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ISSUE 1

APR 2025



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Dear Members of Southern Gas Association,

It is a privilege to step into this new year with each of you, leaders, innovators, and stewards of an industry that fuels America's prosperity. This year, under the theme [Uniting for a Reliable Energy Future](#), we rally together with a common purpose: to ensure that natural gas remains the cornerstone of our energy landscape, delivering reliable, clean, and affordable power to every corner of North America and beyond.

I firmly believe, America's strength has always come from its ability to adapt, to innovate, and to move forward with confidence. Today, we stand at a crossroads of energy and progress. Power demand is rising, industries are expanding, and households count on us more than ever. At the same time, the call for emissions reductions and responsible energy use is a priority. Some might see this as a challenge. I see it as an opportunity, a moment tailor-made for the natural gas industry to lead. And, lead we will! Our industry isn't just responding to the call for lower emissions; we are driving the solutions. **RNG, LNG, CNG, and hydrogen blending** are all part of our expanding toolkit, bringing cleaner energy to market while ensuring reliability and affordability. This is not an industry in transition, it's an [energy evolution](#), perhaps even a [revolution](#), driven by new innovative products, tighter systems, experienced professionals, bright young minds and new eyes, all with an unwavering commitment to progress.

Across our association, the SGA Board and its strategic taskforces, in partnership with our dedicated members, are engaged in initiatives to ensure that we remain the premier convener of this industry. We are working hand-in-hand with **AGA, INGAA, APGA and IPAA**, and others to operationalize their policy work. It's a shared vision, one where natural gas continues to be a pillar of America's energy security and economic strength and our workforce is equipped to deliver on that goal. Through expanded SGA training programs and professional development initiatives, we are preparing our workforce, whether they are on their first day at the job or their 30th year, to embrace the future with the skills, knowledge, and innovation necessary to meet it head-on.

A great achievement in 2025 is [the first graduating class of the ANGE \(Accredited Natural Gas Executive\) program](#). These trailblazers formed bonds that go beyond the classroom, they are a testament to the camaraderie and shared purpose that defines our industry. They remind us that this is not just a job; it's a calling, a commitment to something bigger than ourselves.

I also take great pride in recognizing excellence through [the SGA Awards program](#). These awards shine a light on the outstanding work being done by SGA member companies and individuals across our industry. In times when public perception may not always reflect the reality of our contributions, our best opportunity to shift perspectives isn't through words, it's through the work we are doing every day. I encourage you to highlight your company's successes and share the incredible strides being made in safety, innovation, community service, and



sustainability. And while you're at it, take a moment to **nominate a rising leader in your organization for the Chair's Rising Leader Award**. This prestigious honor includes enrollment in the ANGE program (a value of \$18,000) and the opportunity to participate in high-level initiatives that demonstrate leadership and enhance executive presence. Let's showcase the talent that will carry this industry forward.

Another resounding success has been our [All-Access Program](#), where this year **30 companies have invested in their workforce**, empowering their employees with the agency to set the course for their learning. This initiative is more than just training; it's about fostering leadership, confidence, and a deep sense of ownership in shaping the future of our industry. When employees are given the tools and freedom to grow, they bring fresh ideas, renewed energy, and innovative solutions that benefit us all.

							
							
							
							

2025 All-Access Member Companies

DON'T MISS OUT ON TWO IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS!

[The Management Conference in Birmingham](#) will be your opportunity to be among the first to hear about the strategic work that will define the value of our association for the next several decades. This is where visionaries gather, and trust me — you won't want to hear about it secondhand. Be there, engage, and help shape the direction of our industry's future.

Join us in May for [the Energy Symposium in Houston](#), where expert insights and stimulating conversations will take center stage. Attendees will dive into critical topics like how **LNG is creating reliability both nationally and abroad**, what **CO2 pipelines mean for your company's future**, and **Breaking Ground: From Young Pipeline Professional to Industry Leader**. Plus, this symposium will be held at **PRCI**, giving you an exclusive opportunity to explore the very research that is driving innovation in our industry.

SGA is proud to take action when it comes to investing in the next generation. We are **sponsoring five Young Pipeline Professionals (YPPs)** to attend the Energy Symposium, reinforcing our commitment to mentorship, leadership, and professional growth. Our **partnership with YPP** ensures that we continue to develop and support your employees, the future leaders of our industry.

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize our **Chair, Cristie Neller, with BHE GT&S and her Chair team, Allison Satterfield, Bruce McKay and Bill Murphy** for their incredible leadership and dedication to making this year a fantastic one for SGA members. Their hard work and vision are setting the course for a strong, successful future, and I am grateful for their commitment to advancing our industry.

The future of our industry is shaped by those who step up, and I know that together, we will continue to drive it forward.

Looking ahead, the role of natural gas has never been clearer. As new LNG projects take shape and demand surges across industries — from data centers to advanced manufacturing — our industry is poised to be the superhighway to a cleaner, more resilient energy future. We know that energy reliability and affordability cannot be sacrificed in the pursuit of progress. **Natural gas is not the past; it is the foundation of the future.**

To every member reading this, I say: this is your time. Your work fuels not just homes and businesses, but the very aspirations our nation. This association exists to empower you, to amplify your voice, and to support the work you do every day. Whether through training, networking, advocacy, or innovation, we are here to ensure that membership in the Southern Gas Association remains one of the most valuable investments you can make.

Now, I challenge you, **get involved!** Tell a colleague about the programs that have helped you grow. Try something new: join a committee, attend a conference, or take a class. Engage with this community in a way you haven't before, and I promise you'll find new opportunities, new connections, and new ways to make an impact. The future of our industry is shaped by those who step up, and I know that together, we will continue to drive it forward.

Together, let's seize this moment. Let's champion a future where America's energy is abundant, its workforce is skilled, and its leadership on the global stage is unwavering. Let's unite for a reliable energy future.

Warm regards,

Suzanne Ogle

President and CEO, Southern Gas Association
President, Gas Machinery Research Council



2025 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

APR 2-4

MANAGEMENT

Birmingham, AL

REGISTER — — — —>

MAY 22

ENERGY FUTURE

SYMPOSIUM

Houston, TX

REGISTER — — — —>

JUN 23-24

SAFETY & TRAINING

Milwaukee, WI

REGISTER — — — —>

JUL 23-25

OPERATIONS

Austin, TX

REGISTER — — — —>

SEP 28-OCT 1

GMC

(GAS MACHINERY CONFERENCE)

Louisville, KY

PREVIEW — — — —>

OCT 14

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

SYMPOSIUM

San Antonio, TX

PREVIEW — — — —>

2025 SGA CHAIR THEME

What an exciting time to be in natural gas! Despite the challenges we face, innovations in technology and the creativity of our industry have driven significant progress over the past decade. As U.S. and global populations push for more American gas, increasing demands from power generation, data storage, and geopolitical shifts continue to shape the natural gas sector. The pressure on our industry intensifies — yet one constant remains: our energy must be reliable. Our customers depend on us to deliver safe, affordable, and environmentally responsible solutions.

While the natural gas industry's track record is a source of pride, we must never rest on our laurels. To truly succeed, we need to advance the message that natural gas is the cornerstone of a reliable energy future — and deliver on that promise every day.

We are united in this calling, building on the legacy of previous generations, who prepared us to meet today's challenges. As we move forward, our operations must continue to adapt and evolve, embracing modern tools and techniques that enhance reliability, affordability, and security.

So, how will SGA drive the natural gas industry forward? By uniting our entire value chain, SGA creates a dynamic network that fosters collaboration and end-to-end solutions. We cannot rely solely on past successes or work in isolation. Instead, our strength lies in bringing together seasoned industry leaders and fresh voices alike, accelerating the sharing of best practices and innovative technologies.

Together, as we embrace our theme, ***"Uniting for a Reliable Energy Future,"*** we will create lasting impact and deliver exceptional value to our families, businesses, communities, economy, and nation.

Read Cristie's article from PG&J Magazine on page 20.



UNITING FOR A RELIABLE ENERGY FUTURE.



CHAIR
Cristie Neller
BHE GT&S

2025 ALL-ACCESS PASS

UNLIMITED VIRTUAL TRAINING ON CURRENT TOPICS BY EXPERTS

Learn more at:

SouthernGas.org/all-access



ALL-ACCESS PASS

All-Access is SGA's newest and most equitable pricing model to keep the natural gas industry trained and future-ready. It reinforces our core mission to advance the natural gas industry and individuals by linking people, ideas, and information.

The value of the All-Access Program is already proven. We continue to add new subscribing companies each month as the popularity of this offering grows. Thanks to this model, we've offered more classes than ever on a larger variety of topics. More members are attending and stay current on natural gas trends, training, regulations, etc. If you are not an All-Access member yet and want more information, please contact Alesia Black at Alesia.Black@SouthernGas.org.

The positive reviews keep on coming.

*"This was a very good investment.
All the classes that I have taken
have been excellent!"*

*"This has benefited me significantly! This is
one of the only avenues to develop in the
natural gas/utility areas."*

*"Greatly appreciate the opportunity to
broaden my knowledge and learn from
other industry professionals."*

					
					
					
					
					

SGA'S ACCREDITED NATURAL GAS EXECUTIVE (ANGE) PROGRAM: A PREMIER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



SGA's Accredited Natural Gas Executive (ANGE) program has reached a significant milestone with the graduation of Cohort 1 on March 6, marking the completion of an intensive 18-month journey of leadership development, industry insight, and professional growth. As the program continues to evolve, enrollment is now open for Cohort 3, offering industry professionals the chance to elevate their expertise and expand their networks in this premier learning experience.

A Transformative 18-Month Experience

The ANGE program is designed to cultivate executive-level leadership in the natural gas industry. Over the course of 18 months, participants engage in an immersive experience that blends strategic learning, hands-on projects, and collaborative discussions led by industry experts. Cohort 1's journey was characterized by a deep dive into critical industry topics such as market dynamics, regulatory landscapes, technological advancements, and sustainability initiatives.

Participants gained invaluable insights from thought leaders, took part in high-impact discussions, and developed strategies to navigate the evolving energy sector. The program's curriculum ensures that graduates *emerge with not only a robust understanding of the industry but also the leadership acumen necessary to drive meaningful change within their organizations.*

Building Lifelong Relationships

Beyond the wealth of knowledge acquired, one of the most significant takeaways from the ANGE

program is the relationships forged along the way. Cohort 1 participants formed strong professional connections and personal friendships, creating a network of trusted peers and mentors that will extend well beyond their time in the program.

The program fosters a collaborative environment where executives from diverse backgrounds come together to share experiences, tackle industry challenges, and support one another's growth. These connections serve as a vital resource for ongoing professional development and industry collaboration.

Capstone Projects: A Culmination of Learning

As a final milestone, ANGE participants put their learning into action through capstone projects. These projects addressed real-world industry challenges, allowing participants to *apply their knowledge, problem-solving skills, and strategic thinking to create impactful solutions*. The presentation of these projects on March 6 was a testament to the depth of expertise and innovation cultivated within the program.

Enroll in Cohort 3 by November 2025

With the successful graduation of Cohort 1 and the continued development of Cohort 2, SGA is now welcoming applications for Cohort 3. This is a unique opportunity for industry professionals seeking to advance their careers, gain unparalleled insights, and join a distinguished group of leaders shaping the future of natural gas.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this premier program. Enrollment is open until November 2025. Secure your place in ANGE Cohort 3 and take the next step toward becoming an accredited leader in the natural gas industry.

For more details and application information, [visit SGA's website](https://southerngas.org).



Alp Keceli, Connecticut Natural Gas, Tina Smith, Gas Authority



Jeff McGill, Energy Transfer



Judge Gardner, Southern Company, Vernon McNully, Summit Utilities

TCEPC 2025: A RECORD-BREAKING EVENT!

Overview

Our 2025 Technical Conference on Environmental Permitting & Construction (TCEPC) in San Antonio was a resounding success! With a 28% increase in attendance over 2024, we welcomed over 280 industry professionals from across North America for three days of in-depth learning, collaboration and networking.

Attendees learned about the latest air quality, environmental compliance, permitting and construction trends through expert-led sessions and interactive discussions. Many organizations brought entire teams to take advantage of cross-training opportunities and to connect with industry peers.

What Attendees Had to Say

"I brought an entire environmental team for education, cross-training, and networking. High-value conference!"

"Great conference with exceptional information. Looking forward to future conferences!!!"



Top-Rated Sessions

This year's conference featured a strong lineup of educational sessions covering key challenges and innovations shaping the industry. The five highest-rated sessions included:

Data Management and AI Strategies for Compliance

"One of the most relevant and forward-thinking sessions in terms of managing data. Data management is crucial for communicating value within an organization."

Endangered Species Act: Tri-Colored Bat Update

"Great insight on mitigation basics for bats!"

FERC Regulatory Update

"Crucial to always get this valuable time with FERC on updates they have and insight they can share."



Methane Reduction: A Southern Star Success Story

"Great speaker and fantastic content. Really appreciated learning from a vendor about lowering emissions while increasing throughput."



Low Hanging Fruit: How to Avoid the Easy FERC Non-Compliances

"Very well put together presentation. Packed with a lot of good topics and interactive."



Looking Ahead

The enthusiasm and engagement at TCEPC 2025 set a high bar, and we're already looking forward to next year! Thank you to our sponsors, speakers and attendees for making this conference a success.



SPRING GAS 2025: A POWERFUL GATHERING OF IDEAS, INNOVATION & INDUSTRY INSIGHT

The **2025 Spring Gas Conference** brought together more than **700 natural gas professionals** in **Charlotte, NC**, for three days of learning, collaboration and connection. With more than **50 sessions across three focused tracks** — Engineering & Risk Management, Field Operations & Construction, and Leadership & Innovation; and **4 certificate programs**, Leadership, Field Operations, Engineering, and Gas Measurement. Attendees left with certificates of completion and a Credly badge they can proudly share on LinkedIn.



From technical deep dives to leadership development, sessions delivered content that resonated with attendees. Here's what they had to say:

Peer to Leader

"Awesome class! This will be a tremendous asset as I develop as a leader." Another participant called it "Straightforward, inspiring, and thought-provoking."



Horizontal Directional Drilling

"The best HDD overview I have seen!" and "Lots of good practical info I can take back and apply at my company. Need more like this!"

Outside Leak Investigation & Detection – Positive Displacement Meters

Attendees appreciated the engaging instruction and practical insights:

"Very knowledgeable and experienced. Interactive with the audience."

Unconscious Bias – Improving Team Dynamics

"Would recommend this training to any supervisor and above." and "Great information. Instructor was very passionate."



Residential Smart Metering

"Great overview with real-world examples. Easy to follow and informative."

Navigating AI within the Natural Gas Utility – Workshop

"Hands down a great experience filled with great knowledge on AI. Highly recommend."



Regulator Relief Selection and Sizing

"Excellent, easy to follow training with practical recommendations."

"Great content and strong presentation."

The keynote session, Natural Gas Energy During an Evolving Time

Featuring senior leaders from Spire, BHE GT&S, Duke/Piedmont, Southern Company, and Dominion Energy, was a standout moment. One attendee remarked:

"This panel should be a requirement every year."

"I appreciated the diversity on the panel. As a female, it was great to feel represented."



The energy was just as strong in the exhibit hall, where nearly **100 exhibitors presented cutting-edge innovations and solutions to over 700 attendees**. From tech showcases to hands-on demos, the exhibit space buzzed with new connections and forward-thinking ideas.

SGA extends its heartfelt gratitude to the speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees who contributed to making Spring Gas 2025 an incredible success. We are proud to offer a venue where industry professionals come together to share, grow and advance the entire industry.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events throughout the year—and at **Spring Gas 2026!**

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2025

BIRMINGHAM, AL
APR 2-4

The 2025 SGA Management Conference is just around the corner, taking place April 2-4 at the scenic Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. This annual gathering brings together leaders and professionals from across the natural gas industry to explore opportunities and address challenges, share strategic insights and build meaningful connections. This year's agenda is packed with interactive sessions designed to spark discussion and practical takeaways. Highlights include:

Growth is Coming – Are You Ready?

Featuring insights on natural gas demand for power generation and the infrastructure, policy, and supply chain considerations that come with it.



Keynote Address by Adam Markel

Wall Street Journal #1 bestselling author, on how resilience helps leaders navigate change and thrive in today's dynamic landscape.

Interactive Capstone Roundtable

Hosted by SGA Chair Cristie Neller and Chris Wykle, Chair of the Associate Section, participants will engage directly with Board Members and peers to explore topics like AI, hydrogen, cybersecurity, and carbon management.



Back by popular demand is the ***Progressive Dinner on Thursday evening***, April 3—a unique networking event where attendees rotate through three locations throughout the evening to foster deeper, more varied conversations with fellow professionals. This structured, casual format was a standout success in 2024 and promises to be a highlight again this year.



In addition to world-class sessions and networking opportunities, attendees will also be among the first to witness the unveiling of our refreshed look that reflects our unwavering commitment to leadership in the natural gas industry. Join us in Birmingham to be part of the conversation — and the future.





OUR FOUNDATION **BUILDS** OUR FUTURE



For decades, SGA has been the trusted home for natural gas professionals—built on connection, leadership, and innovation. As our industry moves forward, we are reinforcing what has always made SGA strong, ensuring we remain the premier hub for natural gas professionals.

**BE AMONG THE FIRST TO SEE WHAT'S
AHEAD AT THE SGA MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE ON APRIL 2ND.**



CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE IN THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

The SGA Awards program recognizes and celebrates the most impactful initiatives and outstanding achievements within the natural gas industry. This is your opportunity to share your organization's story, inspire others and gain well-deserved recognition for your efforts to drive progress and innovation.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Chair's Rising Leader

Honoring emerging leaders shaping the industry's future.

Community Service

Recognizing extraordinary efforts to strengthen and support communities.

Corporate Communication

Celebrating innovative strategies that engage and connect stakeholders.

Emergency Management

Highlighting excellence in crisis response and preparedness.

Engineering Innovation

Showcasing cutting-edge projects advancing operational excellence.

Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)

Rewarding sustainability and social responsibility leadership.

Safety & Health

Promoting initiatives that protect employees, customers, and communities.

Meritorious Action

Salutes individuals who have displayed heroic action or quick thinking to save the lives of others.

WHY NOMINATE?

- **Share Best Practices:** Showcase your success and inspire others across the industry.
- **Foster Collaboration:** Highlight projects that bring people together and demonstrate the power of teamwork.



- **Celebrate Excellence:** Shine a spotlight on individuals and teams driving progress and innovation.
- **Build Pride:** Elevate the incredible work happening in natural gas and foster a sense of community and shared purpose.

Nominations open on January 1, 2025, and close on April 4, 2025.

Don't miss the chance to celebrate your team's accomplishments and contribute to the growth and evolution of our industry.

Winners will be announced live at the 2025 Operations Conference, which will be held in Austin, Texas, July 23–25, 2025.

Submit Your Nomination Today!

NOMINATIONS CLOSE APRIL 4, 2025

2024 AWARD WINNERS: LEADING THE WAY

We're proud to celebrate this year's award recipients, who have set the standard for excellence:

Chair's Rising Leader

Tyler Tunic, Williams Companies.

Recognized for his exemplary leadership and awarded a scholarship to the Accredited Natural Gas Executive (ANGE) Program. Award sponsored by *Saulsbury*.

Community Impact

Atlanta Gas Light (Southern Company Gas) Partners with Goodr. Honoring initiatives that strengthen local communities through education, outreach and partnerships.

Corporate Communication

ONE Gas, Work When Safe Videos Make Safety Personal. Exceptional communication that redefine industry perceptions and strengthen stakeholder relationships.

Emergency Management

Summit Utilities, Tornado & Wildfire Response. Exemplary emergency management programs aimed at promoting preparedness and resilience.



Engineering Innovation

Atmos Energy, State of the Art Salt Cavern Storage Facility. Revolutionary processes or programs on the cutting edge of innovation, that set the pace for progress.

Safety & Health

Energy Transfer: Safety Olympics. Celebrating innovative safety practices that ensure the well-being of employees and communities.

Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)

Boardwalk Pipelines: A Race to the Bottom — Emission Reduction Challenge. Recognizing groundbreaking efforts to enhance sustainability and environmental stewardship that yield measurable benefits for communities, the company and investors.

Meritorious Action

Individuals that have displayed courageous action to save or attempt to save lives.

Andrew Armijo, Atmos Energy

Luis Lopez, Atmos Energy

Leroy Martinez, Atmos Energy

Jason Haynes, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation

Stephen "Ricky" Smith, Dominion Energy South Carolina

Otto McMillan, Duke Energy—Piedmont Natural Gas

John Guerra, Miller Pipeline

Michael Lichtenberger, Miller Pipeline

John Mahan, Miller Pipeline

Jordan Sutton, Miller Pipeline

Larin Trenary, Spire

Angus King, Summit Utilities

Austin Welch, The Williams Companies

These outstanding achievements have inspired us all to push the boundaries of what the natural gas industry can accomplish.



Cristie Neller is the new Southern Gas Association (SGA) chair, leading the organization under the theme “Uniting for a Reliable Energy Future.” Neller serves as the Vice President of Administrative Services at BHE GT&S. BHE GT&S manages an integrated interstate gas transmission, storage, LNG, gathering and processing businesses spanning 10 states along the East Coast.

Neller began her career in the energy sector right out of college where she has held increasing positions of leadership across power generation, gas operations, engineering and construction before moving to her current role leading organizations through change and transition activities. Thirty years later, her passion for the industry continues to shine.

Article originally published in P&GJ

When you woke up this morning, think about the expectations you had as you started the day. Your hot water would be hot, your refrigerator cold, your home at a precise temperature, your coffee in hand. Whatever the daily essential that comes to mind, we can agree there are things in life, either for comfort or survival, that we rely on every day. Let me suggest that even if it wasn't on your mind, energy is undeniably one of those things. Many of us have spent our lives [working to make sure our energy supply in the U.S. is reliable](#) so it's not top of mind each day, and we

take pride in that. It's what brought me to the natural gas industry when choosing where to start my career. One question to consider now; are we embracing the reality of what it will take to continue a reliable energy future? I think about that often.

As society grows and develops new technologies with immense power loads, the demand on the existing energy infrastructure has reached an all-time high. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. electricity consumption grew by 2% in the past year alone after nearly two decades of relatively

steady demand. Forecasts for electricity demand continue to grow and EIA projects similar growth in 2025 and 2026. This three-year consecutive growth in electricity demand has not been seen in over two decades (and yes, I've admitted to being around the industry long enough to see it firsthand). Specifically, EIA expects electricity demand to grow the fastest in the industrial sector by 2-3% in the next two years as new semiconductor and battery manufacturing becomes operational. Similarly, in the commercial sector, demand projections increase by 2% in both

2025 and 2026 as data-center power consumption increases.

In addition to helping feed this electricity consumption, [natural gas is used by more than 189 million Americans and 5.8 million businesses](#) to keep their homes warm and stoves cooking. A decision that is helping their wallets, according to the American Gas Association, which estimates [homes using natural gas are saving an average of \\$1,132 per year compared to those using all electricity](#). But the benefits of having a reliable natural gas supply are often most appreciated when the temperatures dip and the thermostats move up. On the coldest winter day in the U.S., the natural gas system delivers 3x more energy than the electric system delivers on the hottest day of the year. That incredible demand is consistently met while [emissions from the natural gas distribution system have declined by 70% since 1990](#).

The demand for natural gas is clear and forecasted energy needs are rising. While solutions are debated, one thing is indisputable — energy reliability is a fundamental expectation we can all agree on. The data is also clear on one other fact, natural gas must be part of the reliable energy mix.

It is in these two truths that I found my focus as the 2025 SGA chair, leading our members under the theme,

“Uniting for a Reliable Energy Future.” SGA and its members are joined in this focus for the year ahead and are well equipped for the challenge.

There are several strengths within SGA that empower us to be solution-makers as we face this record energy consumption. First, SGA members represent every piece of the natural gas industry. Imagine having every perspective of an industry seated at one table. That’s exactly what SGA does. We collaborate with voices from the entire natural gas value chain to share knowledge and create a self-sustaining network of industry professionals.

In this new age of energy demand, coming together is only the first step. We must stretch ourselves further to discover the answers. Taking lessons from the past while keeping our eyes forward on our strong future, SGA members are learning from high-quality training that grows individuals, companies

and the entire natural gas industry. SGA believes in the power of continuous learning at every stage of career growth. Through our *515 on-demand courses, 13 certificate programs, 8 learning paths, and over 200 courses scheduled each year*, our members also believe in the importance of learning. We’re in the business of constant improvement in this area. What’s next? Perhaps virtual reality and artificial intelligence could play a role in accelerating future training and qualifications.

Whether coming together for SGA meetings or completing one of our self-guided courses, we have one goal in mind. SGA wants to help solve the energy challenges of today and tomorrow to advance the natural gas industry. Why? Because *our customers and country are counting on us, and we own this responsibility*. After a conversation with one of our members, you will discover what it means to be *a natural gas champion*.

If we are to be successful in the future, we must be ready to advance the message that natural gas is an essential part of a reliable energy future and deliver on that promise to our customers every single day.

That’s because the natural gas workforce sees firsthand how *the industry provides a reliable, safe, and environmentally beneficial solution to today’s energy pressures*. If you are one of those seasoned veterans who built this industry, thank you and keep it up. If you’re a newer voice to join our ranks, I want to welcome you to the team. Your drive for excellence, learning, resiliency and determination is needed now more than ever.

It is an exciting time to be in natural gas. Challenging, absolutely, yet the innovations in technology paired with the creativity of our collective industry have allowed us to make

significant leaps in the last decade. All in good time as the energy needs of today and the years to follow are growing at an accelerated rate. The natural gas industry’s record speaks for itself, and *while we can and should take pride in it, we must never be satisfied*. If we are to be successful in the future, we must be ready to advance the message that natural gas is an essential part of a reliable energy future and deliver on that promise to our customers every single day.

As the members of SGA bring together voices from every part of the natural gas industry, we are uniting for a reliable energy future. Together, we will create a lasting impact and deliver the greatest value for our families, businesses, communities, economy and nation.



Cristie Neller during the 2024 SGA Executive Conference.

ALL ABOUT COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Committee of the Year

New in 2025 is the [Committee of the Year award!](#) The SGA Committee of the Year Award is a special recognition from SGA’s Board of Directors, honoring an outstanding committee that demonstrates exceptional leadership, commitment, and collaboration. Recipients consistently engage in SGA activities, maintain high member satisfaction, and develop impactful initiatives that advance the natural gas industry. This award highlights a committee’s significant contributions to driving growth, innovation, and forward momentum of the natural gas industry and the incredible work our committees are doing each year.

Committees will be judged based on their representation at SGA activities, conferences, and overall committee meetings, as well as their output and collaboration within the year. We are excited to see committees work towards achieving the inaugural award!

SGA Committee Page

The SGA Committee website page will soon feature an interactive 'Ask A Question' portal to expand knowledge sharing and collaboration. This feature allows users to submit inquiries directly to our highly regarded industry-leading committees, ensuring access to expert insights.

Codes & Standards

The Codes & Standards Committee publishes a quarterly newsletter to inform industry professionals about critical code and standards updates. The [March 2025 edition can be found here](#).

Rates & Regulatory

The Rates & Regulatory Committee has created a comprehensive Rates TIP sheet intended as a quick reference for rate definitions, acronyms, common formulas, and national resources, while also facilitating engagement with relevant industry groups.

Employee Health & Safety

The Employee Health and Safety Committee has made significant improvements to the incident survey for 2024. The revamped survey is designed to be more user-friendly and comprehensive, ensuring that all aspects of workplace safety incidents are thoroughly captured. The new format includes clearer questions, additional fields for detailed descriptions, and an easier submission process. This initiative aims to gather more accurate data, which will help identify trends and implement effective safety measures. [The updated survey is now available](#) for all employees to take, and your participation is crucial in making our workplace safer for everyone.

Multi-Gen Leadership

Danny Emmanuel and Blake Villarrubia of the Multi-Gen Committee were featured on the Energy Pipeline Podcast earlier this year discussing “Navigating Multi-Generational Leadership.”

RNG Taskforce

SGA’s RNG Taskforce is partnering with the Northeast Gas Association (NGA) to provide updates and amendments to NGA’s RNG Interconnect Guide. The taskforce seeks to create a singular message and resources for the industry on RNG interconnect information.

Supply Chain

The Supply Chain Committee has organized a track of sessions for July’s Operations Conference. The committee is looking to cover multiple aspects of the supply chain, from procurement to investment recovery, fleet services, and more.

Ready to Make an Impact? There’s still time to get involved!

Join an SGA committee today and influence the future of the natural gas industry as we advance innovations and develop people, relationships, and solutions.

[Have questions?](#) Reach out to Jeffri S. Whittington, Director of SGA Committees, at Jeffri.Whittington@SouthernGas.org.

COMMITTEE CHAIR OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY

Maurie S. Bedwell
Manager, Supply Chain Services
Boardwalk Pipelines

Maurie exemplifies the core values of SGA through his outstanding commitment to [collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing](#). This recognition highlights Maurie's ability to inspire peers, address committee challenges, and his unwavering dedication to advancing the SGA's Board Chair vision of "Uniting for a Reliable Energy Future." His contributions are invaluable to our SGA Committee Community, the Supply Chain Committee, and the natural gas industry. We are proud to have him as a contributor!

"SGA is working through a season of significant changes, to the betterment of all affected. I'm proud to be a part of this change and certainly pledge my support for improving our shared experiences for staff, committees, and entire membership alike. This is something we strive to do as the Supply Chain Committee, and challenge others to do the same. After all, any organization is only as strong as its weakest link."

A WORD FROM THE SUPPLY CHAIN COMMITTEE CHAIR

Please allow me to introduce myself,

I am Maurie Bedwell, Supply Chain Services Manager for Boardwalk Pipelines, and I'll be serving as the 2025 Chair for Southern Gas Association (SGA) Supply Chain Committee. I was a previous member of the Supply Chain Committee, and after returning from a substantial hiatus, I find that we have a definite opportunity to make a difference in shaping our industry's supply chain efforts.

You may (or may not) be aware of several fairly recent changes within SGA, and particularly the Supply Chain Committee, over the past few years. Through several organizational iterations, we believe we are now on a great path forward to focusing on the needs of our Supply Chain counterparts across the natural gas industry. Hopefully, the following brief overview of us will give you an idea where we are headed:

Who We Are: Strategic thinkers, solutions seekers and concerned leaders within member companies.

Our Purpose: To provide opportunities to share in experiences, lessons learned, solutions to challenges and successes achieved amongst member companies for the betterment of our collective discipline.

What We Do: Educate, develop & advance Supply Chain professionals' knowledge through training, networking, membership and ethical business practices through benchmarking strategy and driving best practices.

Where We Meet: We meet virtually via webinars and monthly committee calls, as well as in person at planning meetings and conferences.

If you've not been participating in (or are new to) this very worthwhile effort that offers benefits to you, your organization and the natural gas supply chain community, please [consider voicing your concerns, sharing your strategies and gaining new ideas](#) for your organization by participating in our Supply Chain Committee meetings/discussions. All of this can be achieved simply through your Company's membership with the Southern Gas Association.

For more information, please feel free to utilize the following resources, at your convenience.

We hope to work with you soon.

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

*Please join us in welcoming these
outstanding organizations!*

Associate Membership

- Allegheny Contracting
- Altamira-US
- Benchmark Subsurface
Utility Services
- Cavanaugh & Associates PA
- Endress+Hauser
- KCI Energy
- Modern Hydrogen
- PipeSak
- Project Canary
- Damage Prevention Solutions
- MP Technologies
- Plasson USA
- Polyvalve
- E Source
- Team

Municipal Membership

- Lake Apopka Natural Gas

Gas Supply Marketing

- Holston Electric Cooperative

Distribution

- Hope Gas
- Northeast Ohio Gas Company
- Sycamore Gas Company



MAXIMIZE YOUR SGA MEMBERSHIP

OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE WITH SGA AWARDS

**Did you know all members can showcase
their achievements and be celebrated —
completely free?**

Your story deserves recognition. Time is running out to nominate. Share your inspiring successes, groundbreaking innovations, exceptional PR initiatives, and more. We want to amplify your remarkable contributions. Don't miss this opportunity to shine! Deadline closes April 4th. Submit your nomination today.

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT: A STRONG START TO 2025

As the year began, SGA's Learning & Development programs experienced strong momentum, powered by a mix of foundational and innovative topics that engaged both new and seasoned professionals across the industry.

All-Access Engagement Across the Board

Q1 brought a wide range of All-Access learning experiences, with over 450 total participants logging in for live training.

January's most popular courses featured [Emotional Intelligence for Everyday Leaders](#) and [Basics of Midstream](#), while February attracted interest with [Machine Learning for Pipeline Integrity Management](#) and [LNG Regulation Roadmap](#).

Participants praised the structure, practical content, and the chance to further their professional development at no extra cost.

From new industry entrants to experienced professionals, our members are finding real value in All-Access:

"Energy Transfer's All-Access Pass has given me a whole new set of valuable training opportunities."

"Washington Gas' investment has allowed me to learn about new and emerging tech — from hydrogen and RNG to AI implementation."

"We've even incorporated SGA courses into our in-house training."

– Boardwalk Pipelines

"I'm new to the industry, and these courses have been incredibly helpful."

– NJNG

Spotlight on Best Practices: Gas Authority

We'd also like to recognize *Gas Authority* and Manager Yolanda White for implementing a standout internal communications strategy that maximizes All-Access participation. From monthly training digests and onboarding integration to goal-setting around participation, it's a model we're proud to showcase.

Campus Growth Continues

2025 is off to a record-breaking start for Campus, our on-demand learning platform. With a **184% increase in logins compared to last year**, more users are exploring bite-sized, self-paced modules across topics like safety, sustainability, new technologies and leadership. Programs such as [Natural Gas Champions](#), [Hydrogen Fundamentals](#), and [DOT Regulatory Compliance](#) are leading the pack in completions.

Digital Badging in Full Swing

Credly digital badges continue to help members showcase their accomplishments. In January, 40 learners earned badges across two pathways — [Natural Gas Industry Professional](#) and [Natural Gas Champions](#) — with Spire, Washington Gas and Xcel Energy leading the way.

What's Next?

Spring is filled with even more exceptional training — from regulatory refreshers and ESG strategy to advanced compressor mechanics and multi-generational leadership. Several in-person workshops are scheduled, providing hands-on training opportunities that allow attendees to apply what they've learned in real time. Whether participating live, in person, or on demand, SGA remains committed to keeping our members at the forefront of natural gas knowledge and innovation.

UPCOMING IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

[Advanced Inline Inspection](#)

June 10–13, 2025 | Dublin, OH

[Engine Emissions Stack Testing and Analyzer Workshop](#)

September 10–13, 2025 | Waller, TX

All-Access members get 15% off:

All-Access members already enjoy unlimited virtual training. To further support their commitment to growth, we're thrilled to offer a new benefit: 15% savings on all in-person workshops, recognizing the unique value of hands-on learning.

Groups save money:

For organizations seeking to enhance team skills, group discounts are available for workshops, beginning with three attendees.

SouthernGas.org/upcoming-courses



**Chereese Johnson, SPHR,
SHRM-SCP**

*D&I Business Advisor; Diversity,
Inclusion, and Ombuds (DIO)*

***How long have you been in the
industry and how did you get started?***

I grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago, IL, where career opportunities in the NG industry were not well-known due to its limited presence in Illinois. After completing my undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I began my career in the financial services industry. With five years of work experience under my belt in this industry, I pursued an MBA at the Kellogg School of Management, where I attended interest sessions about the NG industry. The global nature and impact of the industry fascinated me, leading me to join the HR function at Chevron in 2017. The rest, as they say, is history.

Q&A WITH INSTRUCTOR CHERESEE JOHNSON

***What do you enjoy most about
teaching courses?***

Personally, what matters most to me is giving to others. As an HR professional, I strive to provide the support needed to equip the workforce to perform at their best. Providing support as an HR professional can encompass a range of activities, from providing career development guidance and policy counsel and, of course, to teaching courses. Teaching provides an opportunity to impart knowledge that enables the workforce to perform at their best. I truly love this!

***What has been the most significant
change in the NG industry over the
past ten years from your perspective?***

From my perspective, the most significant change has been the shift towards decarbonization and the energy transition. It has been great to see the collaboration across government, the private sector, and other stakeholders to create cleaner energy sources and address climate change. This shift has particularly led to an increased demand for liquefied natural gas and more investment in hydrogen and renewable natural gas, which has truly reshaped the energy landscape.

***What challenges do you see facing the
NG industry in the near future?***

The challenges I see are primarily about maintaining commitment to investment in NG and navigating geopolitical shifts. Competing viewpoints on global climate change can hinder progress, and uncertainty surrounding policy direction makes it harder for companies to plan investments and continue progress. Navigating the political aspects of climate change will be a continuous uphill battle in the near future. Additionally, geopolitical shifts, such as those created by the Ukraine-Russia war, have caused supply chain disruptions, ultimately impacting pricing and creating uncertainty.

***What is one thing about the industry
that you are particularly excited
about?***

Technological innovation in the industry is something to be excited about. For example, innovation in carbon capture & storage can significantly reduce emissions from natural gas production and use, making it a viable long-term energy source in a low-carbon world. These technological innovations create new possibilities and positive outcomes for the world.

***How do you maintain currency
on all the regulatory changes and
requirements for the classes you teach?***

Currently, I focus on teaching courses surrounding inclusion, which is vital for the global NG industry. I am intentional about keeping my certifications up to date and keeping abreast on latest trends and development through organizations such as SHRM and HRCI, just to name a few.

What do you think is the most important skill for someone in the NG industry?

In my opinion, it would be adaptability. Given the rapid changes due to energy transition, what looked like success 10 years ago is no longer applicable. Being able to adapt, pivot, and embrace innovation is key for long term success in the industry.

What are things people should know about SGA?

For over 100 years, SGA has been dedicated to investing in the people and the future of the natural gas industry. Through its learning and development offerings, community practices, and knowledge-sharing opportunities, SGA has played a pivotal role in ensuring the industry's future. I am proud to support this great organization.



CALL FOR INSTRUCTORS

YOUR EXPERTISE CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF NATURAL GAS

Do you have insights, strategies, or innovations that could advance the natural gas industry? The Southern Gas Association seeks passionate speakers to share their expertise at our in-person conferences or through live, virtual sessions designed to fit your schedule. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a rising star, your knowledge can inspire, educate and empower others to navigate today's challenges and seize tomorrow's opportunities.



Why Present?

By presenting, you'll contribute to the professional development of industry peers while gaining recognition as a thought leader. Your voice will help drive discussions, tackle pressing issues and expand industry knowledge on critical topics like:

- Energy Transition
- Leadership and Culture
- Emerging Technologies
- Regulatory Updates

Explore the full list of requested topics and submit your application today. With your help, we can keep the natural gas industry at the forefront of innovation.

*Application is open year round.
Submit to: learn@southerngas.org*



SouthernGas.org