



February 2020

DEGREE DAYS

Virginia Propane Gas Association

Newsletter of the Virginia Propane Gas Association



Scholarships! Scholarships! Scholarships!



NPGF Funds **\$1,000** and **\$2,000** college scholarships

AND

\$1,000 Technical/Trade/Vocational School Scholarships

NPGF is now accepting applications for the 2020/2021

academic year - **deadline is February 15, 2020!**

Click here for scholarship application

The National Propane Gas Foundation (NPGF) offers scholarships to attend an accredited two year or four year college for children of current employees of NPGA or VAPGA member companies.

There are two NPGF scholarships sponsored by Carlton Revere and his family (formerly of Revere Gas) that are solely for students whose parents work at companies that are members of VAPGA!!!

These awards can also be used by students attending an accredited technical, trade, or vocational school pursuing a propane-related career as a commercial truck driver, electrician, gas fitter, HVAC technician, pipe fitter, or plumber. Please see the eligibility criteria for complete details.

Applicants must have their parent's NPGA member company ID to apply. To request a company's NPGA ID, email Info@npga.org using the subject line:

"NPGA Member Number Request."

In the body of the email, include the following information:

- Applicant's Full Name,
- Parent's Full Name,
- Local Company Name, and Complete Address
- Parent's Phone
- Parent's Company Email

If you have any questions call Lori Dec (203)355-1328 or email ldec@npga.com
SCHOLARSHIP FUND INFORMATION





Virginia Propane Gas Association

VAPGA Young Gassers Scholarship Rules & Requirements for Submission

1. In order to receive a VAPGA scholarship, the student must either be a current VAPGA member or employee of a member company or the dependent of a current VAPGA member.
2. Forms must be fully completed and all additional documentation included at the time of submission;
3. failure to complete the application or include required documents might be cause for disqualification.
4. Each student is eligible to receive the VAPGA scholarship no more than 4 times total (be it consecutively or not.)
5. Students must show that they have a 2.7 GPA or higher at the time of submission and MUST
6. maintain a 2.7 GPA or higher during the year for which they receive the scholarship.
7. 50% of the scholarship will be paid for the first semester and the remaining 50% for the second semester. Proof of eligibility required for payments.
8. Students must be enrolled full-time (12 or more credit hours) per semester in order to receive the full scholarship. Failure to enroll as a full-time student second semester will result in the forfeiture of the 2nd disbursement of scholarship monies.
9. Falsification of application documents will result in disqualification for consideration. Falsification of requested supporting documentation for the second semester will result in the revocation of remaining scholarship disbursements.
10. Falsification of documents will render the student ineligible to apply for future scholarship awards.
11. Scholarship monies will be disbursed as a check made payable to the academic institution. Cash money will not be distributed and unused funds will not be refunded to the student.
12. Certified enrollment documents from the Registrar's Office of the academic institution are required
13. to receive the first disbursement. Supporting enrollment documentation for second semester must be provided to the VAPGA office before the second disbursement will be sent.
14. Electronic submission of all documents is strongly encouraged but not required.
15. Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of factors to include academic performance, outside or extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, financial need, ability to follow submission instructions, etc. Winners are chosen by committee to ensure that all applications are reviewed fairly.

[Click here for Scholarship Application](#)

Please submit all documentation to:

Email: Conner@AllianceGroupLtd.com

Fax: 804-726-6015

Mail: VAPGA; 2201 W. Main Street; Richmond, VA 23220

Contact Conner Miller at 804-726-6015 or Conner@AllianceGroupLtd.com with any questions.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS IS April 1, 2020.



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Upcoming Events

VAPGA Spring Meeting



The VAPGA annual Spring meeting will take place April 19-21, 2020. The meeting will be held at Kingsmill resort in Williamsburg, Virginia.

(1010 Kingsmill Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185),

Registration material will be sent out in a few weeks.

We will kick off the meeting with a golf tournament at the River Course on Sunday! There is a great line-up of speakers, including Steve Kaminski from NPGA, and the Suppliers have some exciting events for Sunday night. We look forward to seeing you there!

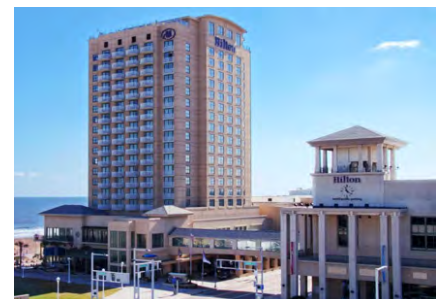
**Click Here to reserve your room at
Kingsmill**

2020 VAPGA Annual Fall Meeting



The VAPGA annual Fall meeting will take place October 11-13, 2020 at the Virginian located in Lynchburg, Virginia.

2020 VAPGA Annual Summer Meeting



The VAPGA annual Summer meeting will take place July 12-15, 2020 at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront

3001 Atlantic Avenue Virginia Beach, VA, 23451

[Click here to book your room at the Hilton](#)

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Save the Date



The VAPGA annual Training Day will be on May 1, 2020. This year we will return to the Virginia Tech Richmond Center 2810 N. Parham Road, Richmond. Training programs will include: Install and Troubleshooting Tankless Hot Water Heaters, Troubleshooting Vent-Free Appliances and Performing Gas Checks to include Documentation and Common Errors to Avoid. This one-day event is scheduled to allow attendance of all three programs and lunch is included in the \$25 registration fee. Additional information and registration information will follow but make plans now to attend.

January 2020 Propane Inventory Update

The EIA reported actual U.S. propane inventory of 101.4 million barrels for the month of October 2019 (45 days of demand) and the outlook for total propane inventory further declines through April 2020. The April 2020 inventory level is currently projected to approach 60 million barrels, in line with 2019 inventory levels. The outlook for propane supply, demand, imports, and exports for full year 2020 has been revised to reflect slower production growth resulting from slower U.S. upstream activity as a reaction to lower U.S. natural gas prices and lower global crude oil prices. The refinery runs for 2020 on a monthly basis were adjusted downward for full year 2020 as well. The outlook and forecast for propane production for 2020 on an average monthly basis has been reduced by approximately 160,000 barrels per day (b/d) as compared to last month's forecast. Most of the propane production reductions were made in PADD 1 and PADD 3. Propane exports have been adjusted downward reflecting lower propane availability. The reductions in exports are commensurate with the reductions in production from gas processing.

If it's not in writing....

In today's climate of litigation one of the most common statements I hear is "if it's not in writing, it didn't happen". I probably say it as much as I hear it. We have all heard it, and most of us have used it. While this statement is absolutely true I think it deserves a follow up that I almost never hear mentioned. I almost never hear "you must comply and react to your own policies and procedures". While documentation is critical, once a requirement, policy or a procedure is documented, that is the standard you will be held to.

Regular review of policy and procedures is essential to assure your company is actually doing what has been established as policy. Having written policies and standards above and beyond what is required is great, but only if you actually do it. Policies that are not followed can open the door to litigation even when code requirements are met. Training, disciplinary and corrective action policies tend to get the most attention following an event.

Take time to review company policy to assure all required areas are addressed and then assure that you are following what you have written.

HELP WANTED!

We Need YOUR Help!

Shortly, the VAPGA will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary, and to make it a spectacular event we are in search of items related to our past 75 years.

Please share with us any memorabilia that you might have tucked away in a drawer, on your phone, in a file cabinet or up in your attic.

- Photos you might have of:
 - Members
 - General Meetings
 - Committee Meetings
 - Board Meetings
 - Golf Outings
 - Sporting Events
 - Hospitality Suites
 - Cocktail Hours
 - Dinners
 - Awards Banquets
 - Demonstrations
- Old Membership Directories
- Meeting Programs
- Old Meeting Minutes
- Old Company Advertisements
- Old Logo's from Your Company
- Copies of Media Interviews with Key Personnel
- A Copy of Your Company History
- Old Photos of Your
 - Office / Warehouse / Showroom
 - Personnel / Key Employees
 - Old Storage Tanks
 - Old Propane Plants
 - Old Trucks / Bobtails / Transports

Please send all Contributions to:

Lesley Moseley at lesley@alliancegrouppltd.com,

Or C/O VAPGA, 2201 West Main Street, Richmond, VA 23220

Tax Credit Information

In December 2019, NPGA played a critical role in the reinstatement of the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit and the Alternative Fuel Refueling Property Credit. These credits are estimated to be worth over \$500 million dollars to the propane industry. Use it. Don't leave money on the table.

The Next Steps:

1) Share the Alternative Fuel Credits Fact Sheet with your tax professional. This document is not tax advice. It is a tool to be shared with your tax professional. A tax professional can determine eligibility and use of the credit.

2) Keep in mind - the credit is retroactive for 2018 and 2019. There is a 180-day window to submit all retroactive claims. This one-time opportunity begins on February 14, 2020 and runs through August 11, 2020.

3) Share the document with your customers.

4) Fork lifts are eligible to claim the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit.

5) Use your tax credit.

This document is being shared with the full NPGA membership. It will also be available on the NPGA Member Dashboard on the NPGA website.

If you have any questions, please contact mbaker@npga.org.

FMCSA Announces Two-Year Delay to Entry-Level Driver Training

On January 29th, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced a two-year delay to the compliance deadline for the Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) program. The delay changes the compliance deadline for all participants from February 7, 2020 to February 7, 2022. In July 2019, FMCSA proposed a two-year delay to parts of the ELDT program applicable to state licensing agencies; however, the agency received significant feedback to delay the entire program for all stakeholders. The FMCSA announcement is available on the agency's homepage and it will be formally published in the Federal Register shortly.

FMCSA was congressionally mandated to create ELDT through the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and the agency concluded the rulemaking process in December 2016. NPGA advocated against several components of FMCSA's initial proposal, like a minimum number of hours behind the wheel, which were ultimately removed from the final rule. After finalization, NPGA partnered with the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) to identify how we can develop materials to assist the propane industry in compliance with the ELDT program.

ELDT applies to new Commercial Driver's License (CDL) applicants or new Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HME) applicants. It does not apply to currently licensed drivers or Commercial Learner's Permits obtained before the compliance deadline, unless the CDL-holder is seeking an HME. It also applies to all other endorsements, such as Passengers.

ELDT includes a two-part curriculum that must be completed before the applicant sits for the CDL or HME exam with the state license office: classroom or 'theory' curriculum, and behind the wheel training (range and public road). The classroom education includes a written/electronic exam that the applicant must pass with a score of 80 percent. The person providing behind the wheel training (trainer) must 'self-certify' or attest to satisfactory performance of vehicle operations by the applicant. The trainer must have a CDL at or above the level sought by the applicant. A similar classroom and exam format apply to CDL-holders seeking an HME.

The classroom and behind the wheel training must be provided by an entity or person registered in FMCSA's Training Provider Registry, which is a database subject to recordkeeping requirements and audit.

NPGA and PERC continue to work together through the delayed compliance deadline to develop compliance materials for the propane industry! NPGA is collaborating with PERC to create the basic classroom curriculum and behind the wheel training materials that a propane marketer needs in order to provide in-house training. In addition, NPGA is working on an administrative service that would allow NPGA to serve as the official training provider subject to FMCSA recordkeeping and audit.

Please direct any questions to Sarah Reboli, NPGA Deputy Counsel, Regulatory Affairs.



With the help of NPGA and The Canadian Propane Association, The International Association of Young Gassers is launching a 30 under 30 Program for 2020. This program is aimed at recognizing the top young professionals in the propane industry, from drivers, technicians, and office workers, to manufacturing shop employees, and state or national association employees – anyone! The only requirements are:

1. Must be between 18 – 29 years old as of January 1st, 2020
2. Must work for a company involved in the propane industry
3. Must be nominated by someone within the propane industry

Individuals selected for the program will receive:

- Admission to the NPGA Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo (April 6 – 8)
- Admission to Young Gassers Reception (April 7 in Nashville)
- Free registration to the Women in Propane 2020 Leadership Forum
- Free Individual membership to NPGA, CPA and YG for 1 year, and MUCH MORE!

Now is the time to recognize your hard-working employees who will be the future of the industry! Nominate someone today - the application will take less than 20 minutes to complete.

[Nomination Form](#)

Here's to a bright 2020 and an even brighter future!

For more information or questions regarding the program, please email Steph Hennen at younggassers@gmail.com

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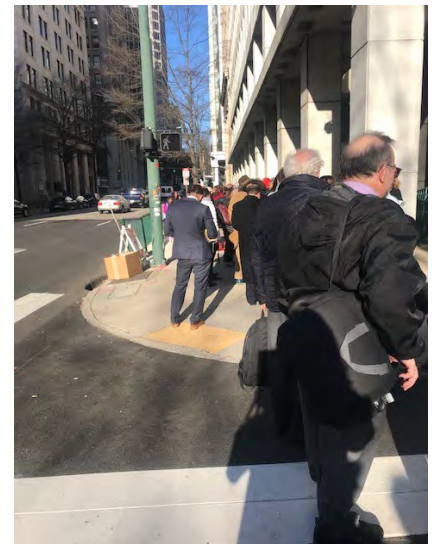
Gas Equipment Co. TV - www.youtube.com/GasEquipmentTV



Steve Barton

VA Clean Cities Day

VCCD was on Tuesday, January 21st. Elizabeth McCormick, John Phillips, Colin Wood-Bradley, Kevin Lloyd, Taft Yeatts, Tom Krupa, Conner Miller and Lesley Moseley attended. The meeting was held at Main Street Station and afterwards everyone rode on a propane bus to General Session. With the help of Mike O'Connor we had several meetings lined up with various delegates to talk about the benefits of propane buses and why they are more cost effective than electric buses. We had some good meetings and Mike has had some great suggestions as a result of those meetings. Mike is working very hard on our behalf and we will get a good update from him next month.





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VAPGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Governmental Affairs – Patrick Kelliher,
pkelliher@blossmangas.com

Market Development – Hayley Karicofe,
Hayley.Karicofe@Amerigas.com

Safety & Education – Tony Hogue,
TonyH@AndersonPropane.com

Membership – Rita Pecilunas,
rpecilunas@otodatatankmonitors.com

Young Gassers – Will Rudich, WRudich@QuarlesInc.com

Suppliers – Tom Krupa, TKrupa@NGLSupply.com

VAPAC – Danny Alexander, AlexanderD@DixieGas.com

VAPGA CONTACT INFORMATION

Virginia Propane Gas Association
Attn: Lesley Moseley
2201 West Main Street
Richmond VA 23220
Phone: 804-648-6299
Fax: (804) 359-9680

Email: Lesley@alliancegrouppltd.com