitations to official LGA functions, further strengthening the connection between current leadership and those who have helped guide the association over the years.

Communications Committee

The Committee announced that Sue Guidry (*retired from Targa Resources*) is the new committee chair. They are working to identify important regulatory changes impacting the industry for inclusion in upcoming communications and publications.

Convention Committee

The planning continues for the Annual Operations Conference, with the Committee presenting a drafted conference brochure. Additional details and registration information will be shared on LGA's website in the next few weeks.

Damage Prevention & Public Awareness Committee

This committee continues its work on Louisiana 811 law discussions and broadband coordination efforts. Committee members reported ongoing conversations regarding proposed changes related to funding mechanisms within the law, as well as the growing impact of broadband fiber work throughout the state. Leaders are discussing the formation of a smaller working group to continue these conversations and ensure the natural gas industry maintains a strong voice in the process.

Education & Training Committee

Updates were shared on efforts to obtain a potential instructor for Cathodic Protection training. Additional discussions are underway regarding potential partnerships and pilot training opportunities through the GASTEC facility.

Gas Worker Program Sub-Committee

Significant progress continues on the Gas Worker Program curriculum. This committee has been working with South Louisiana Community College (SLCC) and Industrial Training Services to finalize a program that will launch into technical college pathways.

Membership Committee

Outreach to recently expired members continues and the committee is exploring additional membership structure discussions, including revenue-based considerations.

Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee shared updates on the upcoming LRA Showcase scheduled for July 26–27.

Pipeline Safety Conference Committee

Planning for the Conference is progressing well, with speakers being finalized and the agenda in place. The exhibit hall is nearly full, with over 260 total participants so far.

The Scholarship Committee

Terry Thibodeaux has announced he will be resigning as Committee Chair and announced that Jacob Bulpe (*GridSource*) is now serving as chair. The board also continued discussions regarding a potential First Responder Legacy Scholarship initiative and ongoing support opportunities connected to Louisiana first responder memorial efforts.

Scholarship Sporting Clay Tournament

Preparations are underway for the annual Sporting Clay Shoot scheduled for October 2 at Bridgeview. Committee members reported expanded raffle plans for this year's event.

The Golf Tournament Committee reported another successful turnout, with approximately 116 players participating this year.

New Business

LGA members now have access to the GASTEC Site Manual online, providing an additional valuable training and operational resource for the membership.

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ENGINEERING SERVICES

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REGULATORY COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS, PROCEDURES, SITE SUPPORT

HCA/MCA Analysis, Class Locations Studies, Risk Assessments, UNGS Risk Analysis, Integrity Assessments, ILI Program Management, CRM, PA

RISK & INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT

Gas & Hazardous Liquids pipelines, Underground Natural Gas Storage, Pipeline Integrity Assessments, Hazard & Threat Analysis, GIS, Records Management

TRAINING

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HONORING THE IMPACT OF BLAINE SPELL



Blaine Spell began his career in the natural gas industry in 1981 with CenterPoint Energy. Throughout his career, he has been known as a strong advocate for industry education, workforce development, and collaboration among natural gas professionals across the state.

One of Blaine's most impactful contributions to LGA has been his leadership with the LGA Scholarship Golf Tournament. In 2015, Blaine volunteered to help organize the tournament alongside Mark LeBlanc when the event was first established to benefit the LGA College Scholarship Program.

What began as a modest event with just seven teams in its inaugural year raised approximately \$11,000 for scholarships. Through Blaine's continued dedication, leadership, and relationship-building efforts, the tournament has grown tremendously over the past decade.

Since its establishment, the LGA Scholarship Golf Tournament has generated approximately \$188,000 in profit directly benefiting the LGA College Scholarship Program — an incredible accomplishment that has helped support countless students pursuing higher education.

Blaine's willingness to serve, lead, and invest his time into the success of LGA has left a meaningful mark on the organization and its members. His efforts have strengthened scholarship opportunities, enhanced industry education programs, and contributed significantly to the growth and success of LGA events over the years.

On behalf of the Louisiana Gas Association, we thank Blaine Spell for his years of service, leadership, and dedication to the industry and our organization.

The LGA would like to recognize and celebrate Blaine Spell for his many years of dedicated service to the LGA Board of Directors from 2011–2025 and for the lasting impact he has made on the organization throughout his leadership.

Over the years, Blaine has played an instrumental role in supporting

LGA's mission through his service and commitment to advancing education & member engagement within the gas industry.

In addition to his work on the LGA Board, he has been heavily involved in planning and organizing the agenda for the LGA Annual Operations Conference over the last several years, helping ensure the conference continues to provide relevant and valuable education for attendees across the industry.





WHY GASTEC MATTERS: INVESTING IN HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR OUR INDUSTRY

The Louisiana Gas Association's Gas Training & Educational Center (GASTEC) is more than just a training site—it's a valuable resource designed to support the growth, safety, and success of Louisiana's natural gas industry. Through hands-on learning opportunities, industry professionals can gain practical experience in a controlled environment that reinforces safety, compliance, and operational excellence.

Did you know that your company can rent the GASTEC facility for employee training?

Whether you're conducting onboarding, skills development, safety exercises, or specialized technical instruction, GASTEC provides a unique setting to deliver impactful, real-world training to your workforce.

In addition to training opportunities, LGA members have access to important GASTEC resources through the Member Portal, including:

- GasTEC Site Operating Safety Manual and related forms
- GasTEC Site GIS & Related Drawings
- JESTC Documents
- Approved Instructors & Safety Officers

Members are encouraged to log in and review these materials to maximize the value of the facility and ensure safe, effective use of the site.

REGULATOR & RELIEF VALVE TRAINING @ GASTEC | JULY 14



LGA's latest training at the GASTEC facility was the Regulator & Relief Valve Training on July 14. This course covered the fundamentals of gas regulators and relief valves and included hands-on instruction utilizing the GASTEC training facilities.

Take advantage of all that GASTEC has to offer—from workforce development and technical training to facility rentals and member resources.



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GASTEC Expo Day *Recap*



Gastec Expo Day was a tremendous success, bringing together more than 100 attendees, 18 exhibitors, and 6 competitive gumbo cooking teams for a day of networking, equipment demonstrations, industry engagement, and friendly competition.

With beautiful weather providing the perfect backdrop, attendees had the opportunity to connect with industry partners, explore the latest products and technologies, and experience hands-on equipment demonstrations throughout the day.



Exhibitors showcased a wide range of tools, services, and innovations that support Louisiana's natural gas industry, creating valuable opportunities for learning and collaboration.

One of the highlights of the event was the highly anticipated Gumbo Cook-Off, where six teams put their culinary skills to the test. After careful judging, the winners were:



- 🥇 1st Place: Gulf Coast TMC
- 🥈 2nd Place: Atmos Energy
- 🥉 3rd Place: System Services

Congratulations to all of our cook-off participants and winners for making the competition both delicious and memorable!

Thank you to our exhibitors, sponsors, volunteers, cooking teams, and attendees who helped make Gastec Expo Day such a successful event. We appreciate everyone's support and participation and look forward to seeing you again next year for another outstanding Expo Day.

From industry demonstrations to great food and even better fellowship, Gastec Expo Day 2026 was a day to remember!



LGA ANNUAL BLAINE SPELL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Scholarship Golf Tournament Recap

The Louisiana Gas Association hosted its 12th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on May 14, 2026, at Jennings Golf Course in Jennings, Louisiana. The event, which benefits the LGA College Scholarship Program, welcomed 29 teams and approximately 118 players from across the state for a day of friendly competition, networking, and fellowship.



Thanks to the support of our sponsors, players, and volunteers, the tournament was a tremendous success. Participants enjoyed beautiful weather and outstanding crawfish supplied by Boyd's Crawfish House & Grill and boiled by Atmos Energy. Congratulations to our tournament winners: Blood Hound Private Utility Locators (1st Place), R360 (2nd Place), and Hornet Servicing Co. (3rd Place).

A special highlight of the day was recognizing Blaine Spell, who has organized the tournament since its inception in 2015. In honor of his dedication to the event and the LGA Scholarship Program, LGA presented Blaine with a commemorative plaque and officially renamed the event the LGA Blaine Spell Scholarship Golf Tournament. We thank Blaine, our volunteers, sponsors, and participants for helping make this event a continued success.



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INDUSTRY REGULATIONS UPDATE



SB 469 (The DIG Law) Signed Into Law

Louisiana's underground utility damage prevention efforts are getting an important update. Governor Jeff Landry signed Senate Bill 469 (The DIG Law) into law on June 9, with the legislation taking effect on August 1.

The new law modernizes Louisiana's "Call Before You Dig" framework by strengthening communication between excavators and facility operators, enhancing damage prevention practices, and improving protection of the state's underground infrastructure.

Key provisions include:

- **Positive Response:** Requires facility operators to respond to 811 locate requests through the notification center before marking deadlines expire.
- **Enforcement:** Authorizes law enforcement to stop excavation activities when violations of the law are suspected.
- **811 Participation:** Narrows municipal and parish exemptions from participation in the state's 811 notification system.
- **Broadband Projects:** Establishes additional notice and damage prevention requirements for projects funded through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

The Louisiana Gas Association supports efforts that enhance excavation safety and protect critical underground infrastructure. Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new requirements before the law becomes effective on August 1.



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LGA Participates in the 2026 LRA Expo Showcase

The Louisiana Gas Association was proud to participate in the 2026 LRA Expo Showcase in New Orleans, where we shared a booth with Delta Utilities and Atmos Energy. The event provided a great opportunity to connect with industry professionals, promote the mission of the LGA, and highlight the important role natural gas plays in serving Louisiana communities.

Thank you to our booth partners, Delta Utilities and Atmos Energy, for helping make the showcase a success. We always appreciate opportunities to collaborate and engage with both current and future industry partners.



In-Person Compliance Courses

Pipeline safety and compliance training

Upcoming Classes: September 15-18

FEATURED COURSE

Pipeline Safety 101

Build Foundational Knowledge.
Strengthen Safety Awareness.
Prepare Your Workforce

Pipeline Safety 101 is an introductory, instructor-led course designed to provide essential knowledge of pipeline operations, safety practices, and regulatory expectations. Ideal for individuals new to the pipeline industry or those seeking a refresher, this course establishes a strong baseline for safe, compliant work in high-consequence environments. Participants gain a clearer understanding of how pipeline systems function, the risks associated with pipeline operations, and the role safety plays in protecting people, assets, and the environment.

Course Lineup

Pipeline Safety 101

Foundational knowledge of pipeline operations, safety practices, risks, and regulatory expectations.

Operator Qualification

Understand covered tasks, qualification expectations, and OQ program requirements.

Drug & Alcohol DER

Support for managing DOT Drug & Alcohol responsibilities and documentation.

Authorized Evaluator

Prepare evaluators to assess knowledge, skills, and ability for covered task performance.

Who Should Attend

- New pipeline industry professionals
- Operations, safety, and compliance teams
- Contractor managers and field leaders
- Teams needing a practical refresher
- Organizations onboarding new workers

Attendees Will Gain

- A clear baseline of pipeline safety fundamentals
- Better awareness of high-consequence risks
- Practical context around regulatory expectations
- Confidence supporting safer, more compliant work



Reserve your seat or view course details

<https://veriforce.com/oq-in-person-course>

SCAN TO REGISTER

SAFETY TIP OF THE QUARTER

Safety Tip of the Quarter: Beat the Heat Before It Beats You



If you've spent any time working outdoors in Louisiana, you know that summer heat is more than just uncomfortable—it's a serious safety hazard. High temperatures combined with Louisiana's intense humidity can make it difficult for the body to cool itself, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses for field crews, technicians, operators, and anyone working outside.

Heat stress can develop quickly and affect even experienced workers who are accustomed to working in the elements. That's why staying alert to the signs and symptoms is critical.

Know the Warning Signs:

- Heavy sweating
- Muscle cramps
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Headaches
- Fatigue or weakness
- Nausea
- Rapid heartbeat
- Confusion or difficulty concentrating

In Louisiana, dangerous heat conditions can occur long before temperatures reach 100 degrees. When high humidity is added to the mix, the body's natural cooling process becomes less effective, making even routine tasks more physically demanding.

This summer, remember the three keys to heat safety: Water. Rest. Shade. By staying hydrated, taking breaks, and keeping an eye on your fellow crew members, we can all help ensure everyone returns home safely at the end of the workday.

If left untreated, heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke—a life-threatening emergency that requires immediate medical attention.

Protect Yourself This Summer:

- Drink water throughout the day, not just when you're thirsty.
- Take regular breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.
- Wear lightweight, breathable clothing whenever job requirements allow.
- Schedule demanding tasks during cooler morning hours when possible.
- Monitor the heat index, not just the temperature.
- Watch out for coworkers and encourage them to speak up if they're not feeling well.

One of the most important safety practices is looking out for each other. Workers often notice symptoms in their teammates before the affected individual recognizes them. A simple check-in could prevent a medical emergency.

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