



# OGA News & Views

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*We want to hear from you!  
Ideas, concerns, ways to make the  
association more effective for you.*

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## OGA Board of Directors Adopts New Mission Statement and Core Values for the Association

At the June 11, 2020 meeting, the OGA Board of Directors unanimously adopted a new mission statement and core values for the association.

“The board wanted to provide a clear understanding of what the OGA does and how it serves members,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. “I commend the Board for their hard work in positioning our association for future service to our members.”

The new OGA Mission Statement is **“to assist members in developing leaders focused on safety and best-practice performance through education and networking.”**

And the Core Values are:

- **Safety** – To share information and best practices for continuous improvement.
- **Training** – To provide specialized training to benefit workforce development.
- **Leadership** – To improve leadership skills and build future leaders.
- **Networking** – To provide opportunities to build strong industry connections.

Our new Mission Statement and Core Values will help both the board and professional team with a clear line of sight to what programs and events we offer our members.

Jason Crowe with Green Equipment Company serves as the Chair of the Board, and Enable’s Ricky Whittington is Vice Chair. Larry Alspaugh, T. D. Williamson is Secretary and Vonda Zimmerman, US SafetySign and Decal is Treasurer.

(see OGA BOARD, page 6)

## 2020 OGA Annual Conference Moved to a VIRTUAL PLATFORM

The 2020 OGA VIRTUAL Annual Conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 1 and concludes midday Wednesday September 2 with the Annual Meeting of the Association and Monthly Board Meeting. Registration information will be available soon.

**There is no charge for attendees; sponsorships will be \$150**

While there is no charge for attending, all participants must register to receive access to sessions.

(see OGA, page 6)

## Natural Gas Utilities Lead Change on Achieving Exemplary and Vehicular Safety

*From the American Gas Association*

The American Gas Association (AGA) is pleased to recognize a number of natural gas utility and transmission companies – including ONE Gas, Inc. - for their outstanding commitment to employee and vehicular safety in 2019.

The selection was based upon the companies that submitted their annual safety statistical data for calendar year 2019, based upon OSHA Recordable Injuries and Illnesses and Reportable Vehicle Incidents.

“Now more than ever it is important to recognize our industry’s commitment to the safe delivery of natural gas,” said AGA President and CEO Karen Harbert. “Promoting safe practices and a safety culture that holds the protection of customers, communities and employees at the highest level is essential, and our Safety Award recipients are leaders in upholding and exemplifying this at its best. I applaud their staunch commitment to safety and congratulate them for this outstanding recognition.”

The following AGA member companies earned Safety Achievement Awards in 2019 by achieving the lowest motor vehicle accident rate for companies of their type.

- Aspire Energy (Orrville, OH)
- Florida Public Utilities (Fernandina Beach, FL)
- Dominion Energy Carolina Gas Transmission (Columbia, SC)
- National Gas & Oil Cooperative (Newark, OH)

The following AGA member companies earned Safety Achievement Awards in 2019 for excellence in employee safety by achieving the lowest incident rate for the number of days away from work, restricted or transferred (DART) among companies of their size and type.

- Appalachian Natural Gas Distribution Company (Abingdon, VA)
- Aspire Energy (Double) (Orrville, OH)
- Columbia Gas of Maryland (Canonsburg, PA)
- CoServ Gas, LTD (Corinth, TX)
- National Gas & Oil Cooperative (Newark, OH)
- Greenville Utilities Commission (Greenville, NC)
- Ameren Missouri (Saint Louis, MO)
- Dominion Energy West Virginia (Clarksburg, WV)
- Dominion Energy South Carolina—Gas Operations (Cayce, SC)
- Comgás (Sao Paulo, Brazil)
- Dominion Energy Ohio (Cleveland, OH)
- **ONE Gas, Inc.** (Tulsa, OK)
- Gainesville Regional Utilities (Gainesville, FL)
- NV Energy (Las Vegas, NV)
- MidAmerican Energy Company (Des Moines, IA)
- Dominion Energy Carolina Gas Transmission (Columbia, SC)
- DOW Pipeline Company (Port Lavaca, TX)
- Dominion Energy Questar Pipeline (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc. (Cleveland, OH)

## APGA Hosting Virtual Meetings

The American Public Gas Association is hosting virtual member meetings now through October 1st. The meetings are designed as small group conversations to update members on APGA activities and to learn, firsthand, the challenges members are facing. Each meeting will be 90 minutes in length.

The events are free and open to all municipal natural gas professionals, municipal utility board or council members, and vendors and/or partners of natural gas utilities interested in current industry changes and challenges. Attendance at each

meeting will be limited so that APGA staff can get to know each and every attendee.

Members and interested parties are encouraged to attend the stop closest to their region but are welcome to attend any stop that best fits with their schedule or if their first choice is full. Registration and more information can be found at [www.apga.org/membertour](http://www.apga.org/membertour).

The Oklahoma & Arkansas stop is scheduled for October 1, beginning at 9:00AM CT.

*Thank you*  
**T.D. Williamson, Inc.**  
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## Local Natural Gas Distribution System Emissions Continue to Decline

*From the American Gas Association*

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, which shows that annual emissions from the natural gas distribution system declined 73 percent from 1990 to 2018, even as natural gas utility companies added more than 760,000 miles of pipeline to serve 20 million more customers. Distribution systems owned and operated by local natural gas utilities emit only 0.08 percent of produced natural gas.

“The greenhouse gas emissions from the natural gas distribution system are low and getting lower and we remain committed to further reductions,” said AGA President and CEO Karen Harbert. “As companies continue to modernize our natural gas infrastructure and connect homes and businesses to the system, new opportunities arise to continue to drive down greenhouse gas emissions by leveraging new and existing natural gas infrastructure, advanced technologies, and the nation’s abundant natural gas resources.”

For more than two decades, EPA has developed and published estimates of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks. The EPA Inventory represents the most comprehensive assessment of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions available. The EPA made further updates to its Inventory released in April 2020.

The analysis characterized new estimates for methane emissions and the implications for the greenhouse gas profile for natural gas. The Inventory affirms a low methane emissions profile for natural gas distribution systems shaped by a declining trend.

Industry-wide natural gas emissions as a rate of production is now 1.0 percent—a level well below even the most stringent thresholds for immediate climate benefits achieved through coal-to-natural gas switching.

The American Gas Association is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through smart innovation, new and modernized infrastructure, and advanced technologies that maintain reliable, resilient, and affordable energy service choices for consumers.

***Thank you***



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## 2020 OGA Leadership Conference Scheduled for November 17

**SAVE THE DATE** . . . the 2020 OGA Leadership Conference is scheduled for November 17 in Edmond, Oklahoma. The theme for conference is LEGACY: Creating A Life of Impact and Influence.

### About the conference:

Recognizing everything rises and falls on leadership, this powerful one-day course starts at the most important place – developing ourselves and our LEGACY (a life of impact and influence).

### What to expect:

Have you ever considered “WHO YOU WANT TO BE?” Is that the person you “SHOW UP AS?” Understanding the distinction between the two and closing the gap, will allow course participants to define, share, and live “THEIR LEGACY.”

This will be accomplished through thought provoking conversations and group & personal exercises. Steps toward success begin by looking at mindset, routines, and daily habits along with candid and frank discussions covering “HOW TO CREATE A POWERFUL DAY” and “TURNING OFF AUTO-PILOT.”

At the conclusion of this day-long course, participants will create and step into “THEIR LEGACY” — a life of impact and influence.

### About the speaker:

Cody Jefferson will lead the 2020 OGA Leadership Conference. He is a native Oklahoman and is a highly sought-after motivational speaker and the mindset/business coach for the high achievers looking to answer the deeper questions of life, spirituality and purpose.

A former pastor, he brings a combination of raw no-nonsense coaching coupled with the ability to step INTO your personal and professional experience. An expert on mindset, behavior patterns, and human potential, Cody will call your purpose out of you in a way you've never experienced.

### Registration and other details:

Registration opens September 1, 2020. The registration fee is \$125 for members and \$250 members for non-members and includes lunch. To register with the member rate, members must create their online account. Recent emails have included information about how to do this and will be included in emails about the one-day conference.

The session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and is expected to conclude no later than 3 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn & Edmond Conference Center (2833 Conference Drive, Edmond, OK).

Any questions about the Leadership Conference may directed to Tom Rider, Executive Director, at [tom@okgas.org](mailto:tom@okgas.org).

### 2019 – 2020 OGA Board of Directors

#### Jason Crowe

Green Equipment Company  
Chair

#### Ricky Whittington

Enable Midstream  
Vice Chair

#### Larry Alspaugh

T D Williamson  
Secretary

#### Vonda Zimmerman

US SafetySigns & Decal  
Treasurer

#### Jimmy Eastham

NOPFA

#### Roger Eichelberger

Municipal Utility Board, Pryor

#### Steven Fry

CenterPoint Energy – Oklahoma

#### Mark Haptonstall

AOG/Summit

#### Randy Mashburn

ONEOK Partners

#### Kasey Wilson

ONE Gas

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#### James Cross

Energy Worldnet

#### Sean Epps

Heath Consulting

#### Rusty Jennett

LASEN™

#### Don McCoy

McCoy Consulting

#### Don Olson

IRT Integrated Rectifier  
Technologies, Inc.

## OGA Board

(continued from page 1)

Remaining Board Members include: Jimmy Eastham, Northeast Oklahoma Public Facilities Authority; Roger Eichelberger, Municipal Utility Board of Pryor Creek; Steven Fry, CenterPoint Energy; Mark Haptonstall, Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation; Randy Mashburn, ONEOK Gas Transportation; and Kasey Wilson, Oklahoma Natural Gas Company.

Advisory Board Member include James Cross, Energy Worldnet; Sean Epps, Heath Consultants,

Inc.; Russell Jennett. Lasen, Inc; Don McCoy, McCoy Services; and, Don Olson, IRT Integrated Rectifier Technologies Inc.

“We exist to provide value to both our members and the industry, and we believe we have been accomplishing this for some time,” Rider added. “The new mission statement and core values allows to easily explain what we do to both current and potential members.

Any questions about the OGA or association activities may be directed to Rider at [tom@okgas.org](mailto:tom@okgas.org).

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## OGA

(continued from page 1)

“We can all agree that 2020 has been unique, to say the least.” said OGA Executive Director, Tom Rider. “We appreciate the ongoing support from our members, and we want to show that appreciation by making the sessions free of charge.

“We also want to give our associate members an opportunity to sponsor the virtual conference and be recognized by our utility members.”

The \$150 sponsorship fee will include access to all sessions and cover conference costs and drawings to be held during each session. A portion of the fee will go to the OGA Scholarship Fund.

Sponsors will be listed in the event program; be recognized on OGA website, have signage during the conference, be included in the event marketing activities including OGA LinkedIn page; and receive a list of all attendees.

### American Gas Association (AGA) CEO & President is opening speaker

Karen Harbert, CEO & President AGA, will open the conference presenting comments addressing “The Future of Natural Gas.” Harbert is widely recognized industry leader with an extensive background in both the public and private sectors.

### Additional Tuesday sessions include:

- Lane Miller with TRC will discuss the Mega Rule: Overview of the Rule Changes.
- Ellen Adams, Attorney with GableGotwals®, presentation covers Medical Marijuana & CBD Oil: Myths, Realities and Safety Sensitive Positions.

- Public Awareness: Ways to Get People to Listen will be presented by Tracy Bryant, CenterPoint Energy, and Pam Thames, AOGC.
- Grayson Ardies, Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, will discuss Drone Use for Gas Systems.
- Damage Prevention: Educating Contractors will be presented by Trey Pool, ONE Gas, Inc.

### Wednesday sessions are:

- Thriving Amidst Chaos: A Discussion for Modern Remote Workers - James J. Cross, Vice President of Brand; Dr. Matt Joiner, Vice President of Education; and Mayra Maese, Executive Vice President (all from Energy Worldnet).
- Best Practices on Managing Ambiguity In Pandemic/Unusual Operating Situations will be a panel discussion with Chad Brown, Director of Corporate Safety, ONEOK; Jim Ross, Director of Health & Safety, Enable Midstream; David Williams, Director of OKC Metro Field Ops, ONG; and, Tim Young, City Manager, City of Tuttle.
- Jim Schaur, Executive Director of Strategic Alliances, Energy Worldnet, will present Leading People Not Like You

For more information regarding the 2020 OGA VIRTUAL Annual Conference contact Rider at [tom@okgas.org](mailto:tom@okgas.org).