



PROPANE EXCHANGE

March 2014 * West Virginia Propane Gas Association

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 12-14, 2014	NPGA Southeastern Convention Atlanta, GA
May 12-16, 2014	CETP Training Holiday Inn Civic Ctr Charleston, WV
June 3-4, 2014	Propane Days Washington, DC
June 23-24, 2014	Summer Membership Meeting & Bobtail Rodeo Glade Springs, WV Daniels, WV

Spring Membership Mtg

Marketers Learn How to Improve Supply Situation



After enduring one of the longest winters on record coupled with tight propane supply throughout most of the country, West Virginia marketers gathered in Charleston in mid-March to discuss what they could do better should this happen again.



Forest Herron of Herron's Training & Consulting reminded participants that it is important to be more involved in the transportation of product by being loyal throughout the year to those who haul gas for them.

Look at key supply points which are not close together, was another proposal, so that if one area is short of supply, retailers have other areas from which to pull.

It was also suggested that marketers concentrate on those things that they can control and build redundancies in case one section fails.



Some wondered why shale gas was being exported despite the very long and extended winter. Jim Crews, past president of the West Virginia Oil & Natural Gas Association, gave insights as to what is happening in the export market.

What is the effect on drivers of propane trucks when a state of emergency is declared (which occurred this winter)? Brandon Bulkley, West Virginia Division of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, went into depth about what regs are and are not suspended in such cases.



Everyone was reminded about some of the problems which are being found out in the field which should not be occurring when Assistant State Fire Marshal Charles Vannatter spoke.

WVPGA Lobbyist Rudy Seacrist reviewed the 2014 state session. While an attempt was made to add propane-powered school buses as a choice for school districts, arguing between House and Senate conferees over non-related issues stymied passage of any bill.



NPGA to OSHA: Extend Crane Rule Deadline



OSHA intends to grant a three year extension for "the enforcement date for crane operator certification."

On March 12, 2014, NPGA filed comments on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Proposed Rule for Cranes and Derrick in Construction: Operator Certification. NPGA's comments were extremely supportive of the three year extension of the deadline for third party certification of crane operators.

NPGA is working with OSHA and this very positive proposed rule was expected. OSHA intends to grant a three year extension for "the enforcement date for crane operator certification." This proposed rule will push the third party certification requirement back three years to November 10, 2017.

Further, in the three and a half years until the rule goes into effect, OSHA intends to complete a new rulemaking on the crane rule. NPGA is working closely with OSHA on the rule with the intention of limiting the certification requirements for the propane industry.

NPGA has received word from OSHA that they intend to begin the rulemaking process in April or May. OSHA is not clear on the next steps which could include public meetings or a Request for Information in the Federal Register.

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

WOMEN IN PROPANE AT THE

NPGA Expo and Southeast Convention

APRIL 12-14, 2014 • ATLANTA, GA

Saturday, April 12

Training Session: The power of mentoring - Value people and maximize business impact

2:00pm – You don't want to miss this workshop offering 5 critical skills for mentoring relationships. Gain practical knowledge of the advantages of mentoring and enhance your professional development.

*Presented by Dr. Elisabeth Selzer,
President & CEO of Mentor Leadership Team.*



Sunday, April 13

WIP Roundtable Session—Focus on Work/Life Balance

3:30pm – 5:00pm – Hear female industry leaders speak about their personal challenges and solutions to work/life balance. Share ideas on the latest business-building techniques, top challenges and current issues.

WIP Networking Reception

5:00pm – 6:00pm – Bring plenty of business cards and plan to make connections with your fellow propane professionals.

WIP would like to thank the following sponsors supporting us at this event:

AmeriGas

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AePEX Energy



wip@npga.org • www.npga.org/wip

New members are joining WIP everyday, be sure to stop by our booth at the Exhibit Hall and learn more about the benefits of becoming a WIP member!

WIP ...OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!



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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We're family, and since 1946, we have understood the importance of great customers and great employees. When the time is right to consider selling your business, you owe it to yourself, your customers, and your employees to call for a confidential meeting.

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Two New Items
from PERC

Propane MaRC Adds Bill Stuffer Explaining This Winter

The Propane Marc has added a printed bill stuffer of the ***What Happened to Propane this Winter?*** flyer. It is directed to customers and discusses recent supply and demand issues.

The envelope-size printed bill stuffer is sold in packs of 125 for \$17. Contact the Association office and ask for item # 009573

Updated Transport Operator Training Program Available

The updated transport operator program is available in a CD/DVD format and is designed to train employees who operate a propane transport.

The program offers a 90-minute DVD, and the CD includes a student handbook, comprehensive quizzes, a student self-assessment form, an instructor guide, and a PowerPoint presentation of the entire program for classroom instruction. The instructor guide includes suggestions for transport safety talks for group discussion.

The updated program is no longer associated with the National Propane Gas Association CETP Certification. To get your copy, place your order with the WVPGA office by asking for item # 00C203.

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It's Time
for
Training & Education



CETP Training in West Virginia begins in May based on numerous requests. This year the classes being offered are Basic Principles & Practices 1.0 and Placing Vapor Distribution Systems and Appliances in Operation 4.2.

Successful completion of both classes is required by the WV State Fire Commission by anyone who does propane installations in the state.

Visit www.wvpropanegas.org for schedule, location and registration forms.