

SPRING 2025 EDITION

GAS LINK NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Louisiana Gas Association



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LGA Mission Statement

The LGA supports its members and the industry by providing services to enhance performance, promote safety, and broaden public awareness of the natural gas industry's contributions to society and the environment. Specific areas of concern are:

1. Education and training,
2. Public relations,
3. Legislation affecting the natural gas industry, and
4. Compliance with rules and regulations.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello LGA Members!

As we embark on another promising year at the Louisiana Gas Association (LGA), I am filled with enthusiasm for the opportunities that lie ahead. Our commitment to advancing the natural gas industry in Louisiana remains steadfast, and together, we will continue to foster growth, innovation, and collaboration.



We have an exciting lineup of events planned for 2025, designed to educate, connect, and inspire our members. [See here!](#) These events are more than just dates on a calendar; they are opportunities to deepen our connections, share knowledge, and strengthen the fabric of our industry community.

I extend a heartfelt invitation to those considering membership. The LGA is a vibrant organization comprising over 125 gas distribution and transmission companies, serving more than ninety-five percent of Louisiana's gas customers. By joining, you become part of a collective voice that shapes the future of natural gas in our state. If you are not a member and would like to join, I highly encourage you to do so [here](#).

Happy Spring,

Larry Williams

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President
Larry Williams
City of Walker

1st Vice President
Nathan Gray
Enterprise Products

2nd Vice President
Chris Gray
Delta Utilities

Secretary
Cole Vanderlick
EGW Utility Solutions

Treasurer
Ken Drone
LMG

DIRECTORS

Chip Arnould
Entergy

Ernest Brown
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Gov.

Rusty Burroughs
Nu-Line Utility Services

Darrell Dugas
City of Denham Springs

Cory Fontenot
EnLink Midstream

Billy Forest
Louisiana 811

Sue Guidry
Targa Resources

DIRECTORS CONT.

Kevin Hargis
Atmos Energy

Marshall Harris
Ferguson Waterworks

Dr. John Jewett
Genesis Energy

Mark LeBlanc
Utility Solutions Supply

Rob Mistretta, Jr.
John H. Carter

Mike Richey
City of Alexandria

Dustin Smith
Atmos Energy

Thomas Smith
GUD #1 EBR Parish

Russell Spansel
Entergy, New Orleans

Blaine Spell
Delta Utilities

Michael St. Romain
South Coast Gas Co.

John Streiff
Kerotest MFG

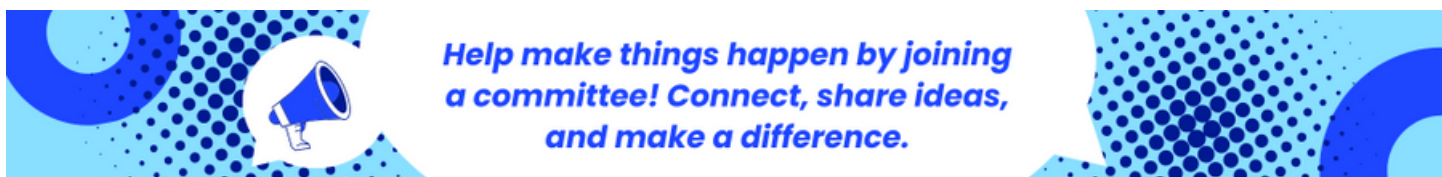
Terry Thibodeaux
Gridsource

Chad Wille
Boardwalk Pipeline

GET INVOLVED WITH LGA

Committee engagement is the heartbeat of the Louisiana Gas Association. By participating in a committee, members play an active role in shaping the future of our industry, developing impactful programs, and fostering a vibrant, collaborative community. Whether you're looking to grow your network, expand your knowledge, or contribute your expertise, joining a committee is one of the most rewarding ways to get involved.

Committees are the engines that power LGA's mission—from planning events and training programs to advancing regulatory affairs and promoting safety initiatives. Your voice matters, and your involvement helps drive meaningful progress for Louisiana's natural gas industry.



Advisory Committee | Chair: Sue Guidry, Targa Resources

Associate Committee | Chair: Vacant

Budget, Finance & Investment Committee | Chair: Ken Drone, LMGA

Bylaws Committee | Chair: Blaine Spell, Delta Utilities

Needs Members 

Code & Distribution Committee | Chair: Brian Suberbielle, SJB Group

Communication Committee | Chair: Cole Vanderlick, EGW Utility Solutions

Convention Committee | Chair: Blaine Spell, Delta Utilities

Damage Prevention & Public Awareness Committee | Chair: Amanda Eades, Delta Utilities

Education & Training Committee | Chair: Billy Forest, Louisiana 811

GasTEC/Gas Worker Program SubCommittee | Chair: Rusty Burroughs, NuLine Utility Solutions

Legislative & Regulatory Committee | Chair: Jim Dicharry, Delta Utilities

Marketing Committee | Chair: Byron Hardy, Delta Utilities

Membership & Nominating Committee | Chair: Mark LeBlanc, Utility Solutions Supply

Pipeline Safety Conference Committee | Chair: Larry Williams, City of Walker

Scholarship Committee | Chair: Terry Thibodeaux, Gridsource

Transmission Committee | Chair: Chad Wille, Boardwalk Pipeline

LGA EXPO DAY RECAP

The Louisiana Gas Association (LGA) hosted its 2025 GASTEC Expo Day on March 25 at the Gas and Safety Training & Educational Center (GASTEC) in Zachary, Louisiana. The event brought together over 150 participants from across the natural gas industry, including utility professionals, vendors, and first responders for a day of networking, product demonstrations, and community engagement.

A Hub for Innovation and Industry Collaboration

The Expo featured a diverse array of vendors, each showcasing their latest products and services. Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with exhibitors, gaining insights into cutting-edge technologies and solutions pertinent to the natural gas sector. Some vendors conducted demos or presentations to provide more information & have discussions about their offerings

Culinary Competition: The Gumbo Cook-Off

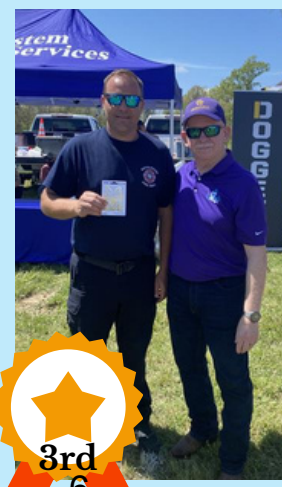
A highlight of the day was the Gumbo Cook-Off, where teams competed to prepare the best chicken and sausage gumbo. Cooking commenced at 7:30 AM, with judging taking place at noon. The competition not only added a flavorful twist to the event but also fostered camaraderie among participants, as they shared their culinary creations with attendees.

Community Engagement and Networking

Beyond the exhibits and cook-off, the Expo served as a vital platform for professionals to connect, exchange ideas, and discuss the future of the natural gas industry in Louisiana. The event underscored the LGA's commitment to fostering education, safety, and collaboration within the industry.



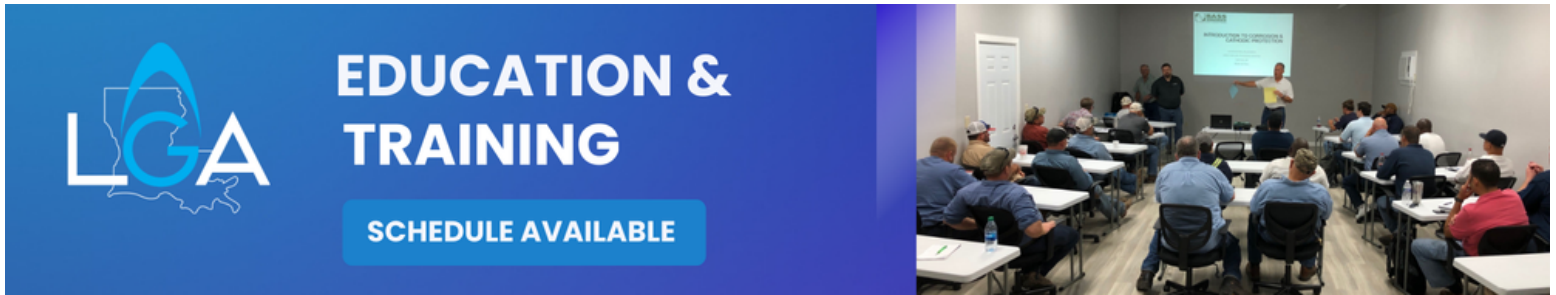
GASTEC EXPO DAY THANK YOU EXHIBITORS!!



EDUCATION & TRAINING

The LGA is pleased to offer an expanded series of educational seminars this year. These trainings and roundtable discussions are thoughtfully designed to inform, educate, and enhance learning through hands-on experiences at the GasTEC facility. Registration is open to both members and non-members. We look forward to your participation!

To register, head to www.LouisianaGas.org/Education



OSHA Competent Person Training & Certification	May 6	Jason Sibley & Paul Johnson [United Rentals]
Gas Distribution Safety Roundtable	June 5	Keith Gauchet & Panelists from [NuLine Utilities, Gridsource, Entergy, Atmos]
Digital Testing Technologies	June 17	Mike Talkington [JM Test]
Locating, Grading & Managing Natural Gas Leaks	June 19	Cole Vanderlick [EGW Utility Solutions]
Leadership Skills for Field Supervision & Team Leaders	June 25	Rusty Burroughs [NuLine Utility Services]
Electrical Basics 101 Seminar	July 8	Mike Talkington [JM Test]
Confined Space in Construction Training	July 10	Jason Sibley & Paul Johnson [United Rentals]
Damage Prevention Workshop	July 22	Billy Forest [LA811], Greg Galle [LADENR], & Raymond Sonnier
Liability Exposure Training for Field Staff	July 30	Brian Monistere [Pro Safety Co.]
Gas Equipment & Tool Calibration	Sept. 9	Mike Talkington [JM Test]
Utility Line Locating, Symbols, & Markings	Sept. 23	Mark LeBlanc [Utility Solutions Supply]

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Hargis, *Atmos Energy*



I began my career in the natural gas industry at 21 years old. Over 30 years later I am still working in the industry. I began my career with Citizens Utilities, which eventually became Atmos Energy. I have worked in various operational positions including numerous field positions, working my way into leadership roles. My first leadership role was an operations Supervisor where I oversaw daily activities for our Marrero service center. I now hold the Operations Manager position for the Louisianan eastern region.

In addition, I serve on several enterprise committees within Atmos Energy. These teams serve an important purpose for Atmos Energy to be the safest provider of natural gas.

I have been a board member of the Louisiana Gas Association for the past two years, where I serve on both the damage prevention and scholarship committees. The LGA has provided networking opportunities for me to grow as a leader. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on this board.

Outside of work, I continue to enjoy my hobbies that consist of hunting and fishing, and I love being with my family. I have been married to Natasha for 10 years and have a stepson, Nicholas, who will soon be a senior at Holy Cross High School.

**PIPELINE
SAFETY
CONFERENCE**



**AGENDA NOW
AVAILABLE**

**AUG 11-14, 2025
NEW ORLEANS, LA**

Register for the Pipeline Safety Conference today at
www.louisianagas.org/psc

LGA SCHOLARSHIP



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2025!

Application Deadline July 15th!

As part of its charter, the Louisiana Gas Association sponsors various Public Education and Public Relations programs, including Scholarship awards to qualifying students attending 4-year accredited Colleges and Universities. More than \$258,000 in scholarships have been awarded since 1998.

UNDERGRADUATE CRITERIA:

- Must be a current full-time student attending an accredited 4-year college or university or a combination of a 4-year program at a college or university and specialty school (ie. Nursing school).
- Must have completed at least 60 credit hours (Junior or Senior classification).
- Must be 25 years old or younger at the time of application.
- Must be enrolled at the time of application submission.
- Must demonstrate well-roundedness through extracurricular activities, club memberships, community service, or leadership roles.

MASTER'S DEGREE CRITERIA: *NEW

- Must be currently enrolled in a Master's degree program at an accredited institution.
- Must provide evidence of academic excellence and leadership in their field.
- No age restriction applies to Master's applicants.

15 YEARS LATER

Honoring Louisiana's Fallen Firefighters: LGA Shows Support

On April 12, the Louisiana Gas Association (LGA) reaffirmed its commitment to honoring the bravery and sacrifice of Louisiana's firefighters. LGA President Larry Williams, 1st Vice President Nathan Gray, and Past President Robert Borne attended the Louisiana Fallen Firefighter Memorial service, paying tribute to the courageous men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

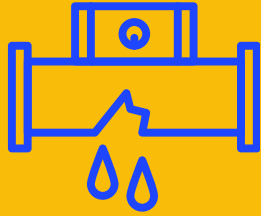
This solemn event, held at the Louisiana Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Baton Rouge, brought together firefighters, families, and supporters from across the state. The ceremony serves as a powerful reminder of the dedication and heroism of those who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities.

In 2010, LGA proudly sponsored the Louisiana Fallen Firefighters Memorial by making a significant donation in support of the Eternal Flame. This symbolic flame, located at the entrance of the memorial, burns perpetually as a tribute to the unselfish sacrifice made by Louisiana's firefighters. The Eternal Flame stands as a lasting testament to their bravery, reminding all who visit of their enduring legacy.

The LGA remains deeply committed to supporting the firefighting community and ensuring that the memory of fallen heroes is never forgotten.



INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT



LEAK DETECTION

Information provided by Neil Whitney,
Compliance Supervisor for Atmos Energy

Leak survey gas detection equipment plays a critical role in ensuring the safety, efficiency, and reliability of Atmos Energy's gas systems. We utilize the RMLD (Remote Methane Leak Detector), LZ-30 (Small handheld Laser Methane Detector), and AMLD (Advanced Mobile Leak Detector). All three instruments have significantly improved the process of natural gas leak detection compared to the Flame Ionization units of the past.

Atmos Energy Louisiana began using the RMLD unit in 2004. Since then, with updates to the unit, we are now able to utilize Bluetooth, GPS, and photo documentation. The RMLD is our primary leak detection equipment for conducting traditional leak surveys. The advantages of the RMLD include access to pipelines located in backyards, over or through fences, and sections of pipe attached to bridges or overpasses.

The LZ-30 is relatively new to our Louisiana team. This unit is used primarily by our Service Technicians for both inside and outside leak investigations. It is a small, handheld device, ideal for fire investigations and small leak surveys.

The AMLD has been a significant advancement in natural gas leak detection. This unit reads in single parts per billion (PPB) while sampling both methane and ethane gases. Because the unit is mounted on an automobile, it can cover a larger area than a standard traditional survey. However, due to its threshold and sensitivity, the soil conditions in Louisiana produce a substantial amount of swamp gases, which can result in false positives.

Overall, all three units have added tremendous value to leak detection, and we anticipate technology will continue to grow and advance in the future.

11th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

**JENNINGS
GOLF CLUB**



**MAY 15,
2025**

LOUISIANA GAS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

PIPELINE SAFETY CONFERENCE

AUG 11 - 14, 2025 | NEW ORLEANS, LA



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

BRIDGEVIEW GUN CLUB, PORT ALLEN, LA

LouisianaGas.org/SportingClay

LGA PRESENTS THE

**ANNUAL
OPERATIONS
CONFERENCE**

OCT. 20-22 | MARKSVILLE, LA

