



January 2020

DEGREE DAYS

Virginia Propane Gas Association

Newsletter of the Virginia Propane Gas Association



Letter From the President

Nearing the end of the first month of winter and enjoying spring like weather. That pretty much says it all. Not good for the propane business. Well, winter typically has a way of working things out so maybe we can recover on the other end.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Welcome to 2020! It seems only yesterday we were cautiously approaching 2000, wondering if the world would stop turning, if computers would roll over from 1999 to 2000 without any glitches. Well they did and here we are 20 years later. We have seen a lot of changes to our industry in those years and certainly expect more to come. Hold on!

As mentioned last month we are facing a lot of challenges from the “electrification” of everything Virginia. Mike is hard at work in Richmond and we have already received reports from him on several bills thus far that put propane at an unfair disadvantage in the marketplace. Propane has its hands full over the foreseeable future. Thank you, Mike and Patrick, for staying on top of these issues. Your support will be greatly appreciated when we need to make those calls. As always, we will seek direction from Mike as to the appropriate time and people to connect with in these matters.

I briefly want to mention Clean Fuel Policy Day is coming up in Richmond January 21st. This is a Virginia event like Propane Days in D.C. You will find more detail later in this newsletter on the event.

It is my hope we all get busy moving propane in the coming days and keep our customers warm. Please keep our business in the forefront and be willing to help with any legislative issues that arise. Everyone has an essential roll in preserving our business. Anything positive that can be brought to the table will be of immense value.

Thank you all for all you do for the Virginia Propane Gas Association.

**Taft Yeatts,
VAPGA President**



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Upcoming Events

2020 VAPGA Annual Spring Meeting

The VAPGA annual Spring meeting will take place April 19-20, 2020. The meeting will be held at Kingsmill resort in Williamsburg, Virginia. (1010 Kingsmill Rd #5576, Williamsburg, VA 23185) Registration material will be sent out in February.

[Please click here to book your hotel room at Kingsmill](#)



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



2020 VAPGA Annual Fall Meeting

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

712 Church St, Lynchburg, VA 24504.



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Unapproved Foreign Made DOT Cylinders

PHMSA has issued an advisory notice to inform the public, industrial gas stakeholders, and relevant government officials of the risks associated with re-qualifying, filling, or transporting cylinders bearing the DOT specification markings ``DOT 4E" or ``DOT 4BA" that were produced by a company located in Thailand by the name of Metal Mate. Metal Mate does not have an approval from PHMSA to manufacture cylinders to DOT specifications; therefore, cylinders marked with the Metal Mate name are not DOT specification cylinders. They must not be used to transport hazardous materials in commerce to, from, or within the United States, or on a United States-registered aircraft. These cylinders may not perform to the marked DOT performance standard and may not be safe for commercial transportation or consumer use. For more information visit <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations-fr/notices/2019-23878>

FMCSA: Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse

The January 6 compliance date for employers has passed. Carriers are required to report CDL holders' drug and alcohol testing program violations to the Clearinghouse beginning January 6, 2020, and motor carriers must perform the required 'queries' – requesting information from the Clearinghouse for prospective and current driver-employees. Employers must purchase a "query plan" from FMCSA in order to have access to the clearinghouse to submit information or make queries. Queries must be made before a driver is hired and at least annually on all CDL-driver-employees. Most of our members comply with Drug and Alcohol testing regulations through membership to a consortium. It is acceptable for a third party administrator to make queries and submit information in the Clearinghouse the employer must purchase the query plan and make it available to the administrator.

More information about the query process and purchasing plans is available from FMCSA at <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Query/Plan> and <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/>.

Random Controlled Substance Testing

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued a notice of program change on December 26th regarding random controlled substance testing. Beginning January 1, 2020, the minimum annual percentage rate for random controlled substances testing, for drivers of commercial motor vehicles requiring a commercial driver's license, will increase from 25 percent to 50 percent of the average number of driver positions. The minimum annual percentage rate for random alcohol testing will remain at 10 percent. All carriers should check with their Consortium to assure the change is applied.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at propanetrainingservices@gmail.com or (434) 841-1636
Dennis Cruise



**NPGF Funds \$1,000 and \$2,000 college scholarships
AND
\$1,000 Technical/Trade/Vocational School Scholarships
(pursuing certain propane-related professions – see below)**



**NPGF is now accepting applications for the 2020/2021
academic year.**

[Click here for scholarship application](#)

**The National Propane Gas Foundation (NPGF) offers scholarships to
children of current employees of NPGA or state propane gas
association member companies to attend an accredited two year or four
year college.**

**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](#)

NEW

30 UNDER 30 PROGRAM



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.

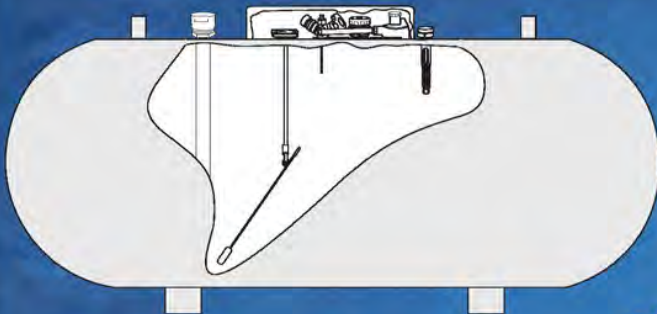
[Nomination Form](#)

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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Steve Barton



Clean Fuel Policy Day

Richmond, Virginia | January 2020

**Join us in Richmond for Clean Fuel Policy Day
January 21, 2020 - 7:30 am to 4:30 pm**

At the Virginia General Assembly
(Starting at Main Street Station - 1500 E Main St)

[Click here to register](#)

Virginia Clean Cities invites you to join in the second annual gathering of clean fuel stakeholders to discuss clean fuels policy priorities. During this day we will share progress in vehicles and technologies in Virginia. We will visit with legislators for a dialogue on clean fuel vehicles, fuels, infrastructure and technologies in the Commonwealth.

Changes in transportation can support successful fleet operations, clean consumer choices, and work towards clean air, energy security, and economic success in Virginia. While Virginians spend \$33 million a day on oil, we can produce and use cleaner domestic alternatives that benefit our local communities.

Clean Fuel Policy Day will begin at at Main Street Station located at 1500 E Main Street in downtown Richmond, and include a breakfast, educational sessions, and scheduled visits with General Assembly members and staff to share information on the status of clean domestic fuels in Virginia.

[Click here for the event flyer](#)

[Click here for sponsorship invitation](#)

For questions, please contact:

Alleyn Harned

804-539-9425 or or aharned@vacleancities.org





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Your questions answered by the people who know propane equipment.

NPGA Applauds Congressional Passage of Propane Alternative Fuel Tax Credits and R&D Appropriations

On December 23, 2019 Congress passed H.R. 1865, which will provide the propane industry with prospective tax certainty as well as valuable research and development funding. National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) President and CEO Stephen Kaminski applauds the work of Congress on passing critical year-end legislation that supports small businesses and energy consumers across the country.

“When Congress and the private sector work together, America wins,” Kaminski said. “This legislation will motivate consumers to make smart, green energy decisions, drive the development of modern technology using resilient energy sources such as propane, and promote the growth of small businesses.”

H.R. 1865 includes an extension of the alternative fuel tax credit and the refueling property credit, covering the years 2018-2020. These credits incentivize the use and adoption of propane as an engine fuel. These propane-powered vehicle credits are worth more than \$500 million, putting more clean vehicles on the road and money back in the pockets of consumers.

Following Senate passage, H.R.1865 is headed to the White House, where it is expected to be signed into law before midnight on December 20 by President Donald J. Trump. For the first time since 2015, Congress has extended these credits prospectively—through December 31, 2020. “Congress is sending a clear message to the country that it recognizes propane as a clean and green fuel of the future,” said Kaminski. NPGA thanks Representative John Larson (D-CT) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) for their bipartisan and bicameral leadership to advance these essential policy initiatives.

In near future, NPGA will provide guidance to the industry from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service on how to claim the credit retroactively and for 2020.

Recognizing the advantages of propane as an independent energy source with wide-ranging applicability, H.R. 1865 also provides funding for U.S. Department of Energy research, development, and demonstration projects, including \$5 million for propane vehicle engine technology development and access to up to \$10 million for propane combined heat and power systems development.

In addition, NPGA will continue to advocate for H.R. 5089, the Alternative Fuel Tax Credit Extension Act of 2019, which would extend the alternative fuel tax credit prospectively for several more years. “Long-term credits give customers and communities certainty, providing the best incentives to increase investment in low-emission, propane-powered vehicles,” Kaminski said. “The association looks forward to working with Congress in the coming years to build on this significant victory and bring value to propane customers across the country.

Virginia Propane Gas Association

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Trent McKenzie, Woodgate Petroleum, Stephens City, VA

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