Inside this issue:

* Propane Days 2012
* Farewell Message from your President
* Hurricane Season Preparedness

......and more!

A Farewell Message from your President

Dear Friends,

What an honor and privilege it has been for me to serve as your president of the LPGA this past year. I had no idea what all I was in for, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything! This past year has been such a wonderful experience in so many different ways. Thank you all for the time we have had together. I have gotten to know many of you and have made lasting friendships. I appreciate all of your support throughout the year and will cherish the memories made. I believe Louisiana has the best group of propane dealers and suppliers out there!

We should all be proud of our Association and stay involved. If there is anything I have learned this year, it is that this is our Association for our industry and we can make a difference by speaking up and staying involved. We have made great progress throughout the year in many different areas, but space constraints limits me from listing them all. To name a few of the most recent, several of us attended Propane Days in DC in June and were able to meet up with our Congressional Delegates to speak about issues that affect our industry. In addition, two bills were signed by the governor supporting propane. One bill allows the public access to propane for autogas through self-service pumps. The other bill requires state vehicles to run off of alternative fuels. We could not have achieved this without your involvement, the Commission’s support or our Executive Director’s help and dedication.

In closing, I’d like to take a moment to say a special “thank you” to Randy Hayden, our Executive Director, and to his staff at CCI. Without these folks we would not be where we are today. Randy is dedicated to our Association and puts more time and energy into our small group than I ever imagined one person could. We are truly blessed to have such a great asset to our team!

Thank you for a very successful year,
Hurricane Season Preparedness

Hurricane season has officially begun! While most of us are aware of the severity of a hurricane’s bad effects, we sometimes seem to neglect being well prepared for hurricane season. So this year, like each and every year that approaches, it has become more and more important to be cautious, aware and better prepared for hurricane season. It is well known that hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to our coastlines. Hurricanes can produce heavy winds that can exceed over 155 mph, have pouring rain that may result in flash flooding, and worst of all, unwanted tornadoes. According to www.ready.gov, here are a few steps that you and your family can take to be well prepared and stay safe for the upcoming hurricane season:

• Make an emergency kit (bottled water, batteries, flashlights, candles, matches, weather radio, and dry food)
• Make a family communication plan
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It’s never too late to advertise! Advertisers get an added bonus of being included in our monthly e-newsletter, free of charge! Our quarterly newsletters are sent out to more than 300 recipients which includes potential customers, legislators, dealers and suppliers across the state of Louisiana, as well as some out-of-state recipients. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to receive maximum exposure in and around the industry! Contact the LPGA office today to make sure your company’s ad is in our next issue!

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President &
Chief Executive Officer
301-432-3880
rthomp1@thompsongas.com

G. Jeffrey Kerns
Executive Vice President &
Chief Financial Officer
301-432-3882
jeff@thompsongas.com

WWW.THOMPSONGAS.COM

Ralph Rooney
Suburban Gas Inc.
Past NPGA President

“We were confident that ThompsonGas would be able to provide a level of service and attention to detail commensurate with ours, and at the same time because of their size and corporate culture, would provide our employees and customers the security of a promising future, stability of supply, a broad mix of propane equipment, and a “down home” place to work and do business … It provided us tremendous peace of mind.”

At Enterprise, we put the ‘pro’ in propane, providing superior service to Louisiana propane dealers

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Marketing Rep
Office: 713.381.6374
Cell: 832.470.4691

David Williams
Manager, Wholesale Propane
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A Message from the Executive Director

The Louisiana legislative session has officially ended for 2012 and it was a good one for the propane industry in Louisiana. Special thanks to Bryan Cordill, LPGA Legislative Committee Chairman, for teaching us when to be the most effective in committee and shepherding the bill to mandate state government purchase alternative fuel-ready vehicles.

In addition to Bryan, we were fortunate to run into Representative Stephen Ortego of Carencro, La. He filed several pieces of legislation of interest to our industry including an administration bill and one on behalf of the industry. The first bill, HB1061, will authorize the use of self-service, coin-operated, credit card, or any other pump-activating automatic fuel dispensing device at any retail station and allow that it may be accessed by the general public for auto gas use. The law says the dealer shall post at each dispensing step-by-step operating instructions readily visible to the operator during transfer operations.

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The LPGA had another successful year at the annual Propane Days convention in Washington, DC. We were able to meet with almost everyone in the Louisiana delegation and got nothing but support from them! A big thanks to Jessica Bennett, LPGA President, and Billy Cox, LPGA State Director, for attending this year’s Propane Days on behalf of LPGA.

Lastly, thanks to all of the volunteers that came out to help at the 2012 Zurich Classic in New Orleans! We had a great presence at the tournament and an all-around wonderful week promoting our industry!

As always, it’s a pleasure to serve you!

Propane Days 2012—Another Successful Year

The Louisiana Propane Gas Association is proud to be one of the leading states in participating in the National Propane Gas Association’s 2012 Propane Days convention at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, D.C. A contingent including state director and NPGA Governmental Affairs Committee member Billy Cox, LPGA President Jessica Bennett and LPGA Executive Director Randy Hayden spent three days in June swapping stories and ideas with representatives of the propane industry from across the country, in addition to participating in panels, listening to keynote speakers and visiting face-to-face with our state’s Congressional delegation.

A Propane Days schedule loaded with NPGA business included the mid-year Board of Directors meeting, the NPGA Annual Meeting and a keynote speech by Bill McInturff, who is the co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies, a national political and public affairs survey research firm. The NPGA Governmental Affairs Committee and national lobbyists for the propane industry also provided attendees with a legislative update in advance of the state associations’ meetings with Congressional delegations. Each of Louisiana’s senators and representatives opened their office doors to the Propane Days contingent to discuss a number of issues, including extending the alternative fuel tax credits though the Propane GAS Act, ensuring proper regulatory oversight of propane pipelines, supporting permanent estate tax relief and supporting parity for propane in all Department of Energy R & D programs. The group met directly with Senators David Vitter and Mary Landrieu as well as Representatives Charles Boustany, Bill Cassidy, John Fleming, Cedric Richmond and Jeff Landry and staff representatives for Congressman Steve Scalise and Rodney Alexander. The meetings were overwhelmingly positive, with the delegates offering their support to the industry where possible.

The Louisiana Propane Gas Association continues to be one of the leading states in arranging meetings with its delegation. It is rare that a state association gets to meet directly with members of congress to the degree that LPGA has enjoyed in the last eight years. We would like to offer special thanks to LPGA staff who arranged the meetings and especially the senators and representatives who took time to meet with us personally. We look forward to next year’s visits.

Save the Date!

June 28-July 1: Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting & Convention, New Orleans Marriott.


July 23-26: LPGA Summer Convention, Orange Beach, AL.

August 2-4: Louisiana Municipal Association Annual Convention, Lake Charles Civic Center.

August 19-22: Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association Sheriffs’ and Wardens’ Annual Training Conference and Exhibition, Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort and Spa.
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Confusing? It certainly is, considering the fact that the state should ALREADY have been purchasing such vehicles by existing law. The bottom line is that the industry has made it clear that Louisiana state government should be taking the lead in the use of alternative fuel vehicles and the industry (natural gas and propane) are ready to meet the state’s needs. Many dealers are looking to propane autogas to help with the loss in gallons due to the recent warm winters so this legislation will come as a welcomed relief to many.

On the subject of “relief” summer convention is coming and we hope to see everyone there. This year it’s being held in Orange Beach, AL. and early indications are that the site will not disappoint. Along with our annual board meeting and president’s reception and dinner, there will be a golf tournament, a fishing trip, ladies activities and more! Don’t forget to send in your registration as soon as possible so you don’t miss out on all of the great things we have in store for you! The deadline for the LPGA office to receive it is June 29th and the hotel registration deadline is June 22nd! Contact the Island House Hotel to reserve your room today. If you can’t stand to see another propane dealer or supplier, come for the beach—you clearly need some time to unwind.

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