



PROPANE EXCHANGE

October 2012 * West Virginia Propane Gas Association

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 13-15, 2013 NPGA Southeastern Convention
World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA



[WVPGA Becomes Clean States Stakeholder](#)

Propane Autogas On the March in West Virginia

WV BOARD OF ED ENDORSES PROPANE BUSES PROPANE GETS ATTENTION. Since the WVPGA Summer Meeting which focused on propane autogas opportunities, there has been a great deal of attention of the fuel on the state level.

Earlier this month, the State Board of Education approved a change in its policy which permit school districts to consider propane buses for transporting school children.

State School Superintendent Jorea Marple is quoted as saying that switching to propane could save an average \$3,100 per bus in fuel costs annually. West Virginia has about 38,000 school buses and spends about \$23 million annually just replacing old and worn out buses according to the West Virginia Intelligencer newspaper.

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE DOES RIDE & DRIVE. Last month, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's Alternative Fuel Task Force met in Wheeling with representatives from Blue Bird Bus Sales in West Virginia and Mike Taylor, PERC's Director of Autogas Business Development. At that time, a school bus ride and drive session was held using a propane powered school bus for committee members.

The demo included a ride on a narrow, winding mountain road to help simulate driving on most state roads where school buses have to go to pick up and drop off students.

WVPGA HOLDS INFO TALK. In early October, WVPGA sponsored a conference call with Mike Taylor to talk further about these developments with propane marketers. He described how companies can get into this growing market to add year round gallons along with how the bidding process would operate. He reminded participants that "someone was going to be providing gas for these buses. It might as well as be you."

OVER 75 MEMBERS ATTEND

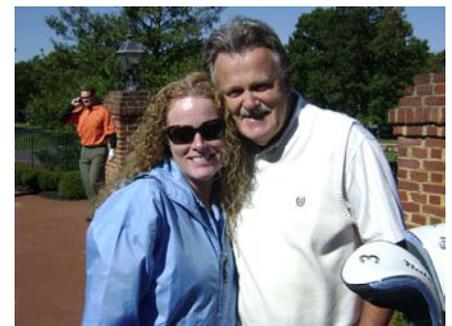
JOINT MEETING MAJOR SUCCESS

Holding the first joint meeting since 1996, members of the West Virginia and Virginia Propane Gas Associations met September 24-25, 2012 at Glade Springs Resort, Daniels, WV (which was the site of the last joint meeting).

As the pictures below attest, participants listened to NPGA Chairman Ray Murray, VAPGA Outreach Coordinator Dennis Cruise and Inergy's Lora Marti and Dominion's Cindy McGinnis. State Association leaders Rick Bowen & Bill Bigham welcomed everyone.

Also on tap was a fun Fellowship Dinner followed by *Game Mania* provided by the effervescent Sandy Sowell.

Golfers took on the challenging Stonehaven Course with WVPGA winning the Golf Challenge again.





Make Sure to Use These Updates

New Propane Energy Update Covers Tankless Water Heater Venting and More

A new Propane Energy Update is available online, bringing the latest in training, safety information, products, and analysis of the trends affecting the residential construction industry.

The Propane Energy Update this month features stories on venting tankless water heaters, a builder's dream home fueled by propane, and small-construction equipment that runs on propane.

To check out more design and building ideas for construction professionals in the new Propane Energy Update visit:
<http://buildwithpropane.com/?page=propaneenergyupdatesept2012>



Space Heater Safety Module Fits Changing Season

With the weather turning cooler it's time for marketers to share season-appropriate safety modules with their customers.

The *Using Space Heaters Safely* module from the Propane Education & Research Council explains the proper use of propane-fueled space heaters.



It can be viewed in about 10 minutes. View the space heater module at:
<http://www.propanesafety.com/space-heater-safety/>

And you can find more safety-oriented modules in English and Spanish where they can be copied and emailed to customers by visiting <http://www.propanesafety.com/consumer-modules/>

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Crane
Rule
Discussed



**NPGA ATTENDS SBA ROUNDTABLE ON OSHA
LABOR SAFETY**

On September 21, 2012, NPGA staff attended a roundtable meeting hosted by the Small Business Administration (SBA) with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in attendance.

While several labor safety issues were discussed at the meeting, one of the main focuses was OSHA's attempt to give some clarification on pertinent issues in the Crane and Derricks Rule relating to certification, recertification and seat hours.

The rule, which goes into effect in November 2014, requires operators of cranes with a capacity of more than 2,000 lbs. used in the act of construction to be certified by a third party. The rule also requires operators to be recertified every five years.

A major concern presented at the meeting was that crane operators would have to go through the two step process of a written test and a much more onerous practical (or hands-on) test to be certified, and then go through the same process every five years to recertify.

While OSHA has not stated this formally, the agency staff that attended the meeting confirmed that OSHA would be willing to work with third party certifiers and not require the practical test for recertification.

Also, recertification is contingent on the operator having enough "seat hours". Seat hours are the amount of time operating the equipment, in this case the crane. OSHA, as well as third party certifiers, are aware that many industries that will be subject to the rule do not use cranes as a primary tool of their business and would not meet the required "seat hours". OSHA and third party certifiers are working to alleviate this issue.

NPGA is continuing to address the broader issue, which is that OSHA requires 3rd party certification of crane operators at all.

We are developing options to address the agency that would ultimately remove or exempt our industry from the onerous burden of compliance with this 3rd party certification requirement.

For further information, please contact Robert F. Helminiak, Director, Regulatory Affairs at rhelminiak@npga.org or 202.355.1321.



Ralph Rooney
Suburban Gas Inc.
Past NPGA President

"We were confident that ThompsonGas would be able to provide a level of service and attention to detail commensurate with ours, and at the same time because of their size and corporate culture, would provide our employees and customers the security of a promising future, stability of supply, a broad mix of propane equipment, and a "down home" place to work and do business ... It provided us tremendous peace of mind."

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