

NPGA Fall 2020 State Director Update

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NPGA State Director Update



As your elected State Director, I wanted to provide you with important updates and a summary of activities that took place at the most recent NPGA Board of Directors meeting.

NPGA's committees and task forces held meetings and discussed issues of importance to all propane industry members. I encourage you to take the time to read my report below.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you.

Sincerely,

Judy Taranovich
Proctor Gas Inc.
Proctor, Vermont



The NPGA Board of Directors meets three times a year and brings together more than 200 leaders from every industry sector. During these meetings, the Board sets association policies and advocacy objectives, identifies ways to grow the industry, and participates in numerous networking events.

The NPGA fall committee and section meetings took place via Zoom, and the Board of Directors meeting took place via webinar. With more than 330 participants and 48 meetings over three days, this virtual event was a success.

Fall 2020

2021 Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo Dates Changed

Chair Denis Gagne announced that the 2021 Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo is moving from April to October 18-20 due to the impacts and uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. NPGA is also planning to host its fall board meeting in Atlanta immediately following the 2021 show. He noted that the October dates bring some challenges but also create new opportunities. The intention is to avoid significant cancellation fees for the hotels and convention center while providing a top-notch show for exhibitors and attendees.

Legislative & Regulatory Outlook

While many things have changed dramatically as a result of COVID-19, the good news is that NPGA's Advocacy team has been able to remain engaged with Capitol Hill and regulatory agencies at both the federal and state levels even though lobbying tactics have had to shift due to the pandemic.

At its meeting, the Governmental Affairs Committee discussed a variety of important issues including how the upcoming November elections could impact NPGA's federal advocacy efforts. With that in mind, it is notable that we achieved a measure of success legislatively that can help position us for further success regardless of the election outcome.

Successes on the legislative front include getting the Democratic-majority House to approve a 3-year extension and 2-year phaseout of the alternative fuel tax credits and securing adoption of a bipartisan amendment at the committee level that would add propane to the list of alternative fuel corridors program infrastructure funding eligibility.

Among the many items in the regulatory arena in which NPGA is focusing on are two pilot programs proposed by DOT that involve commercial motor vehicle drivers. One pilot program would allow drivers under the age of 21 to drive in interstate commerce, and the other program would evaluate the implementation of a split-duty period that would cause a driver's 14-hour on-duty period.

At the state level, electrification and decarbonization policies remain at the forefront of NPGA's efforts. Messaging materials to fight electrification are available on [NPGA's Member Dashboard](#). Another important initiative is supporting state legislative bills that "ban the gas bans," which prohibit municipalities from banning the use of natural gas and propane at the state level. Such bills have been passed into law in Arizona, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, and have been introduced in Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi and New Jersey.

Marketers Section Meeting

PERC Update

At the Marketers Section meeting, the audience heard from Tucker Perkins, the President and CEO of the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) on the organization's recent activities and projects. Mr. Perkins touched on a number of Department of Energy-funded research projects and a current promotional partnership with the Voltaggio brothers of *Top Chef* fame. He finished by highlighting aspects of PERC's Environmental Toolkit, an online library of resources designed to educate industry members on the green,

environmental benefits propane offers. This toolkit is part of a greater initiative to prepare the industry to counter the electrification and decarbonization narrative.

Hemp Operations

NPGA hosted a panel of propane marketers to share their experience in servicing hemp farms. They addressed the concerns and identified the challenges associated with servicing these operations, but they also highlighted the benefits. Since industrial hemp was legalized at the federal level, the hemp industry has grown across the country, increasing propane demand and providing an additional market for our membership. NPGA is actively reviewing applicable federal and state regulations to create a go-to guide for our members to service hemp operations safely.

Propane Supply & Logistics Planning Tools Available

With many propane industry members facing unprecedented challenges this year in contracting for supply, NPGA's Propane Supply and Logistics Committee and Propane Suppliers Section worked through the spring and summer to develop resources for the industry.

This summer, NPGA hosted the four-part "Preparing for Peak Demand" webinar series, and presentations can be downloaded from [NPGA's Member Dashboard](#). The July 21 webinar focused on [upstream propane production and downstream logistics](#), the August 13 webinar featured [a roundtable of propane transportation leaders](#), the August 24 webinar featured a [panel discussion with leaders in midstream operations](#), while the September 10 webinar provided [a final fundamentals and harvest update](#).

Also visit [NPGA's Member Dashboard](#) under the Supply & Logistics Section for other educational resources, including the newly developed "ABCs of Supply Preparation" and an updated supply preparation white paper. A monthly inventory trends report prepared by IHS Markit is also available on the dashboard.

For more information, contact NPGA's [Lesley Garland](#).

Technology, Safety & Standards Proposal Approved

The Board approved TS&S proposal Tef-1884 "OPD Verification and Documentation." This proposal to NFPA 58 is related to the existing requirement that vehicles utilizing the overfilling prevention device (OPD) as the primary means to fill the vehicle must have the OPD tested annually and place a label with information regarding the test on the vehicle's propane container. The proposal would provide more options for locating the label on

the vehicle. Because the container is not always easily accessed on vehicles, this proposal would allow placement of the label in a location that is easier to reach for both direct and remote fill containers.

PropanePAC Steering Committee

PropanePAC Steering Committee Chair Chad Kroening provided an update about the PAC's year-to-date activities, including progress towards its annual fundraising goal. He noted that the PAC was more than two-thirds of the way towards reaching its annual goal of \$150,000. Mr. Kroening emphasized the threat of "decarbonization" and "electrify everything," noting that there is a credible chance these policies will be pushed in Congress next year. He cited how the electric industry's robust political action has positioned it to effectively push these narratives, and that it is imperative the propane industry increase its investment in PropanePAC in order to counter these messages.

PropanePAC

As part of the *PropanePACoffee Speaker Series*, PropanePAC welcomed Natalie Fertig of POLITICO for a presentation on the political environment surrounding marijuana. Ms. Fertig, who covers federal cannabis policy for the DC-based news wire, provided insight on how this fall's elections may impact the conversation around marijuana in both Congress and the federal agencies. The recreational drug is currently illegal on the federal level but fully or semi-legal in a growing number of states. Changing public opinion towards the drug, the current push for criminal justice reform, and the need for tax revenue provide signals that Congress may move to amend its stance.

Watch the NPGF Scholarship Video

Learn about the history of the scholarships program, how to apply, and more.

[Watch now!](#)

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NPGA is grateful for contributions received from our sponsors in support of the NPGA Fall Board of Directors Meeting and related Committee & Section Meetings.



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