

# 2023 APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 24-26, 2023 | LOUISVILLE, KY



**American Public Gas Association**

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## Gold Flame



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# APGA APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT OF OUR OPERATIONS CONFERENCE SPONSORS





# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## WELCOME



Thank you for joining us in Louisville for APGA's Operations Conference! Public natural gas systems are currently facing numerous challenges: increasing regulatory requirements, external threats to the product we serve, and decreasing access to a skilled workforce. I hope that you find at least one tangible solution to those challenges in the program we put together. For your convenience, the conference agenda, speaker bios, award winners, sponsors, exhibitors and schedule of events can be found in this program.

Over the next three days you will hear from subject-matter-experts on a variety of topics. Please ask questions, take notes, and engage in conversations. Meet someone new and reconnect with old friends. We are lucky to work in a great industry with awesome people.

Throughout the conference, please take time to visit our exhibitors and learn about the products and services they will be showcasing. Also please join me in recognizing and thanking our Operations Conference sponsors. Our sponsors are listed in this program so please take a moment to express your appreciation for their generosity and support.

Your attendance and participation in this conference is what will make the event memorable. I truly hope your visit to Louisville will provide fond memories of the 2023 APGA Operations Conference for years to come. Let the conference begin!

Sincerely,

Steve Squibb  
2023-2024 APGA Operations & Safety Committee Chairman  
Director – Natural Gas & Water Operations  
City Utilities of Springfield, MO

## 2023 APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

APGA hopes 2023 Operations Conference attendees enjoy this year's program. On page eight, you can view a condensed schedule-at-a-glance and detailed session information, which includes session descriptions and room designations, can be found on pages 9-17.

If you would like to download a copy of the program, go to [www.apga.org/fallevent/conference/schedule-glance](http://www.apga.org/fallevent/conference/schedule-glance) or you can scan the QR code on the right.





# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

**ABRIOX, INC.****Richmond, TX**

Kristi Faulk

[kristi.faulk@abriox.com](mailto:kristi.faulk@abriox.com)

Tom McGee

[Tom.mcgee@abriox.com](mailto:Tom.mcgee@abriox.com)**ACLARA****Saint Louis, MO**

Mike McMahon

[mmcmahon2@hubbell.com](mailto:mmcmahon2@hubbell.com)**B3PE, LLC****Colorado Springs, CO**

Brad Bean

[bbb@b3pe.com](mailto:bbb@b3pe.com)**BINGHAM AND TAYLOR CORPORATION****Culpeper, VA**

Perry Hyde

[phyde@bandt-us.com](mailto:phyde@bandt-us.com)**BRIDGER PHOTONICS****Bozeman, MT**

Mike Dizep

[mike.dizep@bridgerphotonics.com](mailto:mike.dizep@bridgerphotonics.com)

Dayne Lubenow

[dayne.lubenow@bridgerphotonics.com](mailto:dayne.lubenow@bridgerphotonics.com)

Matt Richards

[matt.richards@bridgerphotonics.com](mailto:matt.richards@bridgerphotonics.com)**CGS, INC./CHRIS GEORGES SALES****Knoxville, TN**

Chris McCabe

[cmccabe@cgs-inc.com](mailto:cmccabe@cgs-inc.com)**CLARK ENGINEERING & UTILITY  
SOLUTIONS****Estill Springs, TN**

Eddie Moffitt

[emoffitt@clark-eus.com](mailto:emoffitt@clark-eus.com)**D2 ENERGY, LLC****Clarksville, TN**

Dwain Beydler

[dbeydler@evpowerpods.com](mailto:dbeydler@evpowerpods.com)

Donnie Leggett

[donnieleggett@att.net](mailto:donnieleggett@att.net)

Dwight Luton

[dluton@d2energylc.net](mailto:dluton@d2energylc.net)**DEVTECH SALES, INC.****Avon Park, FL**

Doug Lemler

[dlemler@devtechsales.com](mailto:dlemler@devtechsales.com)

Kory Tate

[ktate@devtechsales.com](mailto:ktate@devtechsales.com)

Michael Thomas

[mthomas@devtechsales.com](mailto:mthomas@devtechsales.com)**EAGLE RESEARCH CORPORATION****Hurricane, WV**

James Miller

[jamesm@eagleresearchcorp.com](mailto:jamesm@eagleresearchcorp.com)**ED YOUNG SALES CO., INC.****Charlotte, NC**

Mike Chitwood

[michael.chitwood@eysco.com](mailto:michael.chitwood@eysco.com)

Mike Javon

[mike.javon@eysco.com](mailto:mike.javon@eysco.com)

Bradley Utz

[bradley.utz@eysco.com](mailto:bradley.utz@eysco.com)**EGW UTILITY SOLUTIONS****Carrollton, TX**

Jason Garland

[jgarland@egwusa.com](mailto:jgarland@egwusa.com)**ENERGY WORLDNET****Decatur, TX**

Randy Adams

[randy.adams@energyworldnet.com](mailto:randy.adams@energyworldnet.com)

James Cross

[james.cross@energyworldnet.com](mailto:james.cross@energyworldnet.com)

Jackson Fee

[jackson.fee@energyworldnet.com](mailto:jackson.fee@energyworldnet.com)

Jennica Grady

[jennica.grady@energyworldnet.com](mailto:jennica.grady@energyworldnet.com)

Ashley Jesko

[ashley.jesko@energyworldnet.com](mailto:ashley.jesko@energyworldnet.com)

Jim Schauer

[jim.schauer@energyworldnet.com](mailto:jim.schauer@energyworldnet.com)



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS



## **EQUIPMENT CONTROLS COMPANY**

**Norcross, GA**

Jon Beam

[jonbeam@equipmentcontrols.com](mailto:jonbeam@equipmentcontrols.com)

Kelli Tidmore

[ktidmore@equipmentcontrols.com](mailto:ktidmore@equipmentcontrols.com)

## **EVERLINE**

**Houston, TX**

Mike Bradley

[michael.bradley@everlineus.com](mailto:michael.bradley@everlineus.com)

Mike Comstock

[Mike.comstock@everline.com](mailto:Mike.comstock@everline.com)

Lenny Kimball

[Lenny.Kimball@everlineus.com](mailto:Lenny.Kimball@everlineus.com)

Annie McIntyre

[Annie.mcintyre@everlineus.com](mailto:Annie.mcintyre@everlineus.com)

Mike Silva

[Mike.silva@everlineus.com](mailto:Mike.silva@everlineus.com)

## **GEOMAGIC UTILITY SOLUTIONS INC.**

**Houston, TX**

Jim Mullen

[jim.mullen@geomagic.world](mailto:jim.mullen@geomagic.world)

## **HEATH CONSULTANTS INCORPORATED**

**Houston, TX**

Hayden Kuxhausen

[hayden.kuxhausen@heathus.com](mailto:hayden.kuxhausen@heathus.com)

John Simpson

[john.simpson@heathus.com](mailto:john.simpson@heathus.com)

## **HOLLAND SUPPLY COMPANY**

**Lewis Center, OH**

Jake Fekete

[jfekete@hollandsupplycompany.com](mailto:jfekete@hollandsupplycompany.com)

Caleb Hulbert

[chulbert@hollandsupplycompany.com](mailto:chulbert@hollandsupplycompany.com)

## **HONEYWELL**

**Williamsburg, VA**

Kasey Howe

[kasey.howe@honeywell.com](mailto:kasey.howe@honeywell.com)

## **INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SERVICES, INC.**

**Murray, KY**

Chandler Bohannon

[marketing@its-training.com](mailto:marketing@its-training.com)

Stephanie Henson

[marketing@its-training.com](mailto:marketing@its-training.com)

Cade Sammons

[Csammons@its-training.com](mailto:Csammons@its-training.com)

## **LINC ENERGY SYSTEMS**

**Lakewood, CO**

Garrett Cox

[g.cox@lincenergysystems.com](mailto:g.cox@lincenergysystems.com)

Lucas Cox

[l.cox@lincenergysystems.com](mailto:l.cox@lincenergysystems.com)

Jacob Martinez

[j.martinez@lincenergysystems.com](mailto:j.martinez@lincenergysystems.com)

## **MAGNOLIA RIVER SERVICES, INC.**

**Decatur, AL**

Chris Hiestand

[chris.hiestand@magnolia-river.com](mailto:chris.hiestand@magnolia-river.com)

David Love

[David.love@magnolia-river.com](mailto:David.love@magnolia-river.com)

Kim Weaver

[kim.weaver@magnolia-river.com](mailto:kim.weaver@magnolia-river.com)

## **MARIECO**

**Leeds, AL**

Jakob Hernig

[jakob@marieco.com](mailto:jakob@marieco.com)

Jack Hernig

[jack@marieco.com](mailto:jack@marieco.com)

## **MEA ENERGY ASSOCIATION**

**Bloomington, MN**

John Gann

[johng@meaenergy.org](mailto:johng@meaenergy.org)

## **OMEGA FLEX, INC.**

**Exton, PA**

Jonathan Sargeant

[jonathan.sargeant@omegaflex.com](mailto:jonathan.sargeant@omegaflex.com)



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS



## **ONBOARD DYNAMICS, LLC**

**Bend, OR**

Jason Vosburgh

[jason.vosburgh@onboarddynamics.com](mailto:jason.vosburgh@onboarddynamics.com)

## **OPW ENGINEERED SYSTEMS**

**West Chester, OH**

David Jacobson

[david.jacobson@opwglobal.com](mailto:david.jacobson@opwglobal.com)

## **PIPELINE EQUIPMENT RESOURCES CO.**

**Boonton, NJ**

Anthony Dunkley

[adunkley@perc.us.com](mailto:adunkley@perc.us.com)

Kevin Schwartz

[esheridan@perc.us.com](mailto:esheridan@perc.us.com)

## **PROGRESSIVE PIPELINE MANAGEMENT**

**Wenonah, NJ**

Shawn DuPuis

[sd@progressivepipe.com](mailto:sd@progressivepipe.com)

Casey Giambrone

[CFG@progressivepipe.com](mailto:CFG@progressivepipe.com)

Joe Martino

[jam@progressivepipe.com](mailto:jam@progressivepipe.com)

## **RCP, INC.**

**Houston, TX**

Chris Foley

[cfoley@rcp.com](mailto:cfoley@rcp.com)

Jessica Foley

[jfoley@rcp.com](mailto:jfoley@rcp.com)

Daniel Pate

[DPate@rcp.com](mailto:DPate@rcp.com)

## **RELIABLE MANUFACTURING**

**Carroll, OH**

Katrina Karther

[Katrina@reliablemfggas.com](mailto:Katrina@reliablemfggas.com)

Joe Serrett

[joe@mantacoredistribution.com](mailto:joe@mantacoredistribution.com)

Jesse Whittington

[jesse@reliablemfggas.com](mailto:jesse@reliablemfggas.com)

## **SOUTHERN CATHODIC PROTECTION CO.**

**Atlanta, GA**

Shawn Aiken

[shawn@cathodicprotection.com](mailto:shawn@cathodicprotection.com)

Rebekah Linn

[rebekah@cathodicprotection.com](mailto:rebekah@cathodicprotection.com)

Chris McKinley

[cmckinley@cathodicprotection.com](mailto:cmckinley@cathodicprotection.com)

Kevin Murphy

[kmurphy@cathodicprotection.com](mailto:kmurphy@cathodicprotection.com)

## **SOUTHERN CROSS**

**Peachtree Corners, GA**

Alnoor Ebrahim

[aebrahim@southerncrossinc.com](mailto:aebrahim@southerncrossinc.com)

Pete Penzenstadler

[peter.penzenstadler@southerncrossinc.com](mailto:peter.penzenstadler@southerncrossinc.com)

Steve Whitman

[swhitman@sparusholdings.com](mailto:swhitman@sparusholdings.com)

## **UTILITIES EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION**

**Wyomissing, PA**

Lisa Reynolds

[lreynolds@uecu.org](mailto:lreynolds@uecu.org)

## **UTILITY SAFETY & DESIGN, INC.**

**Olney, IL**

Jason Brangers

[jason@usdi.us](mailto:jason@usdi.us)

Taylor Browne

[taylor@usdi.us](mailto:taylor@usdi.us)

Darin Houchin

[darin@usdi.us](mailto:darin@usdi.us)

## **VERSIV SOLUTIONS**

**Greensboro, NC**

Nick Pero

[Nick.pero@versivsolutions.com](mailto:Nick.pero@versivsolutions.com)

Gina Rundo

[Gina.Rundo@versivsolutions.com](mailto:Gina.Rundo@versivsolutions.com)

## **WELKER, INC.**

**Sugar Land, TX**

Steve Sams

[Stephen.Sams@welker.com](mailto:Stephen.Sams@welker.com)

## **ZERUST OIL & GAS**

**Beachwood, OH**

Derek Dickens

[ddickens@ntic.com](mailto:ddickens@ntic.com)



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE



### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

TIME	GENERAL SESSION
1:00 – 1:10 PM	OPENING REMARKS
1:10 – 1:40 PM	APGA WELCOME AND ASSOCIATION UPDATE
1:40 – 2:30 PM	PHMSA PERSPECTIVE: IMPLEMENTING CONGRESSIONAL MANDATES & PIPELINE SAFETY IN 2023 & BEYOND
2:30 – 3:00 PM	NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS
3:00 – 3:45 PM	NATIONAL ENERGY LITERACY STUDY
3:45 – 4:45 PM	MEMBER SHARES: LEAK DETECTION, SAFETY MANAGEMENT, MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE ... OH MY!
4:45 PM	ADJOURNMENT
4:45 – 5:30 PM	WOMEN IN ENERGY HAPPY HOUR
5:00 – 6:30 PM	NETWORKING RECEPTION

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

TIME	OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING	SAFETY & COMPLIANCE	ENVIRONMENTAL
7:00 – 8:00 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, COFFEE & VENDOR EXHIBITS		
8:00 – 8:45 AM	PANEL: EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS BEST PRACTICES	PANEL DISCUSSION: HOW DO UTILITY MANAGERS INFLUENCE SAFETY CULTURE?	APGA'S ENVIRONMENTAL ROADMAP
8:50 – 9:35 AM	NATURAL GAS ALARMS ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY AND QUICKEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE	PHMSA OUTREACH INITIATIVE TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES	MEET THE USERS OF NEUFUEL VEHICLES; A FLEET PANEL DISCUSSION
9:35 – 10:05 AM	NETWORKING BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS		
10:05 – 10:35 AM	OT (SCADA) CYBERSECURITY LANDSCAPE	REDUCING DAMAGES: UNPRECEDENTED COLLABORATION IN TACKLING THE TOP ROOT CAUSES	GREEN HYDROGEN
10:40 – 11:10 AM	ASSET MANAGEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT	RISK MANAGEMENT: TOP TOPICS	R&D EFFORTS – OPERATIONAL EMISSION REDUCTIONS
11:15 – 11:45 AM	DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR YOUR OPERATIONS & COMPLIANCE EFFORTS	PIPELINE SAFETY REAUTHORIZATION	RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS: FROM IDEA TO EXECUTION
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	LUNCH		
1:00 – 1:45 PM	CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION	PIPELINE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	YOUR ESG STRATEGY AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT
1:50 – 2:35 PM	MANAGING AND STAFFING LARGE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS IN TIGHT LABOR MARKETS	MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE	A PATH TOWARDS NET ZERO USING ADVANCED LEAK DETECTION
2:35 – 3:05 PM	NETWORKING BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS		
3:05 – 3:35 PM	ASSET LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT USING CITYWORKS FOR THE GAS INDUSTRY	PLASTIC PIPE DATABASE COMMITTEE	IMPLEMENTING CROSS-COMPRESSION: WHEN AND HOW
3:40 – 4:10 PM	IMPROVING GIS MAPPING THROUGH OPPORTUNISTIC GPS CAPTURE	IMPLEMENTING CLOSED-LOOP MONITORING: ENHANCING CYBERSECURITY IN THE GAS SECTOR	NEXT GENERATION ROUNDTABLE
4:15 – 4:45 PM	REGULATOR STATION RETROFITS	SHRIMP – WHAT TO KNOW & WHAT IS NEW!	
4:45 – 5:30 PM	NEXT GENERATION EMPLOYEE'S HAPPY HOUR		
5:00 – 6:30 PM	NETWORKING RECEPTION		

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

TIME	GENERAL SESSION
7:00 – 8:15 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, COFFEE & VENDOR EXHIBITS
8:15 – 8:45 AM	APGA EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNER
8:45 – 9:30 AM	APGA SAFETY MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER
9:30 – 10:00 AM	PHMSA NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM
10:00 – 10:15 AM	NETWORKING BREAK
10:15 – 11:15 AM	FEDERAL PIPELINE SAFETY UPDATE: LEAK DETECTION & REPAIR AND GAS DISTRIBUTION RULES
11:15 – 11:30 AM	ROUNDTABLE: REFLECTION
11:30 AM	CONFERENCE WRAP-UP & ADJOURNMENT



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 1:00 PM – 1:10 PM**

### **OPENING REMARKS**

**Steve Squibb, City Utilities of Springfield, MO, and APGA Operations & Safety Committee Chair**  
*(Regency Central & South)*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 1:10 PM – 1:40 PM**

### **APGA WELCOME & ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

**Dave Schryver, President and CEO, American Public Gas Association (APGA)**

From advocating for public gas systems to Congress to providing resources to help members succeed, APGA has been hard at work. Hear some of the recent initiatives undertaken by the association and how your system can get involved. Dave will also share some of the early insights from the recent strategic planning session undertaken by the APGA Board of Directors.

*(Regency Central & South)*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 1:40 PM – 2:30 PM**

### **PHMSA PERSPECTIVE: IMPLEMENTING CONGRESSIONAL MANDATES & PIPELINE SAFETY IN 2023 AND BEYOND**

**Tristan Brown, Deputy Administrator, Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)**

Hear how the Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is addressing the mandates within the Congressional PIPES Act of 2020 and the PHMSA Natural Gas Distribution Safety & Modernization Grant Program. Better understand how these directives are driving their regulatory agenda. Deputy Administrator Brown will discuss how the change of administration has impacted both current rulemakings and expectations for pipeline safety efforts in the future.

*(Regency Central & South)*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

### **NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS**

*(Regency North)*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM**

### **NATIONAL ENERGY LITERACY STUDY**

**Gary Swan, Chief Marketing Officer, National Energy Foundation (NEF)**

In 2022, the National Energy Foundation (NEF) conducted a national survey of high school students to assess their energy literacy on five core topics: basic energy concepts, energy use, energy tradeoffs, efficiency and conservation, and sources & types of energy. The NEF first completed this study in 2017 and the 2022 results show there has been a statistically significant drop in energy literacy among high school students in the United States. Hear about those results and some of the practical recommendations for how to improve their understanding of energy and its uses.

*(Regency Central & South)*

*Looking for the presentation files? Once the conference has concluded, APGA will upload the session materials to library tab of the 2023 APGA Operations Conference Community at [www.apga.org/fallevent/community](http://www.apga.org/fallevent/community).*



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM**

**PANEL: LEAK DETECTION, SAFETY MANAGEMENT, MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE ... OH MY!**

**Stephen Mayfield, City of Tallahassee, FL**

**Todd Gentle, Huntsville Utilities, AL**

**Stephen Harris, Powell Clinch Utility District, TN**

**Cody Stallings, Wilson Energy, NC**

Natural distribution operators are facing numerous new regulatory requirements and expectations. Hear how four APGA member systems are meeting these challenges and how their approach has improved their system and communities. These four panelists were APGA 2023 System Operational Achievement Recognition Program Gold Winners. SOAR honors natural gas distribution utilities that demonstrate commitment to system integrity, system improvement, workforce development and employee safety.  
*(Regency Central & South)*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM**

**WOMEN IN ENERGY HAPPY HOUR Sponsored by Magnolia River**

*(Sway Bar – Hotel Lobby)*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 @ 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**NETWORKING RECEPTION**

*(Regency North & Foyer)*

## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM**

**COFFEE & VENDOR EXHIBITS**

*(Regency North)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS BEST PRACTICES PANEL**

**Moderator: John Gann, MEA Energy Association**

**Darryl Singleton, Pensacola Energy, FL**

**Rocky Hudson, Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority, SC**

During a natural gas emergency, it is critical that utility personnel work closely with local first responders. Hear from two APGA member systems on their liaison efforts with first responders and how they train their employees to collaborate during these high stress scenarios.

*(Regency Central)*

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: HOW DO UTILITY MANAGERS INFLUENCE SAFETY CULTURE? PANEL**

**Moderator: Mason Matthews, Integrity Utility Solutions, LLC**

**Andy Thomas, City of Lexington, NC**

**Crystal Cooley, Colorado Springs Utilities, CO**

**Mike Strength, Trussville Gas & Water, AL**

Recent industry research on safety culture found that “top management’s actions have the strongest positive influence on safety culture at the work group level by emphasizing compliance and public safety, and by encouraging good safety behavior by allocating resources to ensure it.” Hear from three APGA member system leaders on how they strive to have a strong positive influence on safety culture.

*(Regency South)*



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM (CONTINUED)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: APGA'S ENVIRONMENTAL ROADMAP**

**Moderator: Brooke Sinclair, EnSafe**

**Matt Stennett, Middle Tennessee Natural Gas District, TN**

**Darin Yusi, City of Ellensburg, WA**

**Mike Jewell, City of Covington, GA**

The APGA Environmental Roadmap is a voluntary, written, qualitative assessment tool for LDCs to determine the utility – specific status of environmental stewardship, compare actions and obtain ideas from other utilities, and facilitate communication on actions and initiatives to reduce methane emissions. Hear from three APGA members on their utilization of the roadmap.

*(Keeneland)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 8:50 AM – 9:35 AM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: NATURAL GAS ALARMS ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY AND QUICKEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**Hayden Kuxhausen, Heath Consultants Inc.**

Wireless Natural Gas Alarms for Residential and Commercial Use can be integrated into a utility's advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) network or as non-connected devices in residential and commercial settings. Hear how this data can be used to update emergency responders in real-time about the location and severity of the leak.

*(Regency Central)*

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: PHMSA OUTREACH INITIATIVE TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES  
Sean Quinlan, Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)**

Hear about PHMSA's outreach strategy to underserved communities. Learn how this initiative aims to improve engagement; heighten pipeline safety awareness; and improve damage prevention knowledge in historically disadvantaged geographic areas.

*(Regency South)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: MEET THE USERS OF NEUFUEL VEHICLES: A FLEET PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Stephen Mayfield, City of Tallahassee, FL**

**Todd Gentle, Huntsville Utilities, AL**

**Durk Tyson, Greenville Utilities Commission, NC**

**Cody Stallings, Wilson Energy, NC**

Hear from some of the APGA members that have decided to and are deploying this unique renewable natural gas vehicle technology. Gain insights from this discussion panel into some of the reasons for their incorporating this technology into their fleet operations, hear about their experiences, the benefits, the use of natural gas and RNG as a transportation fuel, and much more. The panel discussion will include both decision makers and users of the NeuFuel vehicles.

*(Keeneland)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 9:35 AM – 10:05 AM**

**NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS Sponsored by Aclara**

*(Regency North)*



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 10:05 AM – 10:35 AM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: OT (SCADA) CYBERSECURITY LANDSCAPE**

**Mike Bradley, Everline**

Everline will lead a practical conversation around the cyber landscape and what smaller operators should be doing to secure their systems.

*(Regency Central)*

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: REDUCING DAMAGES: UNPRECEDENTED COLLABORATION IN TACKLING THE TOP ROOT CAUSES**

**Sam Hall, Damage Prevention Institute**

According to CGA's Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report, the annual rate of damages to buried infrastructure in the U.S. has risen and costs the U.S. a staggering \$30 billion every year. CGA's "50 in 5" challenge aims to reduce excavation damages to our Nation's critical assets by 50% by 2028 by bringing damage prevention advocates together around a targeted set of strategic, data-driven priorities. The "50 in 5" call-to-action encourages the damage prevention industry to concentrate on three focus areas that prioritize critical issues identified by CGA's Next Practices Initiative and the top damage root causes that contribute to more than 76% of damages to buried infrastructure.

*(Regency South)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: GREEN HYDROGEN**

**Dan Dismukes, Honeywell**

*(Keeneland)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 10:40 AM – 11:10 AM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: ASSET MANAGEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT**

**Jim Schauer, Energy Worldnet**

*(Regency Central)*

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: RISK MANAGEMENT: TOP TOPICS**

**Heath Silvey, Aon**

A discussion on hot topics in the gas industry from the perspective of risk management, insurance carriers, and regulators.

*(Regency South)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: R&D EFFORTS – OPERATIONAL EMISSION REDUCTIONS**

**Dennis Jarnecke, GTI Energy**

This presentation will share the R&D efforts by the Operations Technical Development (OTD) organization that are underway to reduce emissions from operational activities.

*(Keeneland)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 11:15 AM – 11:45 AM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR YOUR OPERATIONS & COMPLIANCE EFFORTS**

**Ben Carey, Knoxville Utilities Board, TN**

**Matt Poelking, Kimley-Horn**

Operators today are faced with numerous simultaneous challenges: pipeline safety regulatory compliance, meeting emission goals, building resiliency in their system, and managing tightening budgets. Hear how Knoxville Utilities Board worked with Kimley-Horn to methodically and strategically think through all these areas of focus to develop a 20 year "Master Plan" for prioritizing their work.

*(Regency Central)*



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM (CONTINUED)**

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: PIPELINE SAFETY REAUTHORIZATION**

**Stuart Saulters, American Public Gas Association (APGA)**

**Josh St.Pierre, American Public Gas Association (APGA)**

Every four years, Congress reauthorizes the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) as the federal pipeline safety regulator. Congress typically includes additional mandates concerning pipeline safety in that legislation. Hear about the reauthorization process and some of the early proposals under discussion.

*(Regency South)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS: FROM IDEA TO EXECUTION**

**Cody Meyers, Green Rock Energy**

Hear from a Renewable Natural Gas ("RNG") project developer, capital provider and operator on the considerations for your RNG project. Gain insights into the project evaluation process, what makes for a viable project and various pathways to structuring & financing the project with an internal or external operator. Discuss why RNG is your 'RIGHT CHOICE' for your fleets and your local school buses.

*(Keeneland)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

*(The Spire)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION**

**Chris McKinley, Southern Cathodic Protection Company**

Whether performed by utility or contracted construction crews, oversight and quality assurance is critical for pipeline safety. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has revisited the construction inspection regulatory requirements in the new Safety of Gas Distribution Pipelines. Hear what your utility can do today to prepare for the potential new requirements.

*(Regency Central)*

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: PIPELINE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

**Mary Campos, Campos EPC**

Voluntary implementation of Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS) continues to be a priority for the industry, the federal and state regulators, Congress, and public stakeholders. Mary Campos participates in reviews of large operator's implementation of PSMS. She will provide small ways APGA members can improve their existing operations through implementation of PSMS principles.

*(Regency South)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: YOUR ESG STRATEGY AND WHY ITS IMPORTANT**

**Nick Pero, Artera Services**

This presentation will provide a high-level overview of the basics of an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy and the benefits a strategy can provide (i.e., operational efficiencies, emission reduction, employee engagement, and recruiting).

*(Keeneland)*



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 1:50 PM – 2:35 PM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: MANAGING AND STAFFING LARGE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS IN TIGHT LABOR MARKETS**

**Chris Hiestand, Magnolia River**

This presentation will offer insights regarding current and future organizational structuring required to manage these programs and how they differ from today's requirements. Chris will provide an in-depth look at current and future challenges with staffing ranging from field services to professional services needed to perform the duties required in large scale replacement programs. Hear insights regarding the combination of utility and contract workforces that are needed to meet these needs and what the right balances between these workforces are needed to benefit the utility overall to ensure that it maintains its core knowledge, experience, and response capabilities.

*(Regency Central)*

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE**

**Chris Foley, RCP Inc.**

Congress mandated that gas distribution operators utilize a Management of Change (MOC) process for changes impacting pressure control and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)'s Safety of Gas Distribution proposed rule looks to codify that requirement. MOC is also a foundational component of a pipeline safety management system (PSMS) program. Chris will share what operators can do today to better prepare for potential new MOC requirements.

*(Regency South)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: A PATH TOWARDS NET ZERO USING ADVANCED LEAK DETECTION**

**Alnoor Ebrahim, Southern Cross**

**Brian King, Trussville Gas & Water, AL**

**Tyler Wingard, Southeast Gas, AL**

Over the last few years, many new innovative technology platforms have come up in the market for natural gas leak detection and methane emission quantification. With a need to meet net-zero goals, legacy methods which generally included walking surveys with handheld detectors are just not sufficient today on a scale. Moreover, obtaining estimates of the emissions flow rates of the entire network is impossible without using some sort of advanced leak detection and emissions quantification platforms. This presentation will focus on the experiences over the past three years from two APGA member systems: Trussville Gas and Water and Southeast Gas. Hear how they are using Advanced Mobile Leak Detection Technology and discuss the various operational pros and cons.

*(Keeneland)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 2:35 PM – 3:05 PM**

**NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS**

*(Regency North)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 3:05 PM – 3:35 PM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: ASSET LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT USING CITYWORKS FOR THE GAS INDUSTRY**

**Michael Preston, Trimble/CityWorks**

This session will discuss the uses of Trimble's ALM system (CityWorks). We will explore the many uses of the system for the gas industry and how having the asset management tied to the GIS can benefit the user and the gas company.

*(Regency Central)*



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 3:05 PM – 3:35 PM (CONTINUED)**

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: PLASTIC PIPE DATABASE COMMITTEE**

**Matt Stennett, Middle Tennessee Natural Gas District, TN**

**Brent Haywood, Okaloosa Gas District, FL**

The Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) is a group of federal and state regulatory agencies and the natural gas and plastic pipe industries. The goal is to create a national database of information related to in-service performance of plastic piping materials. Hear from the two APGA representatives on the committee about the importance of participating in PPDC and a summary of the most recent PPDC report.

*(Regency South)*

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: IMPLEMENTING CROSS-COMPRESSION: WHEN AND HOW**

**Erik Menard, ZEVAC**

**Jason Garland, EGW USA**

Responsible operation is key component of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) scores, which is forcing most operators to make their own net-zero commitments; setting goals for planned emissions-free maintenance and project work to eliminate venting and flaring, to reduce their carbon footprint. ZEVAC's capabilities, versatility and scalability make it uniquely positioned to support these plans and help operators meet their goals. The ZEVAC SERVICE NETWORK (ZSN) is another way to achieve this.

*(Keeneland)*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 3:40 PM – 4:10 PM**

**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: IMPROVING GIS MAPPING THROUGH OPPORTUNISTIC GPS CAPTURE**

**Daniel Flum, City of Hamilton, OH**

**Craig Bruner, City of Hamilton, OH**

This presentation will provide the reasons for the City of Hamilton to begin capturing more and more field data on our natural gas system whenever possible. The presentation will discuss the need for GPS'ing natural gas assets, the need for more accurate GIS mapping of natural gas assets, the various types of natural gas GPS surveys used by the City of Hamilton, the type of GPS equipment used, a description of the data collection and workflow protocols, use of ArcGIS to create reports, issues encountered and subsequent solutions, other uses for tablet/GPS during natural gas inspections and finally displaying the City of Hamilton's current natural gas GIS mapping and each of the different GPS survey points.

*(Regency Central)*

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: IMPLEMENTING CLOSED-LOOP MONITORING: ENHANCING CYBERSECURITY IN THE GAS SECTOR**

**James Chacko, Acumen**

**Doug Westlund, Acumen**

In the face of growing and evolving cyber threats, the gas sector requires innovative, proactive, and adaptive cybersecurity strategies. This presentation introduces the concept of "Closed-Loop Monitoring" which can be applied for small, mid-sized, and large utilities. This presentation will delve into each stage of the closed-loop process, using utility examples to illustrate its effectiveness. The goal is to provide attendees with a practical strategy that can be implemented to strengthen their defense against cyber threats.

*(Regency South)*



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 3:40 PM – 4:10 PM (CONTINUED)

### ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: NEXT GENERATION ROUNDTABLE

**Stuart Saulters, American Public Gas Association (APGA)**

**Renée Lani, American Public Gas Association (APGA)**

Participate in a roundtable discussion about the unique perspectives and challenges for professionals just entering the natural gas distribution industry. All are welcome!

*(Keeneland)*

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 4:15 PM – 4:45 PM

### OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING TRACK: REGULATOR STATION RETROFITS

**Darin Houchin, USDI**

Proper Overpressure Protection is critical for ensuring the integrity of gas distribution systems. Hear some ideas and considerations operators should evaluate before performing this important work.

*(Regency Central)*

### SAFETY & COMPLIANCE TRACK: SHRIMP – WHAT TO KNOW & WHAT IS NEW!

**Erin Kurilla, APGA Security and Integrity Foundation (SIF)**

The SIF continues to improve and enhance the SHRIMP 4.0 tool. Erin Kurilla will share new features and offer tips for users.

*(Regency South)*

### ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK: NEXT GENERATION ROUNDTABLE (CONTINUED)

*(Keeneland)*

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM

### NEXT GENERATION EMPLOYEE'S HAPPY HOUR Sponsored by Energy Worldnet

*(Sway Bar – Hotel Lobby)*

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

### NETWORKING RECEPTION

*(Regency North & Foyer)*

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 7:00 AM – 8:15 AM

### COFFEE & VENDOR EXHIBITS

*(Regency North & Foyer)*

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 8:15 AM – 8:45 AM

### APGA EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNER

**Darin Yusi, City of Ellensburg, WA**

In the natural gas industry, we need to be better about sharing our story. In this presentation, the City of Ellensburg's Gas Division will share part of their story through the many ways they are contributing to environmental stewardship.

*(Regency Central & South)*



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 8:45 AM – 9:30 AM**

**APGA SAFETY MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER**

**Glen Boatwright, York County Natural Gas Authority, SC**

The APGA Safety Management Excellence Award is given to an APGA member system that demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in Safety Management through impactful employee safety programs. As the 2023 winner, York County Natural Gas Department will share how practice makes perfect.

*(Regency Central & South)*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

**PHMSA'S NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & MODERNIZATION GRANT PROGRAM**

**Erin Kurilla, American Public Gas Association (APGA)**

In May 2023, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) selected 37 recipients for the 2022 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety & Modernization (NGDISM) grant program and PHMSA is currently reviewing the 2023 applications. Hear how the process is going for the 2022 project proponents, what they are learning about the grant process, and timelines for project execution.

*(Regency Central & South)*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM**

**NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS**

*(Regency North)*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM**

**FEDERAL PIPELINE SAFETY UPDATE: LEAK DETECTION & REPAIR AND GAS DISTRIBUTION RULEMAKINGS**

**Erin Kurilla, American Public Gas Association (APGA)**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has recently published two Notice of Proposed Rulemakings: (1) the Leak Detection & Repair Rule and (2) the Safety of Gas Distribution Pipelines Rule. Erin will share an overview of the contents of those rules and the industry positions on PHMSA's proposals.

*(Regency Central & South)*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 11:15 AM – 11:30 AM**

**ROUNDTABLE: REFLECTION**

**Moderator: Todd Gentle, Huntsville Utilities, AL, and APGA Operations & Safety Committee Vice Chair**

This interactive roundtable is an opportunity to share your challenges related to the design, construction, operations and maintenance of natural gas distribution systems.

*(Regency Central & South)*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 11:30 AM**

**CONFERENCE WRAP-UP & ADJOURNMENT**



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## SPEAKERS



### **GLEN BOATWRIGHT**

Glen has twenty-nine years of experience in the energy industry, primarily focused in the natural gas pipeline sector in the safety, compliance and emergency planning/response areas. He also has experience as a county emergency manager, hazmat officer, and firefighter. Glen currently serves as Vice President of York County Natural Gas Authority. In this capacity, he manages Operations, Engineering, Regulatory Compliance & Safety. Glen served for 36 years in the South Carolina Air National Guard retiring in 2020 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

### **TRISTAN BROWN**

Tristan Brown serves as the Deputy Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Since 2021, Brown has led a team of nearly 600 full time employees (as well as nearly 200 contractors), managing a \$500+ million annual budget—focused on overseeing the safety of 3.4 million miles of hazardous material pipelines and 1.2 million shipments of hazardous material goods transported daily across the United States. Brown also serves on the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration (CCUS) Federal and Non-Federal Lands Permitting Task Forces.

### **BEN CAREY**

Ben has nearly 10 years of progressive experience as a project engineer working on pipelines and compressor and dehydration stations. His career started in midstream oil and gas at MarkWest Energy Partners and Marathon Petroleum. Ben currently works as a project engineer and team lead within the system planning team at Knoxville Utilities Board. Ben graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

### **JAMES CHACKO**

James, a seasoned cybersecurity professional with 18 years of experience, has a strong focus on projects related to critical infrastructure, systems and application deployment, and integration with operations in the utility, hospitality, and retail industries. His expertise spans operations and technical support, systems/network administration, business technical analysis, and project management. James has a comprehensive understanding of cybersecurity vulnerabilities across all areas of IT and OT infrastructure. His extensive knowledge is complemented by his experience in developing and implementing policies and procedures that significantly improve resiliency.

### **DAN DISMUKES**

Dan Dismukes is the Renewable Gas Sales Leader at Honeywell. He has spent 15 Years in natural gas analysis projects and 5 years in renewable gas projects, including gas analysis, metering and safety. His background includes project management, system integration and business development. His current role focuses on renewables with various feedstocks like dairy, landfill and wastewater.

### **ALNOOR EBRAHIM**

Alnoor assumes a multi-faceted leadership role encompassing marketing, business development and research & development of new technologies. His current interest includes researching new technologies for gas leak detection and applying artificial intelligence, machine learning and data analytics to better predict actionable insights. Mr. Ebrahim is a frequent speaker at natural gas / methane forums and conferences and brings a deep knowledge of upcoming technologies that can assist gas utilities in their LDAR programs, enable environmental stewardship and meet net-zero goals.



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



## **CHRIS FOLEY**

Chris Foley has over 30 years of experience in the energy industry and currently serves as Vice President of RCP which provides compliance engineering, consulting services and software solutions to the oil and gas industry. Mr. Foley is a Board Certified Safety Professional and actively participates as a member of the Gas Piping Technology Committee and is a Silver Award recipient with the American Gas Association. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University in Industrial Engineering with a specialization in Systems Safety Engineering.

## **DANIEL FLUM**

Daniel has been with the City of Hamilton for 11 years and has been involved with the natural gas system for construction projects and Federal/State natural gas compliance. He designs and manages natural gas construction projects for the City's natural gas main and service install/replacement as well as conducts plan reviews for natural gas service for new developments in the City. He is responsible for the City's O&M manual, Operator Qualification program, Distribution Integrity Management Plan, Public Awareness, etc. for updates and reviews.

## **JOHN GANN**

John has over 30 years experience in the energy industry working for GE Power Systems, the Gas Research Institute and, for the past 20+ years, MEA Energy Association. At MEA, John has been responsible for MEA's in-person learning events as well as the National Gas Rodeo, and currently manages MEA's membership and marketing & communications areas. John has an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, a graduate degree in finance, and holds Institute of Organizational Management and Certified Association Executive designations.

## **TODD GENTLE**

Todd is the Gas Operations Director for Huntsville Utilities. In this role, Todd is responsible for overseeing the operation, maintenance, and regulatory compliance of the natural gas distribution system. Huntsville Utilities' natural gas system is comprised of 1,550 miles of gas mains which serves approximately 62,000 customers across three counties in north Alabama. Todd has 20 years of utility experience in various roles at Huntsville Utilities. Todd has a Civil Engineering degree from Alabama A&M University and holds leadership positions on multiple gas industry boards and committees.

## **SAM HALL**

Sam Hall joined the Common Ground Alliance as Vice President of the Damage Prevention Institute in June of 2022, bringing more than two decades of industry experience and a strong regulatory background. With the engagement of industry leaders and CGA members, Sam leads the development of a comprehensive program of stakeholder accreditation, damage prevention metrics, and a peer review process to drive systemic efficiencies in the damage prevention system.

## **CHRIS HIESTAND**

With over 24 years in the natural gas and energy industry at large, Chris has a diverse background in engineering, compliance, operations, business processes, practices, auditing, and utility and program management. Chris enjoys working with clients who are passionate about the safety and integrity of their systems, employees, and companies while also looking to take steps forward in modernizing the way in which they conduct business. Chris has worked on the utility side of our industry, and as a contractor throughout his career.



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## SPEAKERS



### **DARIN HOUCHIN**

Darin is the President of Illinois Gas Company and the CEO of Utility Safety & Design, Inc. He is also a Board Member of IGC Holdings and a Partner at Utility Gas Management. Darin holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri.

### **MIKE JEWELL**

Mike Jewell has worked in the natural gas industry for 36 years and has served as Natural Gas Director for the City of Covington since 2017. Mike currently serves on the American Public Gas Association Board of Directors and serves on various committees. He is the current Vice-Chairman of the Georgia Municipal Association-Gas Section. Mike also serves on the Heat Energy Assistance Team (HEAT Inc) where he is the current Vice-Chairman, GMA Legislative Policy Council, and the Board of Directors for the Natural Gas Association of Georgia.

### **BRIAN KING**

Brian has worked with Trussville Gas and Water for over 25 years. He has overseen the company's Leak Survey program for the last 10 years. Brian introduced the Advance Leak Detection Program for compliance survey 4 years ago and is currently in the fourth year of using this technology. Brian has a bachelor's degree in human resources management from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, as well as a master's degree in engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

### **ERIN KURILLA**

Erin serves as American Public Gas Association's Vice President for Operations & Safety and as the Chief Operating Officer of the APGA Security and Integrity Foundation (SIF). Erin focuses on pipeline safety advocacy issues and addresses challenges members face pertaining to their operations. She works closely with APGA's members, federal and state regulators, and other stakeholders to improve the safety and reliability of the nation's pipeline infrastructure through sound regulations. She also supports the APGA Operations and Safety Committee and the APGA Environmental Task Group.

### **HAYDEN KUXHAUSEN**

Hayden is a graduate of Purdue University. He started with Heath right out of college as a leak survey tech in the Indianapolis area. After working in the field, Hayden was fortunate enough to join the Heath Sales team in February of 2022. Heath does run in Hayden's family as his father is a leak survey tech in northwest Indiana and has been for 10 years now and his brother is a leak survey tech in the Indianapolis area as well and has been for 4 years!

### **RENÉE LANI**

Renée joined APGA as its Director of Regulatory Affairs in April 2020. In that position, she advocated on behalf of members before regulatory agencies that do not oversee pipeline safety, in addition to staffing the Codes and Standards Committee. In January 2023, Renée became APGA's Assistant General Counsel. Prior to joining APGA, Renée was a Manager with the American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Chemical Products and Technology Division. In her role, she managed several self-funded sector groups, focused predominantly on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and pine chemistry, developing and leading their international, federal, and state advocacy efforts.



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## SPEAKERS



### **MASON MATTHEWS**

Mason Matthews has spent the last 26 years working in the energy and utilities industry. He is a past-president of the Alabama Natural Gas Association and a past board member of the American Public Gas Association. Mason formed Integrity Utility Solutions at the end of 2022. Two of the most influential events in Mason's life were the loss of the space shuttle Challenger and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. While often studied as engineering failures, these two incidents are now understood to be rooted in failures of organizational safety culture. After working in Division II and FCS football for 16 years, he left the college gridiron to begin coaching soccer this past August.

### **STEPHEN MAYFIELD**

Stephen has worked for the City of Tallahassee for twenty-four years and is their AGM – Gas Operations. He is actively involved with APGA and has chaired and served on many of its committees. Stephen is currently on APGA's board and is the chair of its Direct Use Task Group. Stephen is the Vice President of the Florida Natural Gas Association, the Co-Chair of Southern Gas Association's Customer Growth & Development Section, and serves on SGA's Executive Council. Stephen serves on other state and natural industry boards and committees and works to continually improve the gas industry.

### **ERIK MENARD**

Erik Menard is the Director of ZEVAC Service Network. Erik Started in the industry at Halliburton USA. He spent a decade with Veriforce assisting with their natural gas distribution and power generation divisions. In his current role at ZEVAC, Erik helps operators reach their NET-ZERO goals and commitments.

### **CODY MEYERS**

Cody is a Managing Partner of Green Rock Energy Partners, a sustainable infrastructure focused private equity firm which invests in renewable energy companies and projects. Prior to launching Green Rock, Cody was an energy entrepreneur building numerous businesses: Edge LNG (US-based distributed LNG company), Distributed Gas Solutions Canada (Canada-based CNG company), Ganamex (Mexican CNG company). Previously, he worked for Noble Group in M&A/Principal Investing, Scotiabank in Investment Banking, and BNP Paribas in Credit Trading. Cody began his career at The Blackstone Group in Alternative Asset Management and holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Arizona.

### **NICK PERO**

Nick plays a critical role in the development and execution of Artera's overall Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy. He works closely with the leadership team to identify and implement innovative solutions to address the energy industry's sustainability commitments. Prior to joining Artera, Nick spent over a decade at a large energy company, where he held several roles including measurement engineer, various supervisor roles across gas midstream and pipeline operations, and innovation (new technology and R&D). Nick has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Akron in Ohio, and his MBA, with a concentration in finance, from Ohio University.



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## SPEAKERS



### **MATT POELKING**

Matt joined Kimley-Horn in September 2019, bringing with him valuable expertise developed during his nearly a decade in the natural gas industry. He specializes in budget planning/forecasting, design and construction services, commissioning and decommissioning, and the analysis and identification of maintenance considerations. Matt's experience also includes large-scale pipeline replacement programs; public and private agency-driven relocations; new service lines, meters, mains, and associated system improvements; pressure improvements; and pressure modeling and GIS systems.

### **MICHAEL PRESTON**

Mr. Preston is the Director of Sales, EAM Energy USA for Trimble. He has over 34 years of professional Geographical Information Systems (GIS) experience focusing on implementing and analyzing the needs of the Energy Market (Electric, GAS, Pipeline, Telecom) throughout the United States. He has a unique perspective on the implementation of GIS systems within the utilities due to his past Electric experience.

### **SEAN QUINLAN**

Sean works to advance public safety, protection of the environment, and ensuring pipeline reliability. Sean conducts strategic communications and outreach with the public, federal and state regulatory agencies, pipeline operators and Indian tribal governments to address safety concerns, and inquiries regarding regulatory requirements. Previously, Sean worked as a Natural Gas Pipeline Inspector for Kansas Corporation Commission and was a Petroleum Supply Officer for the U.S. Army. Sean received degrees from The Citadel Military College of South Carolina, and Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

### **STUART SAULTERS**

Stuart Saulters serves as APGA's Vice President of Government Relations. He joined the trade association in April 2019. In his current role, Stuart manages APGA's engagement in legislative and regulatory affairs aiming to advance the goals of public natural gas utilities. Prior to joining APGA, Stuart served as a Senior Policy Advisor at the American Petroleum Institute (API). He spent some time working pipeline safety issues for API members, mostly operating liquids transmission lines, and then, advocated for worker safety policies for refinery operators. Before his time at API, Stuart was a Design and Facility Engineer for Chevron, spending time at their refinery in south Mississippi, as well as in the Pittsburgh office, where he supported their upstream assets in West Virginia, Ohio, and western Pennsylvania.

### **DAVE SCHRYVER**

Dave Schryver became American Public Gas Association's President and CEO on January 1, 2020. Dave has been with APGA since 2004 and was serving as APGA's Executive Vice President since 2006. In this role, Dave oversaw many of APGA's legislative and regulatory activities and its staff in advocating for its more than 700 publicly- and community-owned natural gas utility members. Dave has testified in front of Congress, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Internal Revenue Service.

### **HEATH SILVEY**

Heath is an account executive with Aon St. Louis, focusing on public utilities. Prior to joining Aon, Heath worked in Risk Management at a public electric, gas and water utility, where he also managed facility location services, damage prevention, and incident investigation.



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## SPEAKERS



### **DARRYL SINGLETON**

Darryl has been a member of Pensacola Energy's management team since February 1996 and currently serves as Director. He is the president of the Florida Municipal Natural Gas Association and is a member of the Florida Natural Gas Association Board of Directors. He is also a committee member of the American Public Gas Association. He has worked in all areas of operation during his time with Pensacola Energy. Darryl is responsible for overseeing all operational activities and ensuring system safety.

### **CODY STALLINGS**

Cody is the Gas Engineer for Wilson Energy located in Wilson County, NC. He has been the gas engineer for Wilson Energy since 2018. Cody has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from East Carolina University.

### **MIKE STRENGTH**

Mike Strength has served as General Manager for Trussville Gas & Water for 10 years and has worked in the gas industry for 25 years. He is passionate about process improvement and is committed to safety and continuous improvement of the gas system. Mike works directly with the Trussville gas and water staff, first responders and community officials toward that goal.

### **JOSHUA ST. PIERRE**

Joshua joined APGA in May of 2023 and serves as the association's Manager of Legislative Affairs. He currently works on the Direct-Use Task Group, the Security Task Group, and the Legislative Subcommittee. Joshua was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio and earned a degree in International Affairs from the University of Cincinnati. During his time in Cincinnati, he held positions on multiple, local political campaigns, gaining experience in grassroots mobilization and coalition building. Joshua moved to Washington, DC in 2021, joining the team at a firm specializing in advocacy campaigns primarily for public health-focused groups. He supported efforts to advance policy priorities across 11+ states mainly located in the Southeast and Midwest.

### **GARY SWAN**

Gary Swan is Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for the National Energy Foundation. For 29 years, he has led the nationwide expansion of K-12 energy literacy partnerships with electric and natural gas utilities. He has also led NEF's groundbreaking 2017 and 2022 National Energy Literacy Surveys of high school seniors. Gary serves on the governing board of the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC); he has also served for 17 years as the corporate secretary to NEF's board of directors. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University, with a bachelor's degree in Chinese and a master's degree in business administration.

### **ANDY THOMAS**

Since graduating with a BSChE from the University of Mississippi in 1989, Andy worked in various engineering, operations, and compliance roles for Exxon and Williams Midstream in Louisiana. He joined the staff of the City of Lexington when he moved back east to North Carolina, in 2007. There, he has worked in the roles of Compliance and Safety, as Gas Engineer, and most recently as Gas Director, a responsibility which he took on in 2018. He is active in APGA and is currently serving on the Board of Directors.



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



## **DURK TYSON**

Durk began his career at Greenville Utilities Commission in 2014 and is the Assistant Director of Gas Systems. In this role, he oversees the Distribution, Systems Engineering, Planning and Compliance sections. Durk serves on the Research Foundation Board of Directors and the working group for OTD. He has also served on the APGA Board of Directors. Durk received his Civil Engineering and Master of Engineering degrees from North Carolina State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of North Carolina.

## **DOUG WESTLAND**

Doug is the Senior VP and Principal Consultant at Acumen. In this role he assists utility executive teams and their Boards with strategic planning, risk management and building cyber security programs. Doug is currently active in assisting utilities with supply chain/third party cyber security risk management and optimizing IT/OT cyber security. Prior to Acumen, Doug co-founded N-Dimension Solutions that developed unique critical infrastructure cyber security technology solutions.

## **TYLER WINGARD**

Tyler is currently the Superintendent of Engineering Services for Southeast Gas. In this position Tyler is responsible for managing the entire leak survey program for Southeast Gas that consists of approximately 1,800 miles of distribution main, 40,000 service lines, and 575 miles of transmission main. Tyler began introducing Advanced Leak Detection Technology for compliance beginning in 2022 and is currently in the second year of using AMLD.

## **DARIN YUSI**

Darin attended Central Washington University where his engineering degree landed him a job working for the City of Ellensburg Public Works. After a few years of managing water, sewer, storm, and traffic signal projects he transitioned to the natural gas industry as the City's Gas Engineer. Although having the title of Gas Engineer, he oversees all areas of the operations and maintenance of the City's utility. His involvement with the APGA began from day one in the industry and has led him to be a part of many task groups and committees including the SIF Board of Directors.

## **TAKE THE 2023 APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE SURVEY!**

APGA hopes that you enjoyed this year's event and welcomes any feedback or comments on the 2023 APGA Operations Conference. Please take our survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023OpsConfEvaluation](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023OpsConfEvaluation) or scan the QR code to the right to launch the survey.

Email [scook@apga.org](mailto:scook@apga.org) with any questions.





# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## 2023 AWARDS



### EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes an APGA public gas system member that demonstrates excellence in their commitment to environmental stewardship.

**Congratulations to... City of Ellensburg, WA**

### SAFETY MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognizes an APGA public gas system member that consistently operates at the highest safety levels, clearly establishing the system as an achiever of excellence in the field of employee Safety Management.

**Congratulations to... York County Natural Gas Authority, Rock Hill, SC**

### SYSTEM OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION (SOAR)

SOAR applicants are awarded a rating based on a total cumulative score of points achieved from criteria in the areas of system integrity, system improvement, employee safety, and workforce development. There are three SOAR recognition levels: Bronze (80-89% of possible points), Silver (90-96% of possible points), and Gold (97-100% of possible points). SOAR status continues for three years.

**Congratulations to...**

#### GOLD

- Huntsville Utilities, AL (*First time Gold!*)
- City of Tallahassee, FL
- Wilson Energy, NC
- Chambersburg Gas Dept, PA
- Powell Clinch Utility District, TN

- Watertown Municipal Utilities, SD
- Gibson County Utility District, TN
- Richmond Gas Works, VA
- City of Ellensburg, WA

#### SILVER

- Norwich Public Utilities, CT
- Pensacola Energy, FL
- City of Covington, GA (*First time participant!*)
- Westfield Gas & Electric, MA
- City of Hamilton, OH
- Philadelphia Gas Works, PA
- Greer Commission of Public Works, SC

#### BRONZE

- Fayette Gas Board, AL
- Scottsboro Water, Sewer & Gas Board, AL
- Okaloosa Gas District, FL
- Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept, MA
- Middleborough Gas & Electric Dept, MA (*First time participant!*)
- Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light, MA
- Easton Utilities, MD
- City of Kings Mountain, NC
- Smyrna Natural Gas, TN



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

## 2023 AWARDS



### SAFETY CONTEST AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all 32 winners of the 2023 APGA Safety Contest! These gas systems highlight the dedication of APGA members in maintaining the highest safety standards within their system, their communities, and in the natural gas industry.

Among the winning systems, Scottsboro Water, Sewer & Gas Board, AL and the City of Hamilton, OH will be receiving an award for meeting the criteria to win the safety contest five years in a row. In addition, the Borough of Chambersburg, PA will be receiving an award for meeting the criteria 10 years in a row. And the City of Americus Natural Gas Department, GA will receive an award for meeting the criteria 30 years in a row! These are remarkable achievements and serve the entire industry by exemplifying what it means to set and maintain high performance and safety standards. **Congratulations to...**

#### 2023 GROUP A WINNING SYSTEMS (≤ 8,000 HOURS)

- Town of Rangely Gas, CO

#### 2023 GROUP B WINNING SYSTEMS (8,001 – 18,000 HOURS)

- City of Vernon Public Utilities, CA
- City of Fort Morgan, CO
- City of Americus Natural Gas Dept, GA
- Fort Valley Utility Commission, GA
- City of Orange City, IA
- City of Ellensburg, WA

#### 2023 GROUP C WINNING SYSTEMS (18,001 – 38,000 HOURS)

- Scottsboro Water, Sewer & Gas Board, AL
- City of Covington, GA
- Winder Natural Gas Dept, GA
- Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, IA
- Owatonna Public Utilities, MN
- Borough of Chambersburg, PA

#### 2023 GROUP D WINNING SYSTEMS (38,001 – 70,000 HOURS)

- Decatur Utilities, AL
- Riviera Utilities, AL
- City of Tallahassee Gas Utility, FL
- City of Wilson - Wilson Energy, NC
- Chester County Natural Gas Authority, SC
- Laurens Commission of Public Works, SC
- Paris-Henry County Public Utility District, TN
- City of Boerne Utilities, TX

#### 2023 GROUP E WINNING SYSTEMS (OVER 70,001 HOURS)

- City of Mesa, AZ
- Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, FL
- Lawrenceville Natural Gas, GA
- Midwest Energy Inc., KS
- City Utilities of Springfield, MO
- City of Hamilton, OH
- York County Natural Gas Authority, SC
- Jackson Energy Authority, TN
- Jefferson-Cocke County Utility District, TN
- Knoxville Utilities Board, TN
- CPS Energy, TX





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