Southern Gas Association
eLink
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In This Issue
- Updates & Information
- Upcoming Events
- SGA Network
- GMRC Training
- Blog Highlights

UPDATES & INFORMATION

Community Service Awards

The SGA Community Service Awards recognize the four most effective service and/or outreach programs that improve the communities in which member companies operate. The Integrated Communications Committee viewed all entries and voted to determine the most effective programs. Congratulations to the 2012 recipients:

- 1st Place
  - Piedmont Natural Gas - Holiday Week of Growing
- 2nd Place
  - Columbia Gas of Virginia - Richmond Association of Retarded Citizens
- 3rd Place
  - Washington Gas - Employees Make a Difference
- 4th Place
  - SCANA - The Good Neighbor Fund

Click here to access the web conference featuring these four award winning programs. Click here to read about each of the programs.

Environmental Excellence Awards

The SGA Environmental Excellence Award Program recognizes SGA member companies who have made a significant impact in protecting our environment. The Environmental Committee announced the recipients of the 2012 SGA Environmental Excellence Awards. Congratulations to the 2012 recipients:

- 2012 Environmental Excellence Partnership Award
  - Spectra Energy Transmission, LLC - New England Cottontail Habitat Improvement Project
- 2012 Environmental Excellence Stewardship Award

Click here to read more about these award winning programs.
Marketing Best Practices Awards

The SGA Marketing Best Practices Awards recognize exemplary marketing programs. All submissions were reviewed by the members of the Marketing Section Managing Committee and their collective votes determined the winners in each category. All participating companies accomplished outstanding work! 2012 recipients include:

- Advertising
  - Alagasco - We’re the Good Heat
- Commercial Marketing
  - Oak Ridge Utility District - Getting to the Decision Makers
- Innovative Energy Efficiency
  - Oklahoma Natural Gas - Oklahoma Natural Gas Energy-Efficiency Program
- Process Improvement
  - Oak Ridge Utility District - Safety and Service through Technological Improvement
- Public Awareness/Education
  - Charlottesville Gas - Flicker the Flame 2011 Campaign
- Residential Marketing
  - Columbia Gas of Virginia - WarmWise, Columbia Gas of Virginia

Click here to read more about these programs.

NGV Operations Update

SGA hosted an NGV Operations Roundtable April 11 & 12 at Atmos Energy’s office in Dallas, TX. 17 representatives from 14 companies were in attendance and an additional 5 participated via the live web conference. The roundtable focused on issues that fleet NGVs are experiencing. The group also discussed forming an NGV Operations Interest Group that would host an annual roundtable, conduct surveys, create an online forum, maintain an NGV fleet operation database, and serves as a resource for NGV operations. Contact Randy Randolph for more information and for a link to the archive of the recent roundtable.

New Portal for DOT Compliance Program

SGA recently rolled out its new DOT Compliance Program portal. This portal will be used to manage the DOT Part 192 online course material and to share ideas around DOT compliance issues. There are discussion forums, a document repository as well as links to compliance web sites and events. Currently, there are 56 individuals from 19 different organizations enrolled in the portal. Contact Doug Hinkle for more information.

Codes & Standards Update

The Codes & Standards Interest Group hosted their second call on April 9th. The purpose of this group is to provide a forum where codes & standards professionals can share ideas and exchange information. Discussion on the recent call included:

- International Energy Conservation Code
- Department of Energy mandate on the replacement of furnaces, with higher efficiency furnaces and on the efficiency of furnaces for new installations
- International Code Council meeting (Dallas; late April)

Mark your calendars for this Codes & Standards Interest Group’s quarterly conference calls (1-866-613-5223; Access code = 750-3421):

- July 16 (1:30 to 2:30 CT)
- October 15 (1:30 to 2:30 CT)

Contact: Reggie Johnson or Nadine Fred
Safety Shorts and Safety Training Videos – It’s Time to Submit Your Video!

All SGA member companies are invited to participate in the 2012 Safety Shorts Video program sponsored by the Safety & Health Committee.

Send a Safety Short video that demonstrates one of your company’s best safety practices or send a safety training video that your company has produced. Participating companies will be recognized during the Safety & Health Roundtable and all videos will be posted on the SGA Network for view by all SGA member companies.

- Safety Shorts Video - 10 minutes or less in length
- Safety Training Video – 30 minutes or less in length
- Format: WMV or FLV
- Deadline: Received at SGA office no later than May 18, 2012
- Submit as a DVD to Randy Randolph - 3030 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1300, Dallas, TX 75234

Gas Breakers UMAC Wins Race at Spring Gas Conference & Expo

Congratulations to Billy Rice, SCANA, who was driving the Gas Breaker UMAC racecar that finished in first place during the premiere Spring Gas Conference & Expo Race. Click here to see a picture of the winner's circle. Special thanks to this year's racecar sponsors:

- Cameron
- Consolidated Pipe
- Gas Breakers UMAC
- Miller Pipeline
- GMRC
- SGA

Spring Gas Conference & Expo Volunteers

SGA celebrates its volunteers throughout the year by recognizing them at events and in communications. Thank you to the 2012 Spring Gas Conference & Expo volunteers:

Conference Planning Team

- Allen Nuttall, Piedmont Natural Gas (Chair)
- Chris Cawley, Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia
- Jared O’Neil, City of Lexington
- Ken Broughton, Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority
- Gregg Brown, Piedmont Natural Gas
- Kim Smith, Piedmont Natural Gas
- Brandon Aycock, PSNC Energy, a SCANA Co.
- Erik Olson, South Carolina Electric & Gas

Sales and Marketing Planning Team

- Greg Epting, Piedmont Natural Gas
- Mary Anne Martin, Piedmont Natural Gas
- Greg Reynolds, PSNC Energy, a SCANA Co.
- Dean Starling, PSNC Energy, a SCANA Co.
- Jeff Trexler, Frontier Natural Gas
Accounting Roundtable

- Teresa Butler, PSNC Energy, a SCANA Co.
- Jason Benoit, Piedmont Natural Gas

Everything DIM Workshop

- Jim Nelson, Piedmont Natural Gas
- Deana Keller, Piedmont Natural Gas
- Marc Worth, PSNC Energy, a SCANA Co.
- Mike Beatty, South Carolina Electric & Gas
- Andrew Vondrak, Piedmont
- Brandon Aycock, PSNC Energy, a SCANA Co.
- Erik Olson, South Carolina Electric & Gas

Gas Measurement Technician Certificate Program at Barton Community College

Barton Community College, working with the Gas Measurement Training Council, has scheduled the Gas Measurement Technician Certificate Program with classes beginning in May 2012. Students will work with current equipment actually used in the field today.

- Details about the Emergent (new to the industry) workforce program
- Details about the Incumbent (those already in the industry) workforce program

Your company can take advantage of this program by contacting Barton Community College to express your company's interest in connecting with them as students complete the training or by sending current employees through the BCC training program. For more information, contact Mike Baugh, Barton Community College (620) 792-9325 or Fraser Farmer, SGA.

EVENT CALENDAR

Integrity Management Continuous Improvement (IMCI) Web Conference Series

The IMCI Web Conference series is available at no additional charge to SGA Network subscribers. Click here to see if your company is an SGA Network subscriber. This series of web conferences is intended to promote discussion, learning and knowledge about issues and potential improvements to integrity management of the nation’s natural gas pipeline infrastructure. The web conferences are also intended to provide technical foundation and stimulate thinking in anticipation of the roundtables this summer. Click here for more information and to register. Questions: Fraser Farmer

Management Conference
April 18 - 20, 2012
Austin, TX - Barton Creek
More Information

Over 275 director and vice president level professionals are registered for this year’s event. The 2012 conference will focus on innovation - check out key note presenter, Jim Carroll's video on the SGA homepage.
**Advanced In-Line Inspection Workshop**  
May 15 - 17, 2012  
Columbus, OH - at DNV  
More Information

This workshop provides operations and maintenance engineers in pipeline companies with the knowledge to establish and manage an intelligent pigging program that contributes optimum value toward improved pipeline integrity. Questions: Member Services

**Training Week**  
May 15 - 17, 2012  
Houston, TX - CenterPoint Energy's Offices  
More Information

SGA's Training Week provides an excellent opportunity for employees to receive valuable, industry specific training in only a few short days. Questions: Member Services

2012 Workshops

- Introduction to the Natural Gas Industry
- Introduction to Regulated Natural Gas Accounting
- Business, Bucks and the Bottom Line: Understanding Finance and Accounting for the Energy Professional
- The Ratemaking Process
- How Natural Gas Is Bought and Sold
- Managing for Business Results: The Tools and Structures for Organizational Success

**Offshore Gas Operations Conference and Exhibits**  
June 13 - 15, 2012  
Galveston, TX - Moody Gardens  
More Information

This conference provides an excellent forum for superintendents, area managers, technicians, foremen, supervisors and managers of natural gas offshore facilities to learn from one another's experiences, share best practices and develop strategies for future seasons. This year's conference features the Chet Morrison golf tournament. Questions: Member Services

**Environmental, Safety & Health, and Training Conference**  
June 27 - 29, 2012  
New Orleans, LA - Hyatt Regency  
More Information

The Environmental, Safety & Health, and Training Conference features a variety of topics that pertain to today's needs in the natural gas industry. This conference offers a unique opportunity to hear from experts in these three areas, network and have open dialogue with your peers during roundtable sessions. Attendees can also visit with over 30 exhibitors at this conference to find out the latest in services and products available to the pipeline industry in these areas. Questions: Member Services

**Operating Conference & Exhibits**  
July 23-25, 2012  
Fort Worth, TX - Omni Hotel  
More Information

The Operating Conference format is focused roundtable discussion. Attendees learn smart practices and lessons learned from their peers through 15 concurrent facilitated sessions. Breakout sessions with presentations from subject matter experts open the conference. Make plans to visit the exhibit hall, which will include 100+ suppliers
showcasing the latest products and services available to the industry. Look forward to a business mixer at the Rangers vs. Red Sox game at Texas Stadium. Questions: Member Services

2012 Roundtables

- Distribution Construction, Operations and Maintenance
- Distribution Engineering
- Distribution Integrity Management
- Gas Control
- Legal
- LNG Operations
- Midstream
- Pipeline Construction, Operations & Maintenance
- Project Management
- Public Awareness and Damage Prevention
- Right of Way
- Supply Chain Management
- Transmission Integrity Management
- Transmission Measurement
- Underground Storage

SGA NETWORK

Practical Employee Relations Workshop - Part of the SGA Leadership Development Program

This workshop is one of 12 workshops available through SGA and is available on-site (bring it to your location), on-line, or a public workshop offered by SGA. Our instructor, Mike Mirarchi recently conducted the two day on-site format at a member company and below is some of the feedback we received.

After the course was facilitated we sent a survey out to all attendees and we received overwhelming feedback about how much our employees enjoyed, and appreciated this training opportunity. It’s clear they learned a tremendous amount of information, and enjoyed how Mike facilitated. There were so many positive comments and compliments, but here are a few that resonated with me as capturing what I heard from attendees:

- Mike has a wonderful personality and is a tremendous communicator. He had answers to everyone’s questions and made sure that our group left no stone unturned.
- HR professionals and supervisors typically learn the ins and outs of employee relations through mistakes or when things go wrong; this training provides the insight to get ahead of issues before they are created.
- This was the best employee relations / compliance training I have attended in my 10 year career.

Needless to say, when you can generate this much excitement around a multiple day training for HR policy and subject matter, you know you have a great facilitator. Our member was very impressed with Mike Mirarchi and his ability to learn our corporate policies and incorporate them into his training course. It gave attendees the context they needed, and engaged them in the conversation because it was tailored to the member. The content of “Practical Employee Relations” combined with the facilitator, Mike Mirarchi, made this a successful program that all organizations need.

New SGA Network Website

SGA is celebrating 20 years of delivering relevant information to our members through distance. As a part of our 20 year celebration, the SGA Network will soon launch its redesigned website. The new website is designed to make distance learning easier than ever. Look forward to an SGA communication announcing the newly re-designed website soon! Contact Member Services for details.
Applied Principles of High Speed Reciprocating Engines and Compressors
May 15 – 18, 2012
Houston, TX

This class focuses on high-speed engines and reciprocating compressor fundamentals. It provides a solid foundation to any employee involved in the operation and maintenance of high speed reciprocating engines and separable reciprocating compressors. It is intended for equipment operators, maintenance personnel, supervisors, engineers, gas controllers and other personnel responsible for high-speed reciprocating compression equipment. Click here for more information.

Compressor Station Vibration and the Impact on Performance, Cost, and Reliability
May 15 – 17, 2012
Houston, TX

This course focuses on vibration issues affecting compressor stations, including piping systems. Using a series of interactive case studies, the participants will gain a hands-on understanding of vibration issues and solutions at the design stage, as well as during commissioning and troubleshooting. Click here for more information.

Introduction to Gas Turbines and Centrifugal Compressors
May 17 – 18, 2012
Houston, TX

An excellent seminar for Gas Turbine and Gas Compressor users who are interested in acquiring an understanding of basic gas turbine and gas compressor working principles. The instructors are recognized experts in gas turbine and gas compressor aero-thermodynamics, rotor dynamics and application principles. GMRC has been conducting this highly-rated workshop for the past 20+ years, with the assistance of materials developed by Solar Turbines. Dr. Ranier Kurz and Michael Cave of Solar Turbines will serve as instructors. Click here for more information.

GMRC is a subsidiary of SGA. View all GMRC events.

SGA BLOG HIGHLIGHTS

The SGA Blog is a great way to stay up-to-date on the latest industry information.

- Board Member Bruce Narzissenfeld and Mike Grubb at an Orlando Magic Game
- SGA Visits Clearwater Gas System
- March 2012 Executive Newsletter
- GMRC Chairman of the Board Visits SGA and GMRC
- Natural Gas Industry Professionals - Learning, Networking and Cooking!