



Louisiana Gas Association

LGA Fall
E-Newsletter
October 2013

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LGA Annual Operations Conference is only
three weeks away!



The Louisiana Gas Association's Annual Operations Conference brings natural gas professionals together to further their knowledge about the natural gas industry from October 28-30, 2013 at the Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel. Conference attendees, including Louisiana's top executives, small operators,

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municipalities and vendors, will learn skills to enhance performance, promote safety and broaden public awareness about the natural

gas industry.

The conference consists of two tracks for small and management operators, the 6th Annual Mike Hester Barbecue Cook-off, golf tournament, trade show, and live and silent auctions to benefit the LGA Scholarship Program.

The BBQ cook-off takes place in honor of Michael Hester, who had a passion for cooking and took great pride in LGA events. Event participants consist of a chef cook and as many assistants as he deems necessary. Teams will have a choice of which category they prefer to participate in: chicken, brisket, pork ribs or all three. [The BBQ Cook-Off registration is FREE this year!](#)

LGA will also recognize a member for their significant contributions to the success of the organization and membership with an induction into the LGA Hall of Flame during the Exhibitor's Reception. We look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge soon!

If you can't make the conference, follow #LGAOC on Twitter and Facebook to see what's happening.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

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LGA Offers Online Training

The Louisiana Gas Association (LGA) is now offering online training courses for professionals in the natural gas and pipeline industry. LGA partnered with Industrial Training Services, Inc. (ITS) to offer a user-friendly training opportunity.

Professionals in the natural gas and pipeline industry may sign up for online training courses at [by clicking here](#). Even though LGA Online Training is not designed to qualify your employees, you will find an array of courses, which will help your employees supplement and enhance their technical knowledge.

LRA Education Foundation & Chef John Folse Culinary Institute Sign Articulation Agreement

The Louisiana Restaurant Association Education Foundation (LRAEF) and the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute (CJFCI) at Nicholls State University are pleased to announce they have signed an articulation agreement.

Under this agreement, Louisiana high school graduates who have successfully completed



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two years of a ProStart program and earned their ServSafe sanitation certificate will receive four hours of college credit toward their associate or bachelor's degree of culinary arts at CJFCI.

ProStart is a nationwide, two-year program for high school students that develops the best and brightest talent into tomorrow's industry leaders. From culinary techniques to management skills, ProStart's industry-driven curriculum provides real-world educational opportunities and builds practical skills and a foundation that will last a lifetime.

"This agreement is a win-win for the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute and the LRAEF," said Chef Randy Cheramie, executive director of CJFCI. "Rather than sitting through our first two introductory lecture classes, students with ProStart certifications will start immediately into our skills labs, giving them a semester lead."

The LRAEF has similar articulation agreements with other post-secondary institutions nationally/internationally and in Louisiana. It continues to seek out mutually beneficial partnerships with other post-secondary institutions in the state.

The LRAEF strives to provide opportunities for its ProStart graduates wishing to pursue culinary arts and management degrees after graduating from high school. Its Scholarship Fund, which has awarded more than \$140,000 since its inception in 2009, furthers this goal by ensuring financial support is available for the state's promising and ambitious students.

"This agreement will allow more Louisiana culinary students the opportunity to transfer easily into Nicholls and continue their education," said LRAEF ProStart Coordinator Devienne Theriot.

The LRAEF would like to thank its Partners, whose financial assistance makes programs like ProStart a reality: 5 Diamond: Auto-Chlor Services, Louisiana Hospitality Foundation, Acme Oyster House and Louisiana Seafood; 4 Diamond: Performance Foodservice-Caro; 3 Diamond: Louisiana Culinary Institute, Atmos Energy, New Orleans Wine & Food Experience and Drago's Seafood Restaurant; 1 Diamond: Entergy. Also, the LRAEF extends special recognition to all LRA chapters that support ProStart and the LRAEF through its various philanthropic activities throughout the year. To learn more, visit www.LRA.org.



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Save the Date LGA Upcoming Events

LGA Annual Operations Conference

October 28-30, 2013
Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel
Baton Rouge, LA

LGA 4th Quarter Board Meeting

December 11, 2013
Lafayette, LA

191/192 & 195 Pipeline Safety Conference

July 21-25, 2014
Royal Sonesta Hotel
New Orleans, LA

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Natural Gas Utilities Continue to Modify Pipeline Infrastructure

America's natural gas utilities are dedicated to upgrading and modernizing our nation's natural gas infrastructure, as well as to increasing expertise in maintaining existing pipelines and assessing and managing risk. Their dedicated efforts over the past three decades have led to a nearly 90 percent decline in serious pipeline incidents and will help ensure that the industry's longstanding record of safe and reliable service continues well into the future, according to a new report by the American Gas Association and its member companies.

Using a strategic and systematic risk management program formalized in 2011 by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), natural gas utilities employ a careful analysis of infrastructure to identify threats, evaluate and prioritize risks, measure results, monitor performance and take action to help reduce the greatest risks. Not all pipeline risk is necessarily related to age or material, and older pipe can still perform reliably; therefore pipeline should not be replaced solely to reduce the amount of a specific material when greater risk may lie elsewhere.

In the past decade, natural gas utilities have installed updated plastic lines at a rate of 30,000 miles per year, connecting new customers or replacing older pipeline infrastructure. Thanks to these efforts, there are nearly 1.3 million miles of plastic pipe - the leading edge of advanced pipeline materials - in the natural gas system today, along with more than 1.1 million miles of cathodically-protected steel pipeline. There has been a 46 percent decrease in the amount of cast iron main since 1985, and only 3 percent of the entire national gas distribution system is composed of cast iron mains - a figure that is continuously being reduced as pipeline operators implement accelerated pipeline replacement programs. And serious incidents involving cast iron mains have also declined - dropping by a difference of 86 percent between 1985 and 2012.

"Safety is the top priority for the American Gas Association and its more than 200 member companies," said AGA CEO and President Dave McCurdy. "Our nation's natural gas infrastructure makes up the safest energy delivery system in the country and is the envy of other nations. This report shows the industry is successfully working to enhance system integrity through upgrades and modernization. As a result, Americans can continue to enjoy the benefits of our abundant supply of clean affordable natural gas for decades to come."

By managing pipeline risk and replacing pipe no longer fit for service, as well as conducting other improvements, the industry is also reducing emissions from the natural gas distribution system. Improved data from the Environmental Protection Agency and others shows a declining trend for natural gas emissions. Less than 1.5 percent of natural gas is emitted as it travels from where it is produced to homes and businesses. Of that, only 0.3 percent is emitted from systems operated by local natural gas utilities. Distribution system emissions have dropped 16 percent since 1990, even as the industry added nearly 300,000 miles of distribution mains to serve 17 million more customers - an increase of 30 percent in both cases. Continued efforts to upgrade and modernize the natural gas pipeline network to enhance safety are lowering emissions even further. Pipeline replacement is resource-intensive, making it vital for natural gas utilities to have strategic "smart modernization" plans for managing replacement costs through careful planning and operational efficiency. Additionally, natural gas utilities must overcome significant challenges associated with this type of work, such as maintaining gas delivery to customers and working to minimize the impact to the public right of way and customer yards.

With natural gas prices at historic lows, America's natural gas utilities are using this opportunity to advance upgrades to their energy delivery system, and they are working with local regulators to develop innovative rate models that further encourage the significant capital investment needed without increasing the burden on ratepayers. The natural gas industry spends over \$7 billion each year in infrastructure investments. Currently, 32 states have infrastructure cost recovery mechanisms including 4 states which have adopted programs in the last 6 months.

O'Shea, Jennifer. "Natural Gas Utilities Continue to Modify Pipeline Infrastructure."
Newsroom. American Gas Association, 6 09 2013. Web. 30 Sep 2013.

AGA: Natural Gas Still Most Affordable Heating Fuel

The American Gas Association (AGA) announced today that it expects natural gas to remain the most affordable heating option for most residential customers across the United States. While customer bills are likely to rise slightly as a result of various market forces, the abundant supply of domestically-available natural gas has contributed to lower production prices that, along with robust storage levels, are poised to help ensure a

steady supply of energy at a lower cost than other home heating fuels. Mild temperatures should also keep any increase in natural gas bills modest at no more than 5 to 10 percent compared to last winter.

"We see market forces working to offset any upward pressure in prices this winter," said AGA's Director of Policy Analysis Bruce McDowell. "Gas customers may still enjoy heating bills that are among the lowest of the past decade. Natural gas is still the fuel to beat."

Customers who heated their homes with natural gas during the 2011-2012 winter heating season saw average savings of 70 percent compared to those using heating oil and 32 percent compared to those using electricity, according to the Energy Information Administration. Efficiency measures on the part of utilities and energy users also contribute to lowering bills; in 2011, natural gas utilities helped customers save a total of \$300 million nationwide - approximately \$107 per household.

AGA also discussed the challenges surrounding gas-electric coordination in the Northeast, where increased natural gas demand for power generation spurred by the low price of gas has some concerned that service may be interrupted during peak times. "The key to reliability and better coordination between gas and electric transmission industries is the continued development of a robust natural gas infrastructure along the entire value chain so that natural gas can be delivered wherever and whenever it is needed to those who value it the most," said AGA's Senior Managing Counsel for Regulatory Affairs Andrew Soto. Soto commended the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for its leadership on gas-electric coordination issues, and noted AGA's support for FERC's proposal to allow natural gas pipeline operators and electric transmission operators to share information to promote planning and reliable service. "AGA members take the safety and reliability of their systems very seriously and build portfolios of assets to help ensure that the service needs of their customers will be met," Soto concluded.

In an economy that has been recovering slowly, many American families will struggle to heat their homes this winter. Despite the fact that bills last year were the lowest in a decade, 2.4 percent of AGA member customers were unable to make sufficient payments and the number of those late on their bills increased slightly. Funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program remains critically important to those in need. Recognizing that Congress faces difficult fiscal decisions, AGA and its member companies continue to advocate for greater certainty and responsible funding levels for this vital program.

For more information about natural gas price trends and home-heating assistance provided to consumers by local natural gas utilities, please visit www.aga.org.

Advertising Opportunities

Don't miss out on the chance to promote your business in the Louisiana Gas Association's Quarterly E-Newsletter. As an advertiser, you will receive the opportunity to provide target advertising to business and supply valuable information within your industry. Don't be the only vendor left out. Place an ad today!

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Ad rates and deadlines included in flyer

Questions? Contact Kathleen O'Regan at the LGA office:

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Have an interesting article for the LGA E-Newsletter?

Have an interesting article to include in the LGA E-Newsletter? Send suggested articles to Kathleen O'Regan at the LGA office. Your article could appear in the next quarterly

issue!

Articles may include, but are not limited to:

1. LGA Member, Company, and/or Employee Recognitions
2. Industry Updates
3. Member special events
4. Company Announcements
5. Consumer Reports

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