



Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association News

Volume 16, No.1 Spring 2007

President's Message	3
Education Notes	7
PA Propane Foundation News	9
Marketing News	12
NPGA State Director Report	14
New Members	15

Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association News is published three times a year by the PAPGA. Comments and contributions are welcome and should be sent to :

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As the official publication of the PAPGA, the Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association News contains notice to the activities of PAPGA. However, articles, statement of fact and opinion are made on the responsibility of the authors alone.

PROPANE
EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY®

www.papropane.com

Harrisburg Happenings

Kathy Speaker MacNett, Esq., PAPGA Lobbyist
ksm@skarlatoszonarich.com

New Session of the General Assembly

The new session of the General Assembly is in full swing with a Republican-controlled Senate with new leadership, and a Democratic-controlled House with a Republican Speaker. Senators Joseph B. Scarnati, III (R-Warren) is now the President Pro Tempore, and Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) is the new Republican Leader. Senator Robert J. Mellow (D-Lackawanna) remains the Democrat Floor Leader. Dennis O'Brien (R-Philadelphia) is Speaker of the House with H. William DeWeese (D-Green) as Democrat Leader and Sam H. Smith (R-Jefferson) as Republican Leader.

We continue to monitor bills introduced and regulations reported that may impact propane dealers. Little has been introduced of interest to date, but it is still early. This session does not end until November 30, 2008, or a date set slightly in advance of that date.

Primary attention seems to be directed in the House toward internal reform of the House processes, and the Governor's Health Care proposal, HB 700. Both houses are considering the budget in what is frequently described as a tough budget year.

Shift in Personnel at the Department of Labor and Industry

Charles J. "Chuck" Sludden, Jr., the former long-time Director of the Bureau of Occupational and Industrial Safety within the Department of Labor and Industry ("L&I"), has now retired. Edward L. Leister, the former Administrative Officer for the Buildings Division within that Bureau, with whom PAPGA has dealt on a number of issues, has become acting Director.

Karen Galli, Esq., who has been our legal contact, has transferred to another Department within the Commonwealth. Kelly Smith, Esq. and Elaine Meade, Esq. are the attorneys with propane responsibilities. Both are experienced counsels within the Department of Labor and Industry. We wish all the very best, and thank them for their past and anticipated efforts.

Pennsylvania One Call

Effective March 29, 2007, some propane dealers will be required to comply with the registration requirements of Pennsylvania One Call. If you have not done so already, we suggest that you discuss the applicability of Act 181 (2006) with your own attorney to assure that you are in compliance. See recent e-blast for more detail.

Continued on page 11

PAPGA Officers

President

Daniel Messett - Penn Fuel Propane

President Elect

Ken Longacre, Jr. - Farm & Home Oil Company

Vice President

Jeffrey Shaffer - Shaffer's Bottled Gas, Inc.

Secretary

Ed Gorzkowski, Jr. - Modern Gas Sales, Inc

Treasurer

Phil Smith - P.B. Associates, Inc.

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David Koppenhaver - Koppy's Propane, Inc.

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James Ressler - Ressler Propane

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Walter Cressman - Cress Gas Inc.

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Darrin Shaffer - Suburban Energy

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Mike Mutter - Eddinger Propane, Inc

Patrick Shay - Tarantin Tank & Equipment

Bob Troop - Diversified Energy

District Directors

District #1

Hugh A. Rich - Richgas, Inc.

Darrin Shaffer - Suburban Energy Services

District #2

Glenn Beatty - Beatty's Gas, Inc.

Terry Steinheiser - Steinheiser Propane, Inc.

District #3

Joseph A. Bonadio - Pennsylvania Propane Gas Co.

John Maruska - Algas Co.

District #4

Norm Cupples - Penn Fuel Propane

Jeffrey Smith - HolidayGas

Districts #5

Glenn Danenhower - Bernville Quality Fuels, Inc.

Paul Gardner - Heller's Gas, Inc.

District #6

Andrew Burik - Heller's Gas, Inc.

Greg Smith - Bluhm's Gas Sales, Inc.

District #7

Dan Balmer - Penn Valley Bottled Gas, Inc.

Jerry Stanco - Penn Fuel Propane

District #8

Beth Donovan - Penn Fuel Propane

Keith Wrisley - Sunoco Comfort Homes

PA Propane Foundation Board

President

Ken Longacre, Jr. - Farm & Home Oil Company

Secretary

Jeffrey Shaffer - Shaffer's Bottled Gas, Inc.

Treasurer

Phil Smith - P.B. Associates, Inc.

Director

Walter Cressman - Cress Gas Inc.

Director

David Koppenhaver - Koppy's Propane, Inc.

Director

Daniel Messett - Penn Fuel Propane

Director

James Ressler - Ressler Propane

Director

Ed Gorzkowski - Modern Gas Sales, Inc.

Advertiser Index

Bergquist, Inc. page 15

Cenex page 4

Diversified Energy page 12

Duke Energy page 10

Enterprise Products page 5

Gas Equipment Co. page 7

Gas Equipment Co. page 11

Gas Equipment Co. page 12

Liberty Propane page 13

Paraco Gas page 14

Ray Murray, Inc. page 8

SemStream, L.P. page 6

Tarantin Tank & Equipment page 9

Thank you for your support!

President's Message

Greetings Fellow Marketers,

First, let me say "thanks" again to Jim Ressler for planning the recent Spring meeting for us. The discussion he and Kathy Speaker MacNett lead and the information provided was very timely and valuable to all of us in the this industry!! In watching the over 70 attendees in the packed room react and interact with Kathy, Jim and each other, it was clear by the intensity the time was well spent and the topics pertinent. I also had many members comment to me how much they enjoyed our luncheon speaker Diann Roffe, the Olympic Gold Medallist. Her words of encouragement and challenge to us to be self-motivated in our daily efforts were well received. Again Jim, "thanks" for all you did and also "thanks" to Holly Renner and Wanner Staff that made sure the meeting was managed and our needs met.

It was with great sorrow that I announced the passing of MIKE FILLA. Mike was a long time member of this Association and a leader to this industry pertaining to insurance and safety for our employees and customers as well as a trusted and enjoyable friend. We will keep you posted as to our efforts and involvement in memoriam for Mike.

I have already announced that Shelby Metzger has accepted the position of Executive Director of the PaPGA in a separate article in this newsletter. Again I want to thank John Wanner and Holly Renner for their exceptional and timely effort to fill this position with a qualified candidate. Also, my "search committee" of Phil Smith, Ken Longacre, Jr., Jeff Shaffer and Jim Ressler provided me the additional leadership needed to insure this process would be successful. Please join me in welcoming Shelby to the PaPGA; Shelby should be assuming her new duties around May 14th.

PLEASE RESERVE JUNE, 20-21-22 for our 60th Annual meeting celebration. It will be held at the Holiday Inn-Harrisburg East. We have a great event planned and just to mention a few "high-lights".....

- 1..The Annual Golf Outing at the spectacular Hershey CC-East Course... Terry Brazill and Norm Cupples have a great event planned with prizes and surprises
 - 2..A VIP Visit/Tour at RadioPA-WITF Media Center
 - 3..Tom Goodwin, the author of the PERC Crisis response communications program, will present a seminar to help you be prepared to address the media and public when it counts the most
 - 4..Special Guests: Roy Willis, PERC President & CEO, Keith McMahan NPGA Chairperson, Past PaPGA Presidents
 - 5..The opening/welcome picnic dinner with easy listening music by "X-Factor"
 - 6..Meet our new Executive Director Shelby
 - 7..The Golf Outing Award Ceremony (at the welcoming picnic dinner)... Terry and Norm have been taking lessons from Don Rickles for this one!!!
 - 8..The opportunity to finally determine who really talks more... Dan Messett or Jeff Shaffer!!!!
- As you can see, this is going to be a good one...see ya' there!!!

I would like to thank all the Committee Chairpersons for their efforts and those who have responded to requests to help with special projects...your efforts make our Association that much stronger.

I would like to mention that I have appointed Pat Shay as Chairperson of the Membership & PAC Committees, his co-chair will be Ed Gorzkowski, Jr. I have also appointed ALL District Directors to this joint committee and Pat will be soliciting a few more members in the near future. I have re-vamped this joint committee and challenged them to get more members active across the State not only in membership activities but also in soliciting funds for and explaining the importance of our PAC efforts. We will be looking for this committee to lead us as an Association to be more active at the local level with our State Legislators and using PAC funds to attend local events to strengthen our legislative relationships with guidance from our Legislative Committee. We will also encourage involvement with our national PAC efforts and events such as Propane Days in Washington. Again, I hope to see everyone in June and please be an ACTIVE MEMBER in your Association...our strength is YOU!!

"Thanks",
Dan Messett, President

full page ad cenex

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PaPGA...

FROM: DAN MESSETT, PRESIDENT & JOHN WANNER, CEO/WANNER & ASSOCIATES

Greetings,

On behalf of the “search committee” and with John Wanner I am pleased to announce SHELBY METZGER as the new Executive Director of the PaPGA.

At this time Shelby is transitioning from her current position as Director of Meetings & Executive Dept. of the Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association. Shelby has been with the PMHA for over seven years and brings experience in working with Association functions, trade shows, association meetings, Board of Directors-Committee-Membership meetings, procedure management, marketing, newsletter production, budget management and many other association related functions. In her duties at PMHA Shelby also worked closely with the PaPGA and Pa. Propane Foundation pertaining to our efforts with that industry and thus gained much insight and knowledge of us...which will serve Shelby well in her transition.

We expect Shelby to begin her new duties around May 14...we will keep you posted. Until that time and throughout the transition Holly will remain in a support position to assist Shelby.

I would like to thank my “search committee” for their efforts in assisting John, Holly and myself in finding our new Executive Director...Phil Smith, Ken Longacre, Jr., Jeff Shaffer and Jim Ressler. Their professional approach and diligence was of great value and they remained focussed on what was best for our Association and continuity for the future!!

Have a Great Day and remember to reserve June 20-21-22 for the Annual Meeting...our 60th!!!.....

Dan

half page ad enterprise products

Full page ad Sem Stream

Education News

“The greatest service you can render someone else is helping him help himself.”

Baltasar Gracian

Our training seasons opened up with our Altoona classes in May only receiving a small number of reservations, forcing us to cancel these classes for the week. Our other classes throughout the state are receiving a larger number of reservations and at this time we expect to hold all of the remaining classes. As a reminder, please continue to use the web site to register for classes and to monitor the status of upcoming classes that become full or have any other changes to them. Well over 100 students have already been registered for our upcoming classes and that is about the same pace as past years attendance levels.

Our outreach to public safety continues with Propane Emergencies training for emergency responders. The PAPGA has received several requests to fund, in various ways, local Propane Emergencies training for fire departments. We have received requests to fund food, propane, books, and tuition costs. Some areas that have expressed an interest in funding are the city of Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Butler, Lackawanna, and Westmoreland counties. If you have an interest in promoting Propane Emergencies training in your area, please contact the PAPGA headquarters and request the introductory cover letter and a Request for Funds information sheet.

Funding for classroom as well as live fire training evolutions is available to the appropriate training institutions in Pennsylvania.

At this time, I would like to thank the members of the education committee for their efforts to maintain a high level of quality for our schools and commitment to provide a positive learning environment.

Another thank you is in order for John Murray of Ray Murray Inc. and Rick Feiler of Tarantin Tank and Equipment. These two gentlemen oversee the general needs of the students who attend classes at their facilities. I would also like to remind marketers that Ray Murray Inc. in Bensalem and Tarantin Tank and Equipment in Harrisburg provide their buildings at no charge. This gesture clearly allows the Association to provide classes at a discount to help meet the educational needs of this industry. A very special savings benefit indeed; thanks, gentlemen.

Sincerely

Jeff Shaffer

Education Committee Chairman

quarter page ad gas equipment co.

Full page ad Ray Murray

PA Propane Foundation Report

In the last newsletter I reported that we were working on a possible water heater rebate program for Pennsylvania. After a long period of debate and discussion, we have made a decision to suspend our plans to go forward with this program. It was very difficult getting past the initial concept of a rebate program, and arriving at any consensus on how to manage the program, what types of installations would qualify, how checks would be issued, how we could qualify legitimate applications for rebates, etc., etc. While it is always possible to try to work on this again sometime in the future, for now we will be returning the money that we had originally requested for a water heater rebate program, and that money will be added back into the PERC funds available to Pennsylvania programs in the future.

Hopefully you have all had a chance to review the training schedule that was mailed out to all members this spring. Through the PA Propane Foundation, PERC funds are used to keep the cost of all of our training programs as low as possible to make them more affordable for everyone. I strongly encourage all members to utilize this benefit and sign up their employees for the classes as needed.

Our Marketing Committee is also actively using our PERC rebate dollars to ‘spread the message’ about the many uses and benefits of propane. I’m sure Dan Messett our Marketing Chair, will give all the details in his marketing report.

See you at the annual meeting!

Ken Longacre Jr.
President – PA Propane Foundation

Half page ad Tarantin Tank & Equipment

full page ad duke energy

Movement on the Act 61 Regulations

L&I is close to finalization within the Department the draft regulations implementing Act 61 (2002), the LPG update law. Once released from L&I the next stop is the General Counsel's office and then review by the Attorney General's office. After that the draft regulations should appear in the Pennsylvania Bulletin as proposed regulations. Interested parties will have thirty (30) days following publications to comment on the proposed regulations.

We've passed an important threshold with the release of the proposed regulations from L&I, but the remainder of the review process by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission ("IRRC") and the legislative committees can also be time-consuming.

The draft regulations as released by L&I have some draw backs, including but not limited to:

- Installation location by cops coordinates of underground tanks of 2,000 gallon water capacity;
- No application of NFPA 54 after the implementation of the final regulations with some implication that matters inside the house structure may revert to municipal control under the UCC;
- Lack of clarity on "TIA" to NFPA standards;
- Sealing of propane facilities considered by L&I to present an immediate threat; and
- Requiring fire safety analyses of existing facilities above 4,000 gallons.

You may view a copy of the latest draft of the regulations on the PAPGA website at PAPGA's website, Act 61, Draft regulations as of 4-03-2007. (www.papropane.com/pdfs/Act61_regulations.pdf). We ask that you share your comments with us for consideration during the continued review of the proposed regulation within the review period.

Continued Monitoring of Municipal Preemption Issues

We continue to contact municipalities regarding municipal preemption issues. Please alert us to the specific problems, if any, you are encountering, and we will make contact with the municipality in your behalf. The PAPGA is not handling lawsuits with municipalities in your behalf, but will initially alert the municipalities to Act 66 (2002). In many cases, this alert has been sufficient to end the municipal issue.

gas equipment half page

Marketing Update

I would like to thank all those that “sat in” on the Marketing Committee meeting in Harrisburg last week at our Spring meeting. The discussion was excellent and some great ideas were formed to be reviewed for future marketing efforts!!

It was decided that a water heater rebate program would be “tabled” at this time. Much discussion has occurred and a definitive plan just could not be agreed upon. The matter is by no means a “dead issue” and the Committee will be discussing it and options in the future.

The HomeExpo in Hershey was a huge success again. Thousands of industry professionals attended the two and a half days of trade exhibits and we as an industry benefited from the networking at the show and year long marketing efforts in all forms of media over the past year promoting the show. We are working with the PMHA Staff on a post-show media kit which will be sent to BPN magazine with the intent of a show follow-up article. **SPECIAL THANKS TO SUBURBAN PROPANE** for the great effort in supplying propane and

service to all 70 homes in the show, we could not have had a better example of the capabilities of the Propane industry and why we are THE Energy choice for the factory built housing industry!! Also, “thanks” to All who braved the weather and helped at the booth, your efforts were appreciated!!

We are also going to be one of the sponsors of the upcoming “5 State” meeting of the factory built housing industry this coming October in Inner Harbor-Baltimore, this will be our fourth year with this event and we will keep you informed of help we might need. We also will have our PERC ads in the PMHA Monthly Newsletter and Annual Directory again this year.

In support of the building industry we have a full page color ad in the KEYSTONE BUILDER. This is the publication in Pennsylvania for the building industry. We strongly urge our members to join and be active with local builders associations and let us know if we can

Continued on page 13

quarter page ad gas equipment

quarter page ad diversified energy

Pennsylvania One Call Safety Day

Thursday, June 14

Harrisburg Community College Fire School

One Haac Drive

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Across the street from the Farm Complex

Safety Day is a no cost way to learn about safety. Hands-on demonstrations will include location, ground penetrating radar, vacuum excavation technology and a live trench rescue drill! There will also be up-to-the minute education classes on 8-1-1, 9-1-1, and **an overview of current state and federal legislation that affects every single excavator in Pennsylvania.**

Lots of exhibitors!

For additional information and to register, please go to www.paonecall.org.

Continued from page 12

assist you if you want to have a display at one of these local events.

We have contracted with RadioPA again for a state-wide radio campaign; the ads are PERC based format. This year along with “typical” radio ads we are also going to rotate some ads (PERC based also) that are in a public service announcement type of format. Timing for the program is Mid-August thru Mid-October; when air time is available we also benefit from gratis spots from RadioPA. If you want to supplement this program with your own local effort feel free to call Ernie at RadioPA ...717-221-2988...and he can assist you.

We will be also involved with the PRVCA again this year at their annual trade show the week of September 10th. They have provided us with a gratis booth again for trade days on 9/10 & 11...we will keep you posted as to our needs for help with the booth. We are also reviewing the possibility of sponsoring one or both of the trade day breakfast meetings. This event is noted as the largest RV show in the United States.

The Marketing and Legislative committees are working together on a project to send every Pa state legislator one of our pocket CD’s with a letter of introduction from Kathy Speaker MacNett, our lobbyist. The CD that will be sent has been revamped for this effort and we are anticipating strengthening our relationships with our State Legislators.

As always, we ask that you share your ideas with the Marketing Committee at any time and let us know how we can help you...remember....EVERYONE SELLS!!!

“Thanks”,

Dan Messett, Marketing Chairperson

National State Director's Report

NPGA had its winter board meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, an interesting city with very little cold weather when we were there. Serving on both the Government Affairs Committee and the Convention committee, kept me quite busy while in Salt Lake City. Rick Roldan, president of NPGA expressed the difficulty in adjusting to the new Washington, with the new Democratic-controlled Congress. There are 55 new members of the house and 10 new members of the Senate.

The new dues structure has been accepted well across the country. The NPGA is putting emphasis on coalition forming by teaming with like-minded organizations on individual issues. Since the main function of NPGA is to influence government to make favorable decisions for the propane industry, there was much emphasis on Propane Days that will take place right after the June board meeting on June 11-13. As of the end of April Ed Gorzkowski and I are the only two from Pennsylvania signed up for the Washington, D.C. event. If you can even squeeze one day into your schedule, please come. I believe we can accomplish much by making contact with our Pennsylvania congressmen. Please let me know if you can attend and we can try to schedule some productive meetings with our legislators. Please also remember to submit your comments on the Department of Homeland Security Docket Number 2006-0073 concerning tank registration. Details are on the Home page of the NPGA website. PAPGA also did a mailing. Please get your comments into DHS as soon as possible, since we have no assurance of getting the extended comment period requested.

We hope that you also liked the new format and events at the Southeast Convention in Atlanta earlier this month. I would really appreciate your opinion and any suggestions that you might have to improve the convention and exhibition.

I would like to also ask you to read and make comments on the proposed regulations for Act 61, the Propane Gas Act, that are posted on the PAPGA website. Please send your comments directly to the PAPGA office and to my email address. Thank you so much for your participation and support.

Jim Ressler
Pennsylvania State Director
Legislative Chairman

half page ad Paraco Gas

WELCOME New Members

Intra-State Marketer
Leon C. Landis, Inc.
P O Box 187
Quarryville, PA 17566
Phone: 717-786-2188

Intra-State Marketer
Reed Oil Co., Inc.
511 Montgomery Avenue
New Castle, PA 16102
Phone: 724-658-6692

Intra-State Marketer
Chris Walton
Clyde S. Walton, Inc.
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Phone: 215-855-6893

Individual
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DCP Midstream (formerly Duke Energy)
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Phone: 724-643-2151

Associate
B. R. Smith
Allegheny Coatings
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Ridgway, PA 15857
Phone: 814-772-3850

Associate
Dave Snow
Gas & Oil Insurance Brokers
2 Holly Road
Lakewood, NY 14750
Phone: 716-763-5947

Associate
Mark Steinfeld
Victor/Div. of F.W. Webb
200 Locust Street
Hartford, CT 06114
Phone: 800-243-9360

Half page ad bergquist



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