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The meeting was well attended and covered topics important to all industry members.**  **Thank you for the opportunity to represent you.**  **Sincerely,**  **Bill Curcio**  **Eastern Propane Corporation**  **Oak Ridge, NJ** | | | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT1.png | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT2.png | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT3.png | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT4.png | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT5.png | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT6.png | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT7.png | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT8.png | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRT9.png | 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and the committee also discussed the 90-Day Criticals, key advocacy issues within the organization, for the fourth quarter.  These issues include tax reform, winter preparations & supply, expansion of the short haul exemption, state engagement, and natural gas expansion.  To learn more about the 90-Day Criticals, please visit <https://www.npga.org/policy/propane-issues/>.  The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be January 4-5, 2018 in Washington, DC. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | grey-curve-footer.jpg | |  |  | | --- | | [**CLICK HERE TO VISIT NPGA'S NEW WEBSITE**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001ZRq0HeECQHCLnGq1qjI4y8WUzLwGjNFmp-yKFDJia6xP7iwj9-OYclDXgRFMfj2qKO3f5tSTEg-WQZBCphF4AiVOrGhcAYnxN_3wMqtl-2zPxMwPYWj9zmWJduC9l4-kU2EXeIh_nHBkp1wATrE5jpjedfACncE3CTX61jy_rBg=&c=_xFPncjux-jWGJAv4Cfqw0nVwncNJArM0-HwaiGiPhW_yC-8WkBSRw==&ch=aqPjTt-1w5h5WZri8CPSoFjRDK-pbs7S6Q8yw0sWaLgGqld3r3IHQg==) |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | grey-curve-footer.jpg | |  |  | | --- | | **Propane Supply and Logistics for Winter 2017-2018** |  |  | | --- | | Major hurricanes, dramatic increases in exports, and questions about rail availability have amplified supply concerns as the industry enters the crop drying and winter heating seasons. NPGA and PERC continue to communicate aggressively with the industry and policymakers on the need for marketers to be prepared for increased winter demand. Building on one of our Propane Days "asks", a coalition of five U.S. Senators sent a letter to DOE Secretary Rick Perry urging the agency to "incorporate propane export volumes in EIA's calculation of remaining days of supply to ensure an accurate accounting of domestic propane stocks." This is very important so that the marketplace has the best available data upon which to make decisions.  In other communications activities, NPGA is pursuing proactive Hours of Service Waivers at the U.S. Department of Transportation, co-hosting regular update phone calls with the Midwestern Governors Association and other regional groups of state officials including the National Association of State Energy Officials. NPGA has been very active briefing high-level Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Surface Transportation Board officials. These meetings help the industry build relationships with key stakeholders who will know our issues and operations in advance.  NPGA's inventory trends report shows potentially low days of supply in February 2018 because of slower builds and higher than predicted exports. To date, however, there has not been a significant draw on supplies for crop drying. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration anticipates that winter weather will be 13% colder than last winter and closer to the average of the previous 10 winters, which isn't saying much considering how warm last winter was. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | grey-curve-footer.jpg | |  |  | | --- | | **Efforts to Fight "Electrify Everything" Increase Across the Nation** |  |  | | --- | | State legislatures are being lured into believing an "elec-trify everything" approach will appropriately reduce emissions, cut costs, and generally provide for the public welfare. The most notable "electrify everything" proposals have appeared in Connecticut, New York, and California, but other states that are moving towards carbon taxes or cap-and-trade programs have also indicated an interest in this effort. NPGA expects to fight these regulatory and legislative proposals in states throughout 2018. Together with state associa-tions and PERC, we are working to educate stakeholders at every level about the importance of accounting for the full fuel cycle when determining efficiency.  Another major area of NPGA activity is in fighting unfair of non-economic natural gas expansion. We have been successful in many fights in this area, which we think has caused the utilities to try an end-run through the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). In 2017, NARUC established a "Natural Gas Access and Expansion Task Force," to try to develop best practices and recommendations regarding natural gas service for underserved and unserved areas of the country, including, but not limited to rural communities. The creation of this task force opened the door to a possible tilt by NARUC in favor of fuel switching to natural gas. NPGA is meeting with all the members of the NARUC task force to educate them about the propane industry, and the many reasons why they should not support this push into "propane country". |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | grey-curve-footer.jpg | |  |  | | --- | | **Expanding the Short Haul Operation Exemption** |  |  | | --- | | In line with the regulatory reform agenda of the new administration, NPGA is pursuing an expansion of the air-mile radius component of the Short Haul Operation exemption. Through the Short Haul exemption, drivers who operate under specific conditions are not required to maintain Record of Duty Status (RODS) reports. Among the conditions is that throughout the day drivers must remain within a 100 air-mile radius of their work reporting location. NPGA is seeking an expansion of the radius from 100 to 300 air-miles, based on improvements in highway accessibility and commercial vehicle technology. Expanding the radius to 300 air-miles could save the industry $11 million annually in paperwork costs.  On June 16, 2017, we proposed this reform to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). On August 17, 2017, NPGA met with political appointees of DOT to discuss expansion of the air-mile radius, and NPGA is currently analyzing results of a survey to collect additional information to support the significant increase to the air-mile radius. We plan to meet with DOT again in the near future to examine the additional information. An expansion of the air-mile radius would allow propane marketers to serve more customers and grow gallons. It also meets the reform agenda of the new administration by reducing regulatory burdens on small businesses and facilitating growth for domestic energy supplies. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | grey-curve-footer.jpg | |  |  | | --- | | **NPGA Continuing to Lobby for Tax Reform** |  |  | | --- | | Comprehensive reform of the tax code has not happened since 1986. Members of Congress and the Administration have promised dramatic changes to simplify the tax code, stimulate the economy, and keep businesses in the United States. Most recently, House, Senate, and Administration leaders released what they're calling a "Unified Framework" on September 27, 2017 outlining what a new tax code would look like. The Framework "serves as a template for the tax-writing committees that will develop legislation through a transparent and inclusive committee process." Policies advocat¬ed by the Framework include, among many others, repealing the estate tax; simplifying and lowering corporate and individual tax rates; and enacting immediate expensing of business purchases for at least five years.  Release of the Framework should energize the tax reform debate in Congress to move beyond the hearing stage. NPGA is continually meeting with House and Senate tax policymakers to educate them on the effects of these polices on our members, including the benefits of alternative fuel tax credits. The most optimistic timeline envisions the House com-pleting its work before Thanksgiving, and the Senate wrapping up by the end of December. The two bills would then need to be rec¬onciled in a conference committee, after which a bill could be sent to the President. The best case scenario is that a comprehensive tax reform package is enacted in the first quarter of 2018. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | grey-curve-footer.jpg | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Start Planning for Expo 2018** | |  |  | | --- | | The 71st Southeastern Convention & International Propane Expo will return to Atlanta, Georgia April 6 - 8, 2018 at the Georgia World Congress Center. The day one schedule has been reworked to include additional education sessions in the morning, a longer break for lunch, the PERC Update and Keynote Address, and will wind down the day with a newly extended reception on the Expo Hall floor. The Keynote Address will be presented by CBS Sports Broadcaster, Greg Gumbel, whose 40+ years as an announcer have included his coverage of Major League Baseball, the NBA, the NFL, the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Tournament, Summer and Winter Olympic games, World Figuring Skating Championships, and the Daytona 500.    The Prayer Breakfast program welcomes back Rev. Dr William Fullilove on Sunday, April 8, 2018. Dr. Fullilove will speak about how many of us have adopted various forms of risk management in our businesses, but have we thought about risk management in light of our faith?  How would living this out in our businesses serve to show Christ to our coworkers, vendors, neighbors, and clients?    The overall education program is in the process of being finalized with nearly all of the Education and Fast Track session speakers confirmed.  The Technical Workshops will once again take place in traditional classrooms off the show floor for an optimal learning environment.    We expect another year of packed show floors as sales are already under way and booths are filling up fast.  There are sponsorship and advertising opportunities still available.  To learn more about exhibiting, sponsorships, and attending the Expo, visit: [www.NPGAexpo.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001ZRq0HeECQHCLnGq1qjI4y8WUzLwGjNFmp-yKFDJia6xP7iwj9-OYcqpVaDWUZs0FYWHvfDedt37cgE94YBa5tDnty76x3nDCstCb7gvc9uDQu2LIxioMdulsu3IvpX_AnSd-O29HTtAwQUgh8GOUNrdJMbHA4CzDPBugZj17hEM=&c=_xFPncjux-jWGJAv4Cfqw0nVwncNJArM0-HwaiGiPhW_yC-8WkBSRw==&ch=aqPjTt-1w5h5WZri8CPSoFjRDK-pbs7S6Q8yw0sWaLgGqld3r3IHQg==). |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | grey-curve-footer.jpg | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Member Services Committee Considers New Membership Marketing Plan** | |  |  | | --- | | The Member Services Committee and the Services Section were presented with a membership marketing plan designed to retain and engage current members; recruit and engage new members; communicate to members and potential members how their participation creates association and industry successes including effective legislation and regulations; comprehensive industry safety and training programs; relevant information and education; and robust meetings and industry networking that benefit them professionally and help them operate their businesses.  Some of the challenges identified were industry consolidation, two back-to-back warm winters, and information overload. The plan addressed these obstacles with a series of small outreach efforts that use snail mail and phone calls to maintain member connections and provide information on member services and association news throughout the year.  NPGA will partner with state and regional associations to create prospect lists and members will be provided with simple marketing materials to encourage potential members to learn more about joining. The Supplier Member Incentive Program will continue to be utilized, with a postcard mailing planned for late October. Volunteers from the Member Services Committee and the Services section have agreed to make calls to new members and perform follow up with supplier member renewals to provide additional member-to-member contact. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **NPGA Board of Directors Welcomes New Members** | |  |  | | --- | | The NPGA Board of Directors voted to approve three new directors at the meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2017.  Welcome new Directors!    **District 10 Director**  Mr. Thomas Manson Eastern Propane Rochester, NH  **New Hampshire Director**  Mr. Ryan Jackson D.F. Richard Energy Dover, NH  **Illinois Director** Ms. Tonya Crow Prairieland FS, Inc. Jacksonville, IL |  |  | | --- | | **Code Harmonization Efforts Continue Between U.S. and Canada** |  |  | | --- | | The Manufacturers Section met and reviewed progress on the PERC-funded project to determine the maximum allowable wear profiles for ACME threaded couplings used during liquid transfer operations into cargo tank vehicles. Testing should be completed by the end of this year.   The group also discussed efforts to harmonize standards between the U.S. and Canada, specifically the standards that address hoses and propane powered vehicles. It was generally acknowledged that although the Canadian propane vehicle code is more specification oriented, NPGA members in the U.S. were more likely to prefer codes that are more performance oriented. With respect to hoses, it is hoped that Underwriters Laboratories and CSA Group will work to ensure that the methods for classifying hoses are consistent between the two organizations. |  |  | | --- | | **Cylinder Exchange Council Considers NFPA 58 Proposals** |  |  | | --- | | The NPGA Cylinder Exchange Council met considered several issues that impact the cylinder exchange segment.  One issue pertains to the possibility of including markings on cylinder valves to indicate that a No. 72 drill size orifice is used with the fixed maximum liquid level gauge. This is significant because these smaller orifices do not emit as much propane as the larger No. 54 orifices during the volumetric filling process, perhaps making them more desirable in locations where low emission transfer operations are required. There was also discussion on proposals submitted to NFPA 58 for the next development cycle.  These proposals were submitted by another group and would impact the type of fire extinguishers required to be installed at cylinder exchange locations.  It was decided to request NPGA representatives to oppose those proposals. |  |  | | --- | | **Propane Caucus Co-Chairman Attends PAC Event** |  |  | | --- | | On Sunday, October 1, PropanePAC hosted a reception at Historic Fort Snelling in Saint Paul, Minnesota, its fourth such fundraising event for the calendar year.  Attendees to this event were given the opportunity to tour the fort as well as witness a live-fire artillery demonstration.    U.S. Representative Tim Walz of Minnesota was also in attendance.  As the Democratic co-chairman of the Congressional Propane Caucus (CPC), he was delighted to meet more than 70 of the industry's political supporters in his home state.  In addressing the group, he emphasized the importance of bipartisan congressional caucuses, including the CPC, to educate representatives on the particular needs of industry as well as preserve Congress' institutional knowledge of those needs.  http://files.constantcontact.com/a7b3299a001/bf7fdffe-172c-40ed-aed9-78971479ea56.jpg |  |  | | --- | | **Next NPGA Board Meeting** |  |  | | --- | | **NPGA Winter 2018 Board of Directors Meeting**  **February 11-13, 2018**  **Santa Barbara, CA** | | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowLB.png | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  | | --- | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | | |  | | --- | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | | |  | | --- | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowBL.png | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowBR.png | | http://img.constantcontact.com/letters/images/1101116784221/PM_NPD_ShadowRB.png | | |  | |