



March 2020

# DEGREE DAYS

**Virginia** Propane Gas Association

***Newsletter of the Virginia Propane Gas Association***



# Notes from The President



**Welcome to March! I hope this note finds everyone doing well as we close in on our Spring meeting at Kingsmill. The general assembly has been quite the challenge for the propane industry this year, however, many have been diligent in the pursuit of recognition for propane as a truly viable Clean Energy source in Virginia as an auto fuel as well as for heating. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mike O'Conner for his guidance to our association during this time and all association members that have participated in meeting with delegates and senators. If we do not fight for our industry, no one will. Again, thank you all for the hard work.**

**The Propane workforce development task group met in Charlottesville on March 4, 2020 to discuss ways to recruit more workers in the industry. Randy Doyle with Holtzman Propane and Eric Kuster with PERC facilitated the meeting. The group discussed ways of reaching out to various sources to promote industry jobs. We are off to a good start and should have more details to report in coming days. Thank you, Randy, for running a great meeting, you kept us on track and on time. A big thank you to Taylor Sutton and Tiger Fuels for use of your wonderful facility, not to mention a great lunch.**

**I look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring meeting in April. Please get registered and make your room reservations early. As always, it is a pleasure serving you and please feel free to reach out to me with any needs.**

**Thanks,**

**Taft Yeatts  
VAPGA President**



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:Conner@AllianceGroupLtd.com) with any questions.

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

# Spring Meeting Speakers at a glance



Stephen T. Kaminski, JD, serves the National Propane Gas Association as its President and Chief Executive Officer.

His former positions include those as Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of Poison Control Centers, Executive Vice President at the American Humane Association, and Vice President of Legal Affairs at Discovery Communications. He has also spent time with the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and as a patent litigator and corporate attorney representing chemical companies and trade associations at the global law firm, Covington & Burling. Kaminski received his law degree from Harvard Law School and his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Johns Hopkins University.



Leland McLennan is a Retired Master Trooper with the Virginia State Police. He retired from the VSP after 32 years. Mr. McLennan has served as a FMCSA National Training Center Instructor and has been involved in motor carrier operations since 1980. He has been with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for 16 years. "Mac" holds his current position with FMCSA as a Federal Programs Manager. He has held this position for the last 12 years.



Bryan Sullivan is President of the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department. He is an EMT and a firefighter. Bryan will be talking to us about first aid/and workplace safety. He will also be telling us about his work as a firefighter and how we can implement fire safety and precautions at our workplace. We will also get to hear about some of his stories from working as an EMT and how to appropriately respond to certain first aid emergencies.



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# Upcoming Events

## VAPGA Spring Meeting



April 19-21, 2020. The meeting will be held at Kingsmill resort in Williamsburg, Virginia.

[Click here to Register for the Spring Meeting](#)

The meeting will begin Sunday with a golf tournament at the River Course. There is a great line-up of speakers, including Steve Kaminski, Leeland McLennan, and Bryan Sullivan. Be sure to sign up for the raffle benefitting Young Gassers for your chance to win a 45qt YETI Cooler with the VAPGA logo on it, the money goes towards the Young Gassers Scholarship Fund. There will also be jello shooters being sold on Sunday night, that money also goes towards the Scholarship. 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 Virginia 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

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# DOT warns drivers against using CBD products

Commercial truck drivers employed in safety-sensitive positions and subject to drug testing, need to be wary of using CBD products. CBD “cannabidiol.” products have become very popular with many users attributing positive health effects to their use. Reports claim improvement with such conditions as sleep disorders, fibromyalgia pain and anxiety just to name a few.

While CBD comes from the same plant species as marijuana, hemp, the source of CBD, was differentiated from marijuana in the farm bill published in December. Marijuana is defined as having 0.3% of the psychotropic THC, and hemp as having less than that amount. Even though a label on a CBD product says there is only a small amount of THC in it, the U.S. DOT warned in a February 18 notice, “there is no federal oversight to ensure that the labels are accurate.” In fact, the Food and Drug Administration does not certify levels of THC in CBD products. According to FDA, “It is currently illegal to market CBD by adding it to a food or labeling it as a dietary supplement.” If a driver’s mandated drug testing comes back positive for illegal THC in the driver’s system, the driver saying he or she used CBD products is not an accepted explanation, U.S. DOT warns.

“Medical review officers will verify a drug test confirmed at the appropriate cutoffs as positive, even if an employee claims they only used a CBD product,” U.S. DOT said in a notice.

All marijuana use remains illegal and CBD oil that contains more than 0.3% THC will be classified as marijuana during drug testing. The consumer of CBD products can not rely on the label as it is not federally regulated, so there is no oversight to make sure these products contain less than the 0.03% THC.

All commercial drivers need to be aware of the risk involved and exercise caution when considering whether to use CBD products.

## 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.



# 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](mailto:lesley@alliancegrouppltd.com),

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

## NPGA Legislative Update

Currently, NPGA is monitoring nearly 600 bills that present challenges or opportunities for the industry. To see the bills we are tracking, please click on the links below.

**Propane.** This category includes challenges and opportunities for the industry, including residential market development, transportation and safety issues, and business concerns.

**Carbon.** In this category, we follow environmental proposals including carbon taxes, cap and trade programs, electrification, and zero net energy. NEW: FIGHT ELECTRIFICATION ISSUE KIT Natural Gas Expansion. We remain vigilant to challenge subsidized natural gas expansion across the country, tracking legislative proposals to use ratepayer or taxpayer funds.

**Autogas.** These bills include threats to and opportunities for the propane engine fuel market, as well as infrastructure development opportunities. Volkswagen settlement issues are also included.

**Business Matters.** Requirements on general business operations that could impact the propane industry.



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](mailto:younggassers@gmail.com)

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**Steve Barton**

# **CVSA Roadcheck set for May 5 – 7.**

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) International Roadcheck will take place May 5-7. International Road check is a high-volume, high-visibility three-day enforcement initiative that promotes commercial motor vehicle safety through roadside inspections. Over that 72-hour period, commercial motor vehicle inspectors throughout North America will conduct inspections on commercial motor vehicles and drivers.

Each year, International Roadcheck places special emphasis on a category of violations. This year's focus will be on the Driver Requirements category of a roadside inspection.

According to FMCSA, in 2019 the most frequent driver-related violation found during roadside inspections was failure to use a seat belt. It's difficult to express how surprised I was when reading that statistic. However, it did make me realize perhaps I'm not the only one who took for granted that we all use seat belts. Clearly it could be of value to make sure we place emphasis on seat belt usage to our drivers. This issue is more than just compliance, it's personal safety.

Not surprising, however, was that 6 of the top 10 violations discovered in 2019 involved hours of service and issues with Electronic Recording Devices (ELD). While most marketers are exempt from the ELD requirements, I encourage everyone who doesn't meet the ELD exemptions to assure drivers are compliant. With the ELD full-compliance mandate coming into effect last year, driver requirements were specifically chosen for special emphasis during this years Roadcheck.

The following operators are exempt from ELD requirements:

- Drivers who operate under the short-haul exceptions may continue using timecards; they are not required to keep RODS and will not be required to use ELDs.
- Drivers who use paper RODS for not more than 8 days out of every 30-day period.
- Drivers of vehicles manufactured before 2000.

In addition to the vehicle portion of the inspection, at minimum, inspectors will check the following during the driver interview of a roadside inspection:

- Driver's license or commercial driver's license (class, endorsements and restrictions)
- Medical Examiner's Certificate and Skill Performance Evaluation Certificate, if applicable
- Record of duty status, if applicable and any supporting documents
- Illegal presence of alcohol, drugs, weapons or other contraband
- Illness, fatigue or other signs of impairment
- Seat belt usage and condition
- Evidence of periodic inspection
- Driver's daily vehicle inspection report, if applicable
- Carrier identification and status (USDOT/NSC Number, or jurisdictional equivalent)
- Operating authority, if applicable
- Vehicle registration(s)
- Fuel tax permits, if applicable
- Shipping papers/bills of lading
- Special permits, if applicable
- Hazmat registration
- 

Take time to review operation responsibilities with drivers and assure your vehicles and drivers are compliant.

Also take this opportunity to reinforce the value and necessity of compliance.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions

Dennis Cruise [propanetrainingservices@gmail.com](mailto:propanetrainingservices@gmail.com)  
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## **VAPGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Governmental Affairs – Patrick Kelliher,  
[pkelliher@blossmangas.com](mailto:pkelliher@blossmangas.com)

Market Development – Hayley Karicofe,  
[Hayley.Karicofe@Amerigas.com](mailto:Hayley.Karicofe@Amerigas.com)

Safety & Education – Tony Hogue,  
[TonyH@AndersonPropane.com](mailto:TonyH@AndersonPropane.com)

Membership – Rita Pecilunas,  
[rpecilunas@otodatatankmonitors.com](mailto:rpecilunas@otodatatankmonitors.com)

Young Gassers – Will Rudich, [WRudich@QuarlesInc.com](mailto:WRudich@QuarlesInc.com)

Suppliers – Tom Krupa, [TKrupa@NGLSupply.com](mailto:TKrupa@NGLSupply.com)

VAPAC – Danny Alexander, [AlexanderD@DixieGas.com](mailto: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](mailto:Lesley@alliancegrouppltd.com)