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*We want to hear from you!
Ideas, concerns, ways to make the association more effective for you.*

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OGA “On the Move”

At the 2016 OGA Annual Conference, the association’s executive director, Tom Rider, laid out plans to better serve members with one specific new program and called for more input from members.

The Professionals Group is expected to begin January 2017. It is designed to bring like-minded individuals interested in advancing their careers through education and networking Lunch & Learn sessions. There will be quarterly meetings alternating between Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Each session will have a speaker and include networking time.

“We are looking forward to facilitating professional growth among our talented members who want to grow professionally,” Rider said.

In addition to announcing the new program, The Professionals Group, Rider challenged members to both be actively involved in developing programs and providing ideas and feedback for potential new programs.

“We can and will build the framework for our programs,” Rider added. “However, we need hear from all of our members to learn how we can best serve them.

“We asked attendees at the annual conference to identify where they might want to get involved and what they may be interested in seeing our association pursue, and we received many tremendous, enthusiastic responses.”

OGA Raises More Than \$7,000 for Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

During the 2016 Oklahoma Municipal League Annual Conference, the OGA raised more than \$7,000 to benefit the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma with a “Pie in the Face” competition.

Attendees at the conference were “nominated” to receive a pie in the face. Attendees at the conference “voted” as often as they wished with donations. The Top 10 vote getters earned a “pie in the face.”



OGA Awards Scholarships

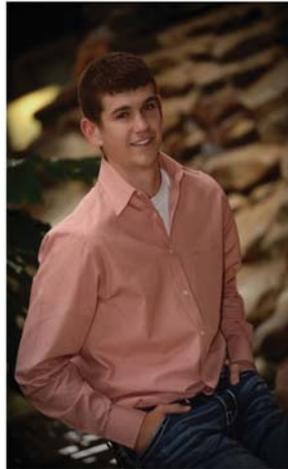
For the second consecutive year, the OGA has awarded four school scholarships to dependents of association members.

Scholarship recipients are selected by the OGA Scholarship Committee and approved by the OGA Board of Directors. The OGA has awarded scholarships for more than 10 years.

“Our committee again had tremendous applicants to choose from,” said Tom Rider OGA Executive

Evan George

Evan is the son of ONEOK’s James Maddux. He will attend Oklahoma State University and plans to study psychology. He has been selected for a spot in the President’s Leadership Council, a scholarship and leadership program for outstanding incoming freshmen that teaches the importance of leadership and serving throughout life.



Lynette Long

Lynette, is the daughter of John Long, Williams. She will attend Dartmouth. She was number one in her graduating class at Norman North High School and was widely recognized for success in athletics and community service in addition to academics. Lynette’s original poetry, The Fallen Times, has been published.



Director. “We had the top students in graduating classes from very small class sizes to up to nearly 500 and one of our winners was number five out of 745.”

To qualify, an applicant must meet all of the requirements and be a dependent child, grandchild, or ward of an employee or retiree of an OGA member company in good standing.

Rachel Wallis

Rachel is the daughter of Williams’ Renda Wallis. She plans to major in vocal performance at the University of Tulsa. She was active in band, choir and theater. Long rehearsal hours didn’t impact her ability to be number one in her graduating class at Pryor High School.



Natalie Wilkinson

Natalie will attend Oral Roberts University where she plans to study public relations. To help her in making her decision about which field to study, she shadowed a public relations professional at Williams. She plans to bring passion for writing and people to her career goals.



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OGA Holds Annual Conference

“Achieving Excellence” was the theme for the OGA 2016 Annual Conference & Exposition held recently in Norman, OK.

Approximately 150 gas industry professionals gathered for the conference which was kicked off by Mike Stice, Dean, College of Earth and Energy, University of Oklahoma, who discussed “Defining Excellence: Personal & Professional.”

OGA members also are eligible to participate in OMUSA’s Local Government Testing Consortium — an alcohol and drug testing service. St. Anthony’s Chuck Robinson discussed “Understanding Impairment,” the best practices of helping deal with this issue in the workplace.

In emphasizing the conference’s annual theme, the final speaker, Jeremie Kubicek, best-selling author and speaker, presented his leadership concept from his book “5 Gears.”

The 2017 Annual Conference which will be August 28 – 30, 2017 in Norman, Oklahoma.



Mike Stice



Chuck Robinson

Annual Conference Exhibitors

CenterPoint Energy Mobile Energy Solutions
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AGA Commends FCC Vote to Allow Improved Service-Related Communication

The American Gas Association (AGA) is pleased that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruled that natural gas and electric utilities may send automated calls and text messages to customers regarding service and safety related issues, including warnings of service interruptions due to severe weather conditions and updated service restoration.

This ruling permits utilities to continue to provide safe, efficient and reliable service while balancing the FCC's interests in protecting customers from unwanted calls and ensuring they receive essential and desired communications.

"AGA commends the FCC for recognizing that natural gas utilities provide a critical service to the well-being of the American public," said Dave McCurdy, the organization's President and CEO. "Our core value and top priority is, and always will be, safety. By sending text messages and automated calls, utilities are able to connect with their customers in a much more efficient manner. This rule makes it easier for our member companies to provide safe and reliable service to the more than 177 million Americans who depend on this clean, energy fuel every day."

UPCOMING OGA EVENTS

Legislative Forum

January 26, 2017 • Oklahoma City, OK

Leadership Conference

May 4, 2017 • Oklahoma City, OK

Scholarship Classic

June 8, 2017 • Oklahoma City, OK

2017 Annual Conference

August 28 - 30, 2017 • Norman, OK

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OGA Leads an Afternoon of Learning at the OML Annual Conference

The OGA was asked to provide speakers for a series of sessions at the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) Annual Conference.

“We are honored to partner with the OML and help them with their annual conference,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director.

The association’s chair, Catreana McMullen, was joined by board member Jeff Steely to present a session titled Natural Gas Emergencies: What First Responders Should Know.

At the invitation of the OGA, Dr. Jeremy Boak, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, discussed “Earthquakes in Oklahoma: Trends and Underlying Causes.”

To round out the afternoon, St. Anthony’s Chuck Robinson discussed “Understanding Impairment,” the best practices of helping deal with drug and alcohol issues in the workplace.



Jeff Steely and Catreana McMullen

Comprehensive Study Explores the Benefits of Expanding Natural Gas Service to the Growing Inventory of Multifamily Buildings

The American Gas Foundation released a study published by ICF International titled, “Expanding Natural Gas Service to Multifamily Buildings,” focusing on ways in which state and local government, natural gas utilities, and other interest groups have worked to improve access to natural gas service in multi-family structures in their localities. The study assesses regulatory or policy barriers to providing natural gas service to multi-unit structures, and presents possible solutions to help bring the benefits of natural gas to the owners and occupants of these buildings.

“Multifamily construction is projected to sustain a high share of new housing construction over the next 20 years,” said Kathryn Clay, executive director of the American Gas Foundation. “There are enormous benefits for providing access to natural gas in multi-family buildings—both for the environment and for the bottom line of the people that inhabit them. Understanding that multi-family buildings are made

up of a wide-range of building types with unique characteristics and needs is critical when looking to expand natural gas service to this growing market.”

In the past decade, multifamily construction has risen from less than 25 percent to one-third or more of newly-built residential dwelling units. Notably, if natural gas technologies were applied across all or part of the nation’s multifamily building stock, unit occupants could realize \$2.2 billion in reduced annual energy bills, or about 6 percent of total energy expenditure for multifamily units in the U.S. Additionally, CO2 emissions would be reduced by more than 20 million tons nationwide.

The study also highlights utility-led initiatives that have demonstrated success, and describe lessons learned through these efforts to provide insight to other utilities with similar goals to serve these communities. You can view the report along with the case studies here.

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