SGA NATURAL GAS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# THELINK

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# **IN THIS ISSUE** ZEBRA **WHAT TRAINING WOULD HELP YOU MOST?** One quick question to help shape future SGA courses.

#### DEAR MEMBERS,

This quarter, we kept our eyes firmly on the horizon, delivering results that align with the 5-year strategic plan you helped shape. Every action we took was about creating measurable value for you and building the capabilities that will position our industry for the future.

# YOUR Q3 HIGHLIGHTS – WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

- Expanded Learning Impact: Your teams logged hundreds of training hours and earned dozens of certifications, arming them with the skills and confidence to solve problems faster, reduce risk, and stay ahead of regulatory requirements. These learning investments advance SGA's mission to build a future-ready workforce across the industry.
- Leadership Lift-Off: Our senior leadership team invested a full day sharpening how we lead and execute. This work strengthens our ability to deliver on the strategic priorities, ensuring we focus resources on what matters most to you.

#### PROGRESS - PROBLEMS - PLANS

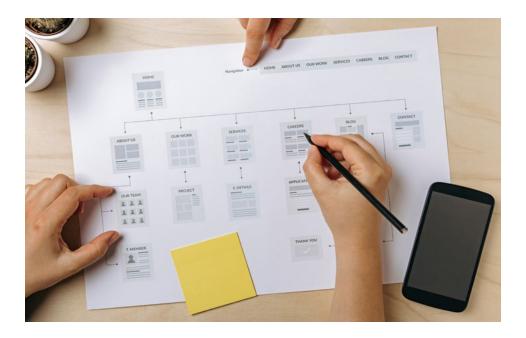
#### **Progress**

SGA Campus continues powering your team's development. Our newly launched **LMS integration tool** allows your employees to access the entire SGA learning catalog directly from your own LMS, no extra logins, no extra steps, no extra charge.

Courses completed and credentials earned are building a **safer**, **smarter**, **future-ready workforce**, a key deliverable of our workforce development strategy.

Members are also booking on-site training at their own facilities, showing that SGA programs are meeting operational needs and reinforcing our commitment to be your preferred training partner. Each class is more than a training day; it's an investment in reducing incidents, improving compliance, and building a workforce ready to step up when it counts.





We want to ensure training stays aligned with your biggest challenges. What skills or topics would move the needle most for your teams in 2026? Whether it's new technology, leadership development, or advanced operations training, your input shapes the programs that create measurable ROI for your company and keeps us on track with the plan.

#### **Problems**

You've been clear: our website navigation and search could be tighter. Finding courses, events, or committee resources sometimes feels like a wild goose chase and a barrier to engagement.

#### **Plans**

That's why we're redesigning the website to **reduce friction and make navigation intuitive and efficient**. Every click should feel obvious, every page should get you closer to what you need, faster, easier, and more helpful than ever. This directly supports our digital transformation priority and commitment to a better member experience.

#### Engagement Upgrades. We heard you: easy access is everything.

- Improved Search: Smarter, faster results so you find what you need without guesswork.
- Personalized Recommendations: Suggested events, training, and committees that match your role and goals.
- **Intuitive:** Designed to be as helpful and effortless as possible, whether you're in the office or in the field.

These upgrades are not just tech improvements; they're a key step in our **digital strategy** to make SGA the easiest and most effective place to connect, learn, and lead.

# YEAR-END SPRING: BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR 2026

SGA is proud to welcome Nancy Giere as our new Chief Learning Officer. With a strong background in designing innovative, applied learning experiences, Nancy is focused on building a bridge from committee expertise to the member training pipeline—turning the ideas and best practices shared in our committees into actionable learning for the entire industry. Under her leadership, SGA's learning portfolio will continue to expand and evolve, providing members with even more ways to share knowledge, grow skills, and advance performance.

To close out 2025 strong, members can take advantage of SGA's Year-End Knowledge Sprint—a limited-time opportunity to secure 2026-ready training at 2025 rates. This special offer allows companies to schedule customized, hands-on workshops or virtual sessions that align with their current goals while preparing for the year ahead. It's a smart way to invest remaining budget dollars into workforce capability, leadership development, and practical knowledge that drives immediate results.

#### **MEMBER-DRIVEN WINS THIS QUARTER**

- Chair of the Month Recognition: Elevating and celebrating volunteer leaders who are living our mission and keeping committee work vibrant, aligning with our plan to strengthen governance and volunteer engagement.
- Pipeline Pairings (Supply Chain Committee): Connecting operators and vendors to solve supply chain challenges in real time, a tangible win for our focus on deepening relationships and member value creation.



- Gas Supply & Marketing In-Person Meeting: Delivering market intelligence and peer exchange to help your team make better commercial decisions heading into winter, directly supporting our focus on market insight and thought leadership.
- RNG Interconnect Guide: A member-driven deliverable providing practical steps and best practices for RNG project interconnections, helping you accelerate projects, lower costs, and advance our industry's innovation and sustainability pillar.

#### WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2026 – BUILT AROUND YOU

#### Engine Emissions Stack Testing and Analyzer Workshop Jan. 21–22 | Waller, TX

Facing varied federal and state emissions standards, regulatory compliance is a constant challenge for field and compliance teams. Learn how catalysts work, how to achieve optimum performance through handson experience and a comprehensive update on current and proposed air regulations.

Take this rare opportunity to shift from simply reacting to regulations to predictive compliance through live demonstrations and in-depth study.

#### **Learning Pathways Refresh**

Streamlined course bundles, clearer competencies, and micro-learning options that fit your team's schedule, advancing our commitment to **modern, modular learning pathways**.

#### Why This Matters to You

Every move we've made this quarter is linked to our strategic plan, driving SGA's direction. When it's easier to find training, join conversations, and connect with peers, you spend less time searching and more time leading, keeping natural gas safe, reliable, and affordable for millions of families.

We are not just reporting programs—we are writing the next chapter of the industry together. Let's finish 2025 strong and enter 2026 ready to lead.

With appreciation,

#### Suzanne Ogle

President and CEO, SGA Natural Gas Association President, Gas Machinery Research Council



## 2026 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FEB 2-4 **TCEPC TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING &** CONSTRUCTION New Orleans. LA REGISTER ----MAR 23-25 **SPRING GAS** Columbia, SC REGISTER — **APR 7-10** MANAGEMENT & WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP Grapevine, TX (DFW) **PREVIEW** JUL 22-24 OPERATIONS & SAFETY

OCT 4-7

Austin, TX

PREVIEW

CONFERENCE

**GMC** 

GAS MACHINERY CONFERENCE Indianapolis, IN



## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE ON FULL DISPLAY AT OPSCON 2025

#### July 23-25 | Austin, TX

From packed keynote sessions to strategic 1:1 meetings and high-energy networking events, the 2025 Operations Conference delivered on its promise to bring together the leaders, innovators, and doers shaping the future of natural gas operations.

Held at the Marriott Downtown
Austin, this year's event convened
400 professionals from 40
states across field operations,
engineering, compliance, supply
chain, and executive leadership.
The conference agenda featured
technical sessions, solution-focused
roundtables, and cross-functional
conversations designed to support
the industry's shared goals of safety,
reliability, and innovation.



# Keynote with Adam Markel: Built to Bounce Forward

The conference opened with a keynote from bestselling author and resilience expert Adam Markel, who

challenged attendees to rethink what it means to lead under pressure. His message centered on building "recovery rituals" into daily routines and offered practical strategies for strengthening team culture, decision-making, and adaptability in fast-moving environments.

Ahead of the session, attendees were invited to complete a short resilience self-assessment.

Adam incorporated aggregated findings into his keynote, making the message deeply relevant and actionable to the OpsCon audience.



#### Pipeline Pairings: High-Impact Connections by Design

New for 2025, the Pipeline Pairings program was a standout success. Designed in collaboration with SGA's Supply Chain Committee, this curated experience paired operator attendees with solution providers for 15-minute, pre-scheduled meetings based on mutual interests.

The goal: more meaningful engagement, beyond the traditional exhibit walk-through. From strategic problem-solving to building long-term relationships, early feedback confirms the format delivered real value for both sides of the conversation.

Attendees can <u>view the list of 2025</u> <u>Pipeline Pairings Partners here.</u>



#### Celebrating Leadership: The SGA Awards Ceremony

The annual SGA Awards Ceremony returned to center stage, honoring individuals and teams driving innovation, advancing safety, and strengthening the communities they serve. With recognition across categories like technical excellence, service, innovation, and career achievement, the ceremony served as an inspiring reminder of the dedication and progress happening across our industry.

# AUSTIN, TX JUL 23-25



## GasRocks! Returns to The Belmont

This year's signature networking event, GasRocks!, was once again a crowd favorite. Held at The Belmont in downtown Austin, the evening brought together attendees for live music, conversation, and relaxed peer-to-peer connection. The VIP Lounge gave operators and exhibitors another opportunity to continue their Pipeline Pairings conversations in a more casual setting—helping translate introductions into ongoing collaboration.

## Closing Keynote with Gary Hines

Gary Hines, EVP at Switch Energy Alliance, wrapped up the conference with a compelling look at how energy education is shaping the future of workforce development, sustainability, and leadership. He shared how Switch's fact-based, nonpartisan programs are building energy literacy across all levels, from classrooms to careers, and challenged attendees to view energy knowledge as a strategic advantage.

#### Attendees feedback:

Eye opening presentations, well explained and very helpful for a supplier wanting to become an approved vendor for the presenting company.

Speakers did an excellent job of presenting information and were very knowledgeable on the topic and provided interactive communication with audience!

Extremely knowledgeable speaker and great topics and info. Sharing with my peers.



# Looking Ahead: What's New for 2026

In 2026, SGA will combine its Safety and Operations Conferences into one expanded event focused on holistic performance across the natural gas value chain. This unified format will deliver even greater impact, with content that reflects the interconnected nature of operational excellence and safety culture.

### OpsCon 2025: What It Means for You

#### **Operations**

Stronger systems start with stronger teams. Sessions on field innovation and real-time decision-making reinforced that operational excellence depends on communication, preparedness, and recovery habits that keep performance steady under pressure.

#### Compliance

The message was clear—documentation isn't just paperwork, it's proof. From LDAR and PHMSA updates to cyber readiness, compliance success now means being audit-ready, data-driven, and aligned with your operations team.

#### **Engineering**

Engineers were challenged to turn insight into foresight. From hydrogen readiness to digital twins, designing for variability emerged as the key to reducing rework, improving reliability, and meeting future system demands.

#### **Continue the Momentum**

OpsCon proved that collaboration drives progress. Join an SGA committee or explore upcoming workshops to turn these insights into action and keep advancing your organization—and our industry—forward.

Sign up to be notified when the 2026 event goes live.

# THE SECURITY WAKE-UP CALL EVERY LEADER NEEDS

#### Insights from September's 2025 Executive Roundtable

GA recently hosted an
Executive Roundtable
for members of our Board and
Executive Council, held September
17–18 in Knoxville, Tennessee,
alongside a tour of the Oak Ridge
National Laboratory (ORNL). The
discussion centered on one of the
most urgent issues facing today's
natural gas operators: the growing
convergence of cyber and physical
security threats.

Annie McIntyre, Chief Information Security Officer at Everline and a 30-year veteran in national defense and infrastructure protection, delivered a clear message to industry leaders—today's threats demand new thinking, collaboration, and a culture of vigilance that reaches beyond traditional IT boundaries.





#### THE WAKE-UP CALL: KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE ROUNDTABLE

# We've entered a new era of threat sophistication.

Nation-state campaigns are patient, well-funded, and increasingly focused on operational technology (OT) systems. Attackers are playing a long game—quietly probing for vulnerabilities before launching coordinated strikes.

# Vulnerability is the weak link.

While total protection is impossible, reducing vulnerabilities—especially within interconnected OT systems—is every operator's best defense.

# Human performance matters as much as technology.

The majority of incidents stem not from malice, but from fatigue, oversight, or lack of training. Building strong, consistent processes and empowering employees to report and respond quickly is critical.

# Cyber and physical threats are merging.

Phishing emails, ransomware, drones, and physical sabotage are now part of blended attacks that demand integrated response plans.

# Al is reshaping both sides of the fight.

Adversaries are using AI to automate and scale attacks, while defenders can use it to enhance anomaly detection and threat visibility.



# Regulations are converging—and expectations are rising.

Agencies including TSA and the U.S. Coast Guard are aligning around core principles: IT/OT separation, continuous monitoring, workforce training, and layered defenses.

#### Culture equals resilience.

Security cannot be treated as a program or department—it must be embedded into operations the same way safety is. A resilient culture protects better than any single investment in tools or technology.

# No operator is too small to be a target.

Local utilities, co-ops, and smaller system operators are increasingly in the crosshairs of cyber campaigns and must act accordingly.

McIntyre summed it up best:

"The most effective protections are processes—and they're essentially free."



# WHAT THIS MEANS FOR SGA MEMBERS

This roundtable reflected the heart of SGA's mission to **Share**, **Grow**, **and Advance**:

- Share: Bringing leaders together to exchange realworld insights on critical topics such as cybersecurity and infrastructure protection.
- Grow: Providing members with exposure to leading experts and emerging best practices that strengthen both operations and workforce capability.
- Advance: Helping the natural gas industry stay ahead of threats by fostering collaboration, innovation, and preparedness across all sectors.

As SGA continues to convene executive leaders, technical experts, and regulatory voices, we remain committed to turning shared knowledge into actionable strategies that safeguard our people, our systems, and our energy future.



# RECOGNITION WITH PURPOSE: CELEBRATING THE 2025 SGA AWARD WINNERS

Every improvement in our industry starts with a challenge — and this year's SGA Award winners showed what's possible when those challenges become opportunities to learn, collaborate, and lead.

From safety innovation to community impact, the 2025 winners turned complex problems into proven results. Their projects didn't stop at strong ideas; they were implemented, measured, and shared to strengthen how we all work. Together, they reflect the learning mindset and safety-first culture that define the SGA community.



#### 2025 SGA AWARD WINNERS



#### Chair's Rising Leader

Sam Trowbridge - SGC Surveying



#### **Community Service**

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline – Southern Star Cares: Fueling Our Communities



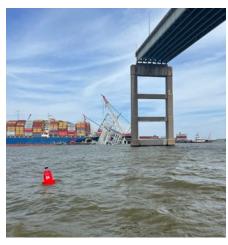
#### **Corporate Communication**

Baltimore Gas & Electric – Certified Safety Podcast



#### **Emergency Management**

Baltimore Gas & Electric – Key Bridge Collapse Response



#### **Engineering Innovation**

Williams - Crossing the Coosa River



# Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)

Atmos Energy – Pollinator Garden Project



Safety & Health

TC Energy – Coastal GasLink Legacy of Excellence



## Meritorious Action Honorees

Ten individuals were honored during the Safety & Training Conference in Milwaukee for their heroic actions in the face of danger. These stories of courage remind us that leadership takes many forms—and that protecting lives is the highest measure of impact.

Each of these programs and individuals embodies what SGA stands for: shared learning, operational excellence, and the unwavering pursuit of safety.



#### 2026 AWARDS SEASON NOW OPEN

## Every improvement begins with a story worth sharing.

The projects recognized this year prove that when knowledge is shared, our industry grows stronger — and that progress only happens when we learn from one another's successes. The SGA Awards exist to do just that: to Share. Grow.

Advance. the collective expertise of the natural gas community.





If your team has developed a program that improved safety, strengthened operations, or built community trust, now is the time to share it. Nominations for the 2026 SGA Awards are open until April 17, 2026.

Winning entries will be celebrated live at the Operations & Safety Conference, July 22–24, 2026, in Austin, Texas, and featured in Pipeline & Gas Journal — continuing the cycle of learning that drives our industry forward.

#### Why nominate now

#### 1. Share what works.

Your program could be the case study another operator learns from. Every nomination expands the collective knowledge of the industry.

#### 2. Grow your team's influence.

Recognition through the SGA Awards spotlights your company's leadership, innovation, and commitment to progress — inspiring peers across North America.

#### 3. Advance the industry together.

Award-winning projects don't just celebrate success; they raise the standard for safety, efficiency, and community impact across the natural gas value chain.

# SGAW Symposiums EMPOWERING —SUCCESS—



# WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM RECAP

# Six Lessons in Leadership from Suzanne Ogle

At the 2025 Women's Leadership Symposium, held October 13–14 in San Antonio, SGA President and CEO Suzanne Ogle set the tone with six lessons that resonated through every conversation, workshop, and connection. Her message was clear: growth in leadership, and in life, comes from action, not comfort.

## Lesson 1: If you don't like who you are... change.

Change isn't weakness—it's strategy. Suzanne reminded attendees that results come from rethinking habits, questioning assumptions, and adjusting course when something isn't working. Just as the industry demands performance, so should leaders demand progress from themselves.

# Lesson 2: Stop using your past as a crutch.

Our experiences explain us, but they don't define us. Suzanne encouraged participants to use challenges as building blocks for resilience rather than excuses for limitation. The takeaway: look forward, innovate, and stay focused on what's next.

#### Lesson 3: Nobody's saving you.

Leadership is ownership. Waiting for someone else to open a door or solve a problem guarantees



stagnation. Suzanne challenged every woman in the room to author her own leadership story because accountability is the foundation of credibility.

#### Lesson 4: Health is a gift.

In a high-demand industry, energy is the ultimate resource. Suzanne reminded attendees that protecting health—physical, emotional, and mental—is not optional. It's an investment that sustains long-term leadership impact.

## Lesson 5: You hurt your own feelings the most.

Expectations are powerful, but unchecked expectations can undermine relationships. Suzanne urged leaders to release assumptions about how others "should" act and to focus instead on aligning values, communicating clearly, and staying centered on outcomes.

#### Lesson 6: Comfort kills drive.

Growth doesn't happen in the easy zone. The same innovation that propels the natural gas industry forward applies to individual leaders. Suzanne's final charge: seek discomfort, embrace challenge, and choose to change, because complacency costs impact.





# OCT 13-14 SAN ANTONIO, TX

#### **Symposium Highlights**

- Networking & Connection

   Leadership maven, Rachel
   Williams opened with an interactive workshop that turned first meetings into meaningful conversations, followed by a cocktail hour where participants put new techniques into practice.
- Leadership Clarity Nick Tobey of the University of Oklahoma guided participants through identifying their next leadership breakthrough and the behaviors to support it.
- Trust-Centered Communication

   Author and communication
   expert Joy Capps equipped
   attendees with practical
   frameworks for building credibility
   and alignment across teams.
- Industry Confidence –
   Connie Sabin and Katy Lamb
   of PG&E led a coffee chat on
   communicating the role of natural
   gas with confidence and clarity.



- Purposeful Leadership
- PHMSA's Tiffany Ziemer shared her personal journey through mission-driven leadership, emphasizing authenticity and resilience.
- Action Planning Rachel Williams closed with a session focused on translating learning into action through intentional next steps.

Across both days, participants shared insights, strategies, and renewed purpose, leaving San Antonio with stronger networks, sharper tools, and a collective commitment to lead with confidence and collaboration.



The 2025 Women's Leadership Symposium exemplified what SGA stands for: empowering leaders who **Share**, **Grow**, and **Advance** together.



# INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

The winds of energy policy are shifting once again—and this time, they're blowing in our direction. The natural gas sector is catching that momentum, reclaiming its rightful place as the cornerstone of reliability, innovation, and growth across power generation, manufacturing, and global trade.

At the SGA Natural Gas Association, we're not waiting for calmer waters—we're steering forward with purpose. Together, we're helping the industry operationalize policy, prepare its workforce, and strengthen safety and performance. It's clarity, courage, and capability that carry us forward—and at SGA, we're building all three.

Across our nation, a new energy story is unfolding. Artificial intelligence, onshoring, and global trade are fueling a surge in electricity demand unlike anything we've seen in decades. Some have called it a "gas stampede" — a race to keep pace with growth that's reshaping the power landscape.

According to the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, electricity demand from data centers alone could triple by 2028, requiring an astounding 130 gigawatts of new generation capacity, much of it powered by natural gas and advanced turbine technology.

At the SGA Natural Gas
Association, we see this moment
not as a challenge to brace for,
but as a responsibility to lead
through. Our work - training the
workforce, advancing safety, and
operationalizing policy into practice ensures our industry is ready to meet
this moment with skill, integrity, and
innovation.

Meanwhile, we have emerged as the world's largest supplier of gas, with LNG exports projected to climb from 11.9 to 16 billion cubic feet per day by 2026. From the bayous of Louisiana to the plains of Texas, SGA members are working tirelessly to add modular, next-generation liquefaction capacity that can adapt to the shifts of market demand.

For our distribution members, the narrative is one of leadership. Once defined by stability, this sector now leads the way in modernization: integrating renewable natural gas, hardening infrastructure, and advancing resilience across systems and communities.

At the SGA Natural Gas Association, we're proud to stand alongside these innovators, equipping them with the tools and training to deploy advanced leak detection, data analytics, and operational best practices that define effective, forward-looking compliance with classes like Machine Learning for Pipeline Integrity Management.



In our transmission network, the demand has never been more pressing. With grid congestion and new power plants on the rise, the call for interconnectivity has never been clearer. Our operators are now at the helm of America's "energy reliability renaissance." Through SGA's Pipeline Safety Management System committee, storage and Operations & Engineering committees, we're fostering a spirit of collaboration, sharing best practices that will drive this vital investment wave.

Our midstream operators are not just sitting on the sidelines; they're redefining their roles. They are evolving from mere transporters of commodities to strategic partners, blending new pipelines with carbon capture and hydrogen initiatives. This positions the midstream sector as the crucial bridge between our current energy market and the promising low-carbon future that awaits.

As we look to the world of gas marketing, there's a newfound emphasis on data-driven growth. With the return of market volatility, traders are harnessing analytics to connect supply with opportunity, especially as Europe diversifies and Asia expands its LNG imports. At the SGA, our Gas Supply Marketing Council explored just that at the in-person meeting in September, offering a forum for members to interpret these trends and stay ahead of the ever-changing regulatory landscape.

And let's not forget our global leadership in LNG exports. By 2030, U.S. LNG exports are set to double, part of our commitment to energy security and a cleaner planet. With investment flowing in from both traditional and sovereign players, there's a strong belief in America's role as a stable and cleaner fuel supplier. At SGA, we're broadening our international perspective to help our members grasp the implications of this export-led growth on domestic markets and infrastructure policy.



Looking ahead, we must remember that natural gas is not merely a "transition fuel." It is the bedrock of a new industrial and digital era in America. To meet this moment, we will lead with strength, sharing our knowledge and advancing innovation across the entire gas value chain. This ongoing investment in learning and adaptation is our committement to our members.

Through our Learning Flywheel, under the guidance of our new Chief Learning Officer, Nancy Giere, SGA is positioning our members to thrive in this transformed energy landscape. Because while policies may change, one unwavering truth remains: progress belongs to those who prepare for it. Together we are building a bright, prosperous future.



#### SHARE. GROW. ADVANCE.

# LEADING THROUGH ACTION: KELLY KNIGGE AND TECO PEOPLES GAS DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF PROACTIVE COLLABORATION





This past quarter, SGA members came together at the TECO Peoples Gas Tampa operations office for a highly impactful logistics demonstration by Zebra Recovery, a powerful example of how member-led initiatives are strengthening our industry from the ground up.

This event was the direct result of the vision and leadership of Kelly Knigge, manager of Emergency Management for Peoples Gas, who not only conceived of the event but brought it to life by coordinating with Zebra Recovery. His proactive approach exemplifies what we mean when we

talk about advancing the industry, not waiting for problems to arise, but preparing for them in ways that are strategic, scalable and collaborative.

The demo provided handson exposure to recovery equipment and real-time discussions on field logistics and coordination. More importantly, it reinforced the critical importance of our Mutual Aid Program, which enables SGA member utilities to help each other restore service rapidly and safely during major disruptions, whether due to natural disasters, technical failures, or unforeseen emergencies.

respond effectively in a crisis depends entirely on the strength of our relationships before the crisis begins."

— Suzanne Ogle, CEO, SGA Natural Gas Association

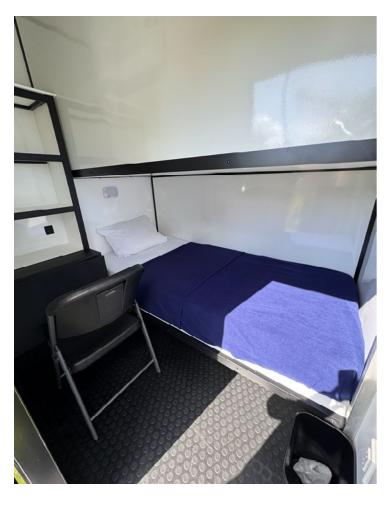
As the steward of SGA's Mutual Aid Program, I've seen firsthand how vital collaboration is to utility resilience. Events like this one, where members share operational knowledge and best practices face-to-face, aren't just nice to have. They are essential to building trust, readiness and muscle memory for when it counts most.

Not waiting for problems to arise, but preparing for them in ways that are strategic, scalable, and collaborative.

## Building a Culture of Preparedness

"Preparedness is no longer optional; it's a strategic imperative. Our ability to

Some key best practices emerging from this event and others like it include:





- Scenario-Based Training: Go beyond tabletop exercises. Use equipment and simulate conditions that reflect real-world challenges.
- Proactive Planning: Don't wait for the emergency. Host or attend events like this to test assumptions and identify gaps.
- Post-Event Reflection: Document what worked and what didn't—then share it with the community so we all improve.

Kelly and the Peoples Gas team exemplified all of these best practices. Their willingness to lead, share knowledge and open their facility to fellow members shows what's possible when we put collaboration over competition.

#### **Looking Ahead**

As we look to the future, SGA remains committed to providing platforms that help members prepare, connect, and respond together. We're proud to support leaders like Kelly Knigge and organizations like Peoples Gas who are showing what leadership looks like in action.

This is how we live our mission:

Share knowledge. Grow relationships. Advance the industry.

Thank you to everyone who participated—and let's keep raising the bar, together.



# MOMENTUM MAKERS: CELEBRATING TEAMMATES WHO MOVE US FORWARD

At SGA, our mission to Share, Grow, and Advance starts within our own team. The Momentum Makers program recognizes staff members who embody this culture of excellence—those who lead with collaboration, curiosity, and accountability to deliver meaningful value to our members every day.

This quarter, we're proud to spotlight two colleagues nominated by their peers and selected as Momentum Award recipients for their impact, innovation, and commitment to helping SGA—and our members—move forward together.

#### **RISHI CHAUHAN**

## What is your favorite part of working at SGA?

What I enjoy most about working at SGA and GMRC is the opportunity to remain in the energy industry I know, leveraging my mechanical engineering experience while deepening my knowledge of natural gas. I'm passionate about connecting with people across the industry, the challenge of executing large-scale conferences, and being part of a team that drives meaningful progress.

# What's one challenge across the industry you're passionate about solving?

I am driven to tackle the critical industry challenge of enhancing transparency and trust in natural gas's low-emission profile, ensuring it is recognized for its vital role in providing reliable, high-density energy while supporting a lower-carbon future.

#### What was your first job?

You might not believe it, but my first job at Marble Slab Ice Cream taught me about managing public perception. When our store faced a temporary closure that was covered by the local news, I learned how to be part of a solution-focused team, prioritize transparency, and follow critical procedures to ensure we could reopen safely and restore customer confidence.





#### GARRETT SHUMAN

# What is your favorite part of working at SGA?

Engaging in meaningful conversations with members and learning about their unique perspectives on the natural gas industry. I find these daily interactions to be invaluable and a key part of my professional growth.

# What do you do outside of work for fun? What are your hobbies?

When I'm not coaching my 3 kid's baseball teams, the family and I usually retreat out to our ranch in central Texas and spend time in the woods

# What's one challenge across the industry you're passionate about solving?

Combating the negative messaging surrounding the industry and providing facts supporting the importance of our energy future!

# What excites you most about the future of the natural gas industry?

The most exciting aspect of the natural gas industry's future is its evolving role as a key player in the global energy transition.

#### What was your first job?

Working in the bakery of a grocery store at 15!

#### Favorite quote?

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need" – Psalms 23:1

# THE POWER OF EXPERIENCE AND TRANSFORMATION — FIRESIDE CHAT WITH MEMPHIS LIGHT, GAS & WATER AND ENBRIDGE

Reliable energy is not just about infrastructure, it's about people. At our latest Accredited Natural Gas Executive (ANGE) program session, I had the privilege of hosting a fireside chat with Alonzo Weaver, SVP & COO and SGA Board Member, Ursula Madden, VP of Corporate Communications, of Memphis Light, Gas & Water (MLGW) the largest three-service municipal utility in the U.S. and Teresa Wilson, VP Customer Care, Gas Distribution and Storage of Enbridge.



#### DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP AT THE TABLE

With four decades at MLGW, Alonzo brings unmatched boots-on-the-ground experience and strategic vision. He oversees engineering, construction, and maintenance and is deeply committed to employee safety, community reliability, and disciplined decision-making. When new ideas are brought forward, Alonzo ensures MLGW runs rigorous analysis before taking action, a model of thoughtful leadership in an industry where public trust is paramount.

Alonzo and I were joined by two incredible leaders:

- Ursula Madden, VP of Corporate Communications at MLGW, who is building trust and transparency with customers as MLGW undertakes transformational infrastructure investments.
- Teresa Wilson, VP of Customer Care, Gas Distribution & Storage at Enbridge and a member of SGA's Executive Council. Teresa not only shared her expertise from across the energy sector (electricity, natural gas transmission, distribution, and power markets) but also serves as a mentor in our ANGE program, investing her time and sharing her experience to help develop the next generation of natural gas executives.



Teresa Wilson, Ursula Madden and Alonzo Weaver

Together, Alonzo, Ursula, and Teresa modeled what it takes to **Share**, **Grow, and Advance**:

- Share bringing real-world insights from municipal utilities and multinational companies to the table.
- Grow investing in workforce development through mentorship and leadership programs like ANGE.
- Advance driving reliability and resiliency for the communities they serve through smart planning and execution.

ANGE is the only program of its kind in the U.S. that blends executive education, mentorship, and peer connection for natural gas leaders. Here's what participation delivers:

 Strategic Insight: Learn from leaders like Alonzo, Ursula, and Teresa who are shaping the industry.

- Mentorship & Networking: Connect with peers and senior executives who are invested in your growth.
- Applied Learning: Translate lessons directly into better decisions for your teams and communities.

#### ENROLL NOW: COHORT 3 OF THE ACCREDITED NATURAL GAS EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

The fireside chat with leaders from MLGW and Enbridge reflects the caliber of access that ANGE participants experience throughout the program. These conversations aren't theoretical. They are real exchanges with executives who are shaping strategy, culture and reliability in our industry today.

With Cohort 2 well underway, applications are now open for **Cohort 3**, and will close when we hit capacity at 25 candidates. This is your opportunity to join a select group of leaders who will benefit from:

**ANGE Underwriters:** 

### SAULSBURY



- Executive engagement:
   Direct access to senior decision-makers across the natural gas value chain.
- Academic rigor: Graduatelevel curriculum through the University of Oklahoma, paired with SGA's industry expertise.
- Career-defining impact: Dual credentialing, mentorship and connections that strengthen both individual leaders and the companies that invest in them.

The program investment is \$15,000—an intentional investment that most companies make on behalf of their leaders, underscoring the value they place on preparing executives for the future.

If you have been impressed with the experience of past cohorts, now is the time to take action. Seats will fill quickly, and applications will close once the cohort reaches capacity.



## **ALL ABOUT COMMITTEES**

# COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Q3 Collaboration in Action**

SGA committees continue to bring industry professionals together to exchange knowledge, tackle technical challenges, and build leadership across every facet of the natural gas value chain. Here are a few standout moments from the past quarter:

## In-Person Momentum at OpsCon

In July, subcommittees participating in the Operations Conference held in-person meetings, hosted knowledge-sharing sessions, led interactive roundtables, and networked with vendors. The Asset Management Section alone featured 34 committee speakers and facilitators, with nearly 80 participants across subcommittees. August meetings focused on debriefing lessons learned and identifying key topics to guide future committee output.

#### **Underground Storage**

Subgroups within the committee continued developing focused deliverables to serve SGA members. The "Regulatory Compliance" team led a GAP analysis in response to PHMSA's Direct Final Rule on API RP 1170/1171, helping drive joint-industry collaboration with trade associations and regulators. Their goal: support continuous improvement in Storage Risk and Integrity Management through cross-operator dialogue and direct engagement with regulators.

#### **Markets Committees**

At the July meeting of the Commercial, Industrial & Residential Markets Committee, a speaker from AGA detailed the strategic value of natural gas storage—highlighting its role in price stability, grid flexibility, and increased demand from electrification and data centers. The session concluded with action steps for expanding storage infrastructure and recognition of its long-term economic value.

#### **Gas Forecasting**

Members explored the evolution of Transco's Load Forecaster, shifting from legacy polynomial models to modern machine learning techniques like XGBoost and MBiTS-X. These cloud-based tools are now driving more accurate forecasting and decision-making across pipeline operations.



## Gas Supply & Marketing Council

The council's recent in-person meeting in Houston featured guest speakers on LNG, AI, and Southeast market trends. Members participated in a roundtable to share company updates and shape future council priorities.

#### Women & Leadership

This quarter, the committee promoted the upcoming Women's Leadership Symposium and finalized the remainder of their 2025 discussion calendar. Upcoming sessions will explore how artificial intelligence can enhance both professional impact and everyday efficiency.

#### Learning & Development

Committee members are identifying training gaps and supporting SGA's efforts to expand offerings. Current focus areas include common delivery methods, emergency response training, and best practices for curriculum development—bridging in-house and vendor-led programs.

#### Legal & Risk

In September, the committee held an in-person meeting hosted at Duke Energy in Charlotte. The agenda included presentations from Troutman Pepper Locke on greenwashing claims and the implications of a recent Supreme Court decision. SGA's Environmental Committee was invited to participate in these timely discussions.



#### **RNG Taskforce**

The updated NGA Interconnect Guide is now finalized, with publication expected in mid-September. The guide includes major additions such as Virtual Pipelines and emerging low-carbon fuel standards.

#### Hydrogen

August's meeting featured Andrew Rockwell of CenterPoint, who shared insights into hydrogen project development in Minnesota and broader trends in policy and regulatory frameworks.

#### **Supply Chain**

At OpsCon 2025, the committee led a seven-session educational track and hosted the first-ever Pipeline Pairings networking event. Chair Maurie Bedwell also convened an inperson meeting during the event to discuss 2026 goals and key updates in the natural gas supply chain.

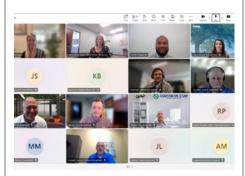
#### **Safety**

The Safety Committee launched the 2024 Incident Survey on the SGA Natural Gas Committee webpage and began developing a one-pager on telematics for driver safety. That initiative may spark collaboration with the Technology Taskforce. Planning is also underway for the 2026 OpsCon safety program, building on the success of the 2025 conference.

"I enjoy the monthly meetings and hearing about what is on the minds of environmental professionals." Environmental committee member

"Best part of participation is sharing experiences from situations, sharing other member company's practices, and sharing how other members evaluate and overcome challenges."

Emergency management committee member



#### **Committee Chair Roundtable**

In September, more than 30 SGA Committee Chairs gathered virtually to share best practices, build relationships, and align on common goals. The positive response affirmed this as a valuable leadership touchpoint, with interest in making it a recurring event.

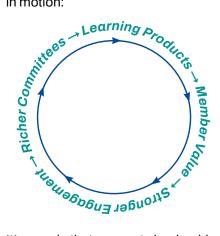
# How Committees Power the Learning Flywheel

SGA committees play a dual role. They are spaces for collaboration and leadership development, and they are the starting point for new learning across the industry.

Each time a committee surfaces a need, shares an idea, or validates a challenge, it helps shape new training, tools, or sessions for the broader membership. In turn, those learning products deliver measurable value back to the

industry and keep members coming back to contribute more.

This is the **SGA Learning Flywhee**l in motion:



It's a cycle that connects leadership growth with industry-wide impact, one idea at a time.

#### Why Join a Committee?

SGA committees are where knowledge becomes impact.
Whether you're sharing insights, learning from peers, or contributing to technical and strategic resources, committee participation connects you to the people and conversations shaping the future of the natural gas industry.

Now is a great time to get involved! Our 2026 committee rostering process begins soon.

Have questions? Contact MemberServices@SGANaturalGas.org

# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming these outstanding organizations!

#### **Associate Membership**

- GridHawk
- Grove Energy Management
- Satelytics

#### COMMITTEE CHAIR OF THE MONTH:



July
Jacob Abraham,
Williams
Underground Storage
Committee



August

Kyle Geiger,
Southern Star Central Gas
Pipeline
Customer Growth &
Development Section and
Business Development
Committee

#### MAXIMIZE YOUR SGA MEMBERSHIP

# TOP TRAININGS CURATED BY YOU

One of the greatest assets of being a member is having access to a wealth of knowledge curated by some of the best and brightest in the industry. Our training are made by members for members and all of them are born out of the spirit to help grow and advance our industry. Some companies rely solely on our trainings for certain things, and some use it to supplement their own in-house trainings. However you decide to utilize our offerings just know you are getting the gold standard of training in our industry!

# LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT: **EXPANDING SKILLS ACROSS Q3**

This quarter, member engagement in training remained strong, with professionals across the industry taking advantage of both All-Access classes and Campus on-demand resources.

### All-Access Engagement Continues to Grow

In July and August, over 200 learners participated in live All-Access courses spanning leadership, safety, operations and industry essentials. Campus on-demand learning also saw steady usage, with over 125 participants in July and August. To date 4,114 people have registered for our virtual and in person classes.

Top Q3 sessions included:

- Introduction to the Natural Gas Industry with Suzanne Ogle, praised for its clarity and depth of industry knowledge.
- Navigating DOT Compliance in the Natural Gas Industry with Daniel Greer, noted for actionable strategies and real-world relevance.

#### Member Feedback Highlights the Value of the Pass

Participants consistently emphasize the impact of All-Access training on their day-to-day roles:

# "It has helped me out with my job tremendously."

- Spire

# "Excellent resource. Aids in career development."

-BGE

# "All Access has been very helpful to get more knowledge on various subjects."

Energy Transfer

#### **Looking Ahead**

Fall brings an exciting lineup of virtual and in-person opportunities, including the *Machine Learning* for Pipeline Integrity Management Workshop in Houston (October 29–30). All-Access members receive an exclusive 15% discount on in-person registration, adding even more value to their investment in professional development.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### SGA Offers Customized Onsite Training

Looking to bring targeted, highimpact training directly to your team?

SGA partners with member companies to design and deliver customized training programs, onsite at your facilities. Whether you need technical instruction, regulatory refreshers, or leadership development, we work with you to shape the content around your team's specific needs.

#### Why it works:

- Aligned to your operations, culture, and goals
- Taught by trusted experts with real industry experience
- Saves time and budget compared to developing internal programs from scratch

Let us take the work off your plate and deliver training that sticks.

To learn more contact Learn@SGANaturalGas.org

# UPCOMING WEBINARS

#### Nov 4

Sources of Biogas & How They Are Processed Into RNG

#### Nov 5

Prompt Engineering: Crafting Effective Inputs for Al Models

#### Nov 6

Unconscious Bias – Reframing Bias to Improve Team Dynamics

#### Nov 6

Intro to Gas Compressors and Applications

#### **Nov 12**

Time Mastery: Practical Tips & Tricks for High-Impact Leaders

#### Nov 13

Practical Solutions to Improve Field Ops Performance & Culture

#### Nov 13

Pathways to Net Zero: GHG Footprinting & Decarbonization Fundamentals

#### **Nov 14**

Investing in Your Professional Development

#### **Nov 17**

Generations in Harmony: Mastering the Art of Leading Multi-Generational Teams

#### **Nov 17**

Fundamentals of Peakshaving Facilities in Natural Gas Systems

#### Nov 18-19

**Natural Gas Champions** 

#### **Nov 18**

Introduction to the Natural Gas Industry

#### **Nov 20**

Control Room Management 101 (49 CFR 192.631)

#### **Nov 20**

Hazardous Materials & HAZCOM Response: Regulations, Handling, and Safety

#### Nov 2-3

DOT 192 Compliance For Natural Gas Pipeline Operators

#### Dec 3

Gaining Community Support for Natural Gas

#### Dec 4

Ethical Decision Making in Organizations

#### Dec 9

Maximizing Controller Attention to Detail on Long Shifts

#### Dec 10-11

Introduction to the Ratemaking Process with Mock Rate Case

#### Dec 11

Giving & Receiving Difficult Feedback – Part 1

#### Dec 16

Winning the Talent Race: Recruitment & Retention Strategies

#### Dec 18

Giving & Receiving Difficult Feedback: Part 2

#### Jan 14

Stop Losing People Before They Start

# UPCOMING IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

#### Jan 29-30

Engine Emissions Stack Testing and Analyzer Workshop Waller (Houston), TX @Alegacy Equipment





# 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 at Learn@SGANaturalGas.org



#### **Kevin Woo**

Principal Engineer, Entrust

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

This October will mark my 19<sup>th</sup> year in the natural gas industry. I have been with ENTRUST Solutions Group for nearly two years after being with Southern California Gas Company for the previous 17 years. After graduating with my Bachelor's of Science in aerospace engineering in 2006, I struggled to land an entry level job in the aerospace industry. A longtime friend was interning at SoCalGas and recommended me for a job opening in their appliance testing laboratory. I interviewed for the job, received and accepted the offer, and haven't looked back since! I am very grateful for the incredibly fulfilling career the natural gas industry has given me.

# **Q&A WITH INSTRUCTOR KEVIN WOO**

## What do you enjoy most about teaching courses?

The opportunity to pass along unique knowledge and experiences in a new and innovative field of the natural gas industry. I currently focus on teaching hydrogen and hydrogen blending courses for SGA members, which has been a core focus of my career for the last several years. I had the opportunity and privilege to lead several engineering and technical efforts related to hydrogen during my time at SoCalGas and ENTRUST from that I feel a sense of obligation to share both my successes and lessons learned with the broader industry because that's how all of us will be successful with hydrogen. Teaching hydrogen courses at SGA is such an awesome and fulfilling way to have a positive impact on the industry.



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

Over the past decade, the biggest As a natural gas industry member who has been deeply involved with hydrogen for the better part of a decade, the most significant change I've observed has been the rapidly increasing interest in hydrogen and hydrogen blending. When I first began this part of my career journey very few gas utilities were actively researching and experimenting with hydrogen blends, let alone even considering it. What started as a small cohort of individuals working on hydrogen as an extracurricular activity at our respective companies has now evolved into an everpresent discussion topic at every major industry event with several gas utilities operating hydrogen blending pilots today. In fact, there are industry conferences dedicated entirely to hydrogen. I feel privileged to have been at the forefront of the hydrogen movement since its early days and am proud of how much success we've seen since.

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

With the rapid advancements in technology during the present "Information Age" comes the inevitable spreading of misinformation. Unfortunately, hydrogen is and will likely continue to be a victim of misinformation campaigns. This is why it is so important for organizations like

SGA to host and promote learning courses to provide the natural gas industry with reliable sources of information. Although I am an engineer by trade, I believe that effective communication is the most important tool in my toolkit and using it to combat hydrogen misinformation is a responsibility I embrace.

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

I am excited for the energy transition that is upon us, including an increased focused on renewable energy like renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen. Energy touches all facets of our lives and the drive for more sustainable solutions creates a very exciting time for our industry. As much experience and knowledge as I've garnered over the last nearly two decades, I continue to be a student of both natural gas veterans and hydrogen industry professionals - bridging the gap between the two has been the career opportunity of a lifetime and I'm super motivated to continue sharing that knowledge with my peers!

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

Striking the right balance between being a student and a teacher. Whether you're just starting your natural gas career fresh out of school or you're a 30-year veteran, we all have wisdoms to part and skills to improve upon. The best thing about the natural gas industry is how

collaborative everyone is and how open we all are to building solutions together. The sooner you embrace that mentality the sooner you will begin to achieve positive results!

## What are things people should know about SGA?

You get what you put in – by that I mean how much each member participates and gets involved with SGA has a direct impact on the value you get out of SGA's tremendous resources, events, and opportunities. As someone who is naturally introverted, it can be intimidating for me to speak up in group and social settings, let alone presenting in front of a live audience. But SGA promotes and fosters a strong collaborative environment, making it that much easier to get involved. The value of interacting with my peers and the opportunities

to learn from others is more than enough motivation to get me out of my comfort zone and I encourage other members to get involved whenever possible!

#### Hydrogen Training with Kevin Woo

SGA featured Kevin Woo, Principal Engineer at ENTRUST Solutions Group, in two engaging virtual courses on hydrogen's role in the energy transition. Participants explored hydrogen production, storage, and blending technologies shaping the future of clean energy.

Aligned with SGA's mission to **Share**• **Grow** • **Advance**, these programs expand industry knowledge, build workforce expertise, and drive innovation toward a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.



