



November 2013 eBrief Print Version

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Board meeting news

Exciting things are happening on the boards of both organizations. Below is a rundown of several key actions taken by the GPA and GPSA boards of directors at their October meetings in Colorado Springs.

GPA

A successful bylaws ballot was unanimously passed by the membership. The revisions focused on title changes for GPA staff and elected officers. Other minor changes were included to assist in administrative details and to provide consistent document formatting. The new bylaws went into effect in September.

The board approved the association's 2014 budget. The Nov. 1, 2013 – Oct. 31, 2014 budget provides general funding for association operations, but also includes specific activities such as 2014 new and continuing research projects and GPA's advocacy efforts. Additionally, it includes an automatic dues increase for 2014. The GPA bylaws require that dues be increased each year at the rate specified in the most recent "Wage Index" as determined by the Council of Petroleum Accounting Societies (COPAS) in accordance with Section III, Paragraph 1A (3) of the COPAS 1974 Accounting Procedure. The COPAS rate for 2013 is 7.4 percent.

In addition, a strategic planning effort is underway. It will reaffirm key association functions, as well as identify any additional functions that need to be undertaken. This effort is in its early stages, and areas of discussion include the addition of some operational and maintenance-related studies, new educational and training opportunities, and additional advocacy efforts. GPA leadership continues to ensure the association focuses on areas that provide value to member companies and their employees.

The board also supports a fundamental change in how GPA staff supports the chapter organizations. Chapters are doing an excellent job on their meetings and activities, so staff resources will be shifted to provide more support for short-term issues and their long-term strategic planning.

GPSA

The board approved in concept changes to its bylaws that would address director districts, the overall size of the board and a director's tenure on the board. A director's district is proposed to be the "address of record of its Official Representative." This addition should eliminate any misunderstandings as to which district a director must run for election. Language describing the overall size of the board will be revised to read, "There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of a minimum of thirty and a maximum of forty member companies." This could potentially increase the size of the board from 30 to 40 companies. And lastly, in an effort to speak to the industry's graying workforce, language to address a director's tenure has been drafted.

The next step in this bylaws approval process is to ballot the changes to the GPSA membership. GPSA Official Representatives: please expect a ballot package within the next few weeks with a return date in early January. Providing these changes are approved, they should be in place for the 2014-2015 association year. Any questions regarding this action should be directed to Mark Sutton, GPSA staff: msutton@GPAglobal.org.

GPSA announces Bill Engvall as 2014 GPA Convention entertainment

Comedian, actor, television show host, author and "Dancing with the Stars" contestant Bill Engvall is the featured entertainment for the Tuesday night GPSA party at the 2014 GPA Convention, which will be held April 13 – 16 in Dallas.

Engvall's first album, "Here's Your Sign," has been certified platinum and achieved numerous top rankings among several entertainment charts. He went on to win the "Best Selling Comedy Album" award at the annual NARM convention, and all of his comedy album releases that followed also hit No. 1 on the Billboard Comedy Chart.

Engvall was part of the enormously successful Blue Collar Comedy concert films, which have sold more than 9 million units and are some of the most watched movies and special in Comedy Central history. He has written several books, including his autobiography "Bill Engvall – Just A Guy."

The celebrity has appeared as a guest on most major talk shows, including the Tonight Show and the Late Show. Engvall has hosted a number of TV shows and appeared in many network sitcoms, including "Designing Women" and the "Jeff Foxworthy Show" as well as in films such as "Bed and Breakfast" and "Strawberry Wine." He's currently one of the final four contestants on the "Dancing with the Stars" television show.

Without a doubt, the award-winning Bill Engvall will put on a show to remember at the GPSA Party, so you won't want to miss it.

We couldn't make this party happen without our entertainment sponsors. Thanks to the following companies that have already committed to making this a great event:

ABB
Access Midstream
Ariel
Aux Sable Liquid Products
BCKK Engineering
Black & Veatch Corp.
Cameron
Catalytic Combustion Corp.
Catalytic Products International
Caterpillar
CB&I
CECO
Coastal Chemical
Compressor Systems Inc.
Crosstex
Dickson Process Systems
Elkhorn Holdings
EMD Inc.
Emerson
Exterran
GWD Engineering & Design
Huntsman
J.H. Foglietta Consulting, LLC
J-W Power Co.
Koch-Glitsch
Monico
Nalco
Niagara Blower Co.
Ortloff Engineers Ltd.
PSI Midstream

Quorum Business Solutions Inc.
River City Engineering Inc.
Saulsbury Industries
S-CON Inc.
Spartan Energy Partners
Sunland Construction
URS
Valerus
Willbros
ZAP Engineering and Construction Services

Interested in supporting the Tuesday night party?

Entertainment sponsorships cost \$500, and sharing in the sponsorship of this event with GPA and GPSA member companies will go a long way toward making this a great evening.

Party table sponsorships also support the Tuesday night event and provide sponsoring companies with a reserved table near the stage, early entry into the party for up to 10 guests and an opportunity for two of those guests to meet Bill Engvall prior to the show. Party table sponsorships cost \$2,500.

For more information, visit www.GPAconvention.org/sponsor or contact Crystal Myers, cmyers@GPAglobal.org.

GPA Convention registration to open next month

Online registration for the 2014 GPA Convention will open on Tuesday, Dec. 10. We will send an e-mail announcement that morning, but you may also go directly to the GPA Convention web site to register beginning at 9 a.m.: www.GPAconvention.org/register/.

Those who register by Feb. 14 will save \$100 on registration fees, and GPA and GPSA members also save. Check your company's membership status here: www.GPAconvention.org/check-membership

Information about session topics and a schedule of events will be updated at www.GPAConvention.org as the information become available, and it will also be included in the new GPA smart phone/tablet app, which will be available to those who register as early as mid-January. Detailed information about the app will be communicated closer to the launch date.

The convention promotional brochure will be mailed in early January. If your mailing address or company information has changed, please send an e-mail to gpa@GPAglobal.org to ensure we have your current information.

GPA Pipeline Safety Committee submits comments to PHMSA

The GPA Pipeline Safety Committee continues to represent the midstream interests of our members before the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Committee Chair Alice Ratcliffe, XTO, and Vice Chair Matt Norton, Crestwood, are always engaged in the battle against intrusive regulations that could negatively affect the operations of GPA members.

This past month, Ratcliffe and Norton led our committee in submitting comments addressing the Proposed Rulemaking on the Integrity Verification Process, as well as potential changes to pipe class locations.

GPA advocacy efforts include outreach to other associations

For several years now, GPA has been increasing our activities and outreach to state and federal legislators, regulators and many government agencies. In addition to these efforts, our GPA Advocacy Steering Committee also recognizes the benefits of partnering with other associations that share common goals with our organization. GPA Vice President of Government Affairs Jeff Applekamp recently attended the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association's (NMOGA) annual meeting in Santa Fe, NM, as part of this effort.

Applekamp said there is tremendous value in building and strengthening our working relationships with NMOGA and many other groups.

"Not only do we share many member companies, but we also share many of the same issues and goals. By reaching out to these groups, we can all benefit by working together," he said. " We can also help our legislators and regulators by explaining the common concerns and positions of multiple associations."

GPA continues to work closely with the Texas Pipeline Association. Applekamp said one of GPA's many goals for 2014 is to continue to strengthen relationships with other groups.

Environmental Excellence Award self-nomination process is open

GPA's Environmental Committee Chair Doug Jordan encourages GPA members to submit applications for this project-based award, created to acknowledge and honor companies' achievements in energy conservation and environmental support. The nomination process is open for companies to be considered for the 2014 award recognition at the GPA Convention, April 13 - 16, in Dallas. There, award winners will be able to display their projects so that other member companies may benefit from this knowledge and information.

To encourage more participation in our Environmental Excellence Award program, we have expanded the award categories to two divisions. GPA member companies classified as 01 and 02 members will compete for the Division 1 award. All other GPA member companies, including international and associate members, will compete for the Division II award.

The winner of each division will receive a traveling trophy to display at its site for one year and present to the following year's winner at the GPA Convention. Winners in both divisions will also receive a plaque as a keepsake and will have the opportunity to purchase additional plaques.

The application deadline is January 10, 2014.

GPA research activities

GPA staff recently attended Subgroup 1 (SG1) and Subgroup 2 (SG2) meetings in Houston, and both meetings were well attended. The groups reviewed the 2014 research budget, and GPA staff discussed plans to meet with the Propane Education Research Council (PERC) soon to thank the organization for its generous \$300,000 contribution to GPA's research budget and discuss plans for continued support. SG1 and SG2 voted to begin two new research projects.

Project coordinators for both subgroups gave status reports for 23 research projects during the two-day meetings.

Editorial Review Board meeting updates

GPA staff also recently attended the Editorial Review Board (ERB) meeting in Houston and reported that the electronic download of the GPSA Engineering Data Book has been a success. A discussion of cross referencing GPA research reports with the Engineering Data Book was entertained, and ERB members unanimously agreed that it needed to be done. The coordinator for each section of the Data Book will prepare a subject list to help identify pertinent research reports.

GPA/GPSA Calendar

November

21 - GPA Europe AGM & Technical Meeting

December

4 - Midcontinent GPA Christmas Party

4 - Rocky Mountain GPA Training Course - NGL Recovery Short Course

5 - North Texas GPA Lunch and Learn

5 - North Texas GPA Young Professionals "Happy Holidays Happy Hour"

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