Minnesota BLUE FLAME GAS Association

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

SUMMER EVENTS

We plan the events so you don't have to!

One of the benefits of membership is the opportunity to take advantage of events the Association puts on so you don't have to! You can invite customers, peers, etc. and you don't have to organize the event – just come relax and have fun! These events also provide networking opportunities with other members plus sponsorships are available so you can promote your products and services! Sign up now!

These events are very important to the Association! Dues only cover a portion of the expenses to run the Association, the rest of our income must come from the funds generated at these events.

Please support these events and help the Blue Flame continue to support the natural gas industry in Minnesota and get the natural gas message out!

8th Annual Blue Flame Fishing Event
Tues., June 6th - Fish for walleyes on Mille Lacs Lake! Even though it's "catch and release" again this year, the fun of reeling in a fighting walleye is exhilarating! Last year, with the same regulations in place on the lake, we averaged 40 walleyes per individual boat with a guide! (See Fishing Event article in this newsletter)

Summer Golf Event
Thursday, June 15th for a 12:30 p.m. shotgun at the Cannon Falls Golf Club. We're Brewing up a great time for you! (hint, hint on the theme) (See Golf Event article in this newsletter)

Blue Flame Lodge at the Minnesota State Fair
Limited space is available in the Blue Flame Lodge to promote your natural gas products and services. Reserve your space now!!! Sizes and prices vary – request your exhibitor kit now!
Final attendance for the 2016 Minnesota Great Get-together made a new overall attendance record at 1,943,719! The State Fair Committee is busy planning this year's display and we have a few spaces open for interested members!

State Fair dates – Thursday, August 24 – Labor Day, Sept. 4th
Showcase your products/services at the fair! If interested, contact Diane for more info.

Commercial/Industrial Annual Fall Energy Conservation Conference
Tuesday, September 19 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Hillcrest Golf Club in St. Paul.
Four seminar topics plus two keynote speakers will be presented. Certificates of Completion will be given for those wishing to use the seminars for professional development hours (if applicable). Sponsorships and vendor tabletops will be available.

For more information on any of these events, contact Diane at dswintek@blueflame.org or call 763-424-1841. More details are inside

45 year ANNIVERSARY

Minnesota Blue Flame Gas Association celebrates its 45th Anniversary in 2017!

The Minnesota Blue Flame is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year!

The Minnesota Blue Flame Gas Association was formed in 1970 when representatives of the area gas companies began to meet informally to discuss common goals, share ideas, and develop strategies to unify promotional programs.

The informal gatherings soon gave way to the need to formally incorporate the Association and the articles of incorporation were recorded with the Minnesota Secretary of State on September 5, 1972.

Forty-five years of supporting the natural gas industry and working together to get the natural gas message to consumers and businesses!

Thank you to all of our members for supporting the Association!

Natural Gas News

Efficiency, Efficiency, Efficiency - Portland, Oregon

Portland residents include energy efficiency as home selling point.
American Gas, State Watch
March 2017

Portland residents wishing to sell their homes will need an audit to provide information about energy efficiency to prospective buyers. According to a news release from Mayor Charles Hales, the policy will provide an energy score similar to the miles-per-gallon rating on a car and will help buyers estimate the true costs of owning a particular home.

Visit www.aga.org for complete article.

MMPA's 46-megawatt Shakopee Energy Park now Generating Electricity

The Resource – March 2017

Shakopee Energy Park, owned and operated by the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (MMPA), has achieved commercial operation and is producing electricity from clean-burning natural gas.

The Shakopee Energy Park is a 46-megawatt, natural gas fired power plant using reciprocating internal combustion engines.

By The Numbers – Phishing Scams

American Gas, By The Numbers, April 2017

Despite an increased focus on cybersecurity and a higher level of awareness concerning email phishing scams, employees still respond to this common cyberattack. The good news? Persistent education does work.

Testing the Perimeters

Ninety-one percent of cyberattacks gain entry to corporate networks through phishing emails, and those emails are on the rise. Certain themes are more difficult for employees to recognize as phishing emails, with business-related themes topping the list.

Phishing Email Theme and Average Response Rate

- Office Communications – 19.9%
- Finances and Contracts – 18.6%
- Retail/Shopping – 16.5%
- IT Communications – 11.2%
- External Communications – 7.8%
- Computer Updates – 7.5%

Why People Fall for Phishing Scams

Driven by deadlines and concerned about losing their jobs, employees are often easier targets for phishing attacks because of the emotional components common in the business world – and they might not be as focused on email security as they should be.

Practice Makes Perfect – Or At Least Helps

The good news is that a sustained and well-executed phishing simulation program improves company security. Response rate drops by almost 20 percent after a company, regardless of size, runs just one failed simulation.

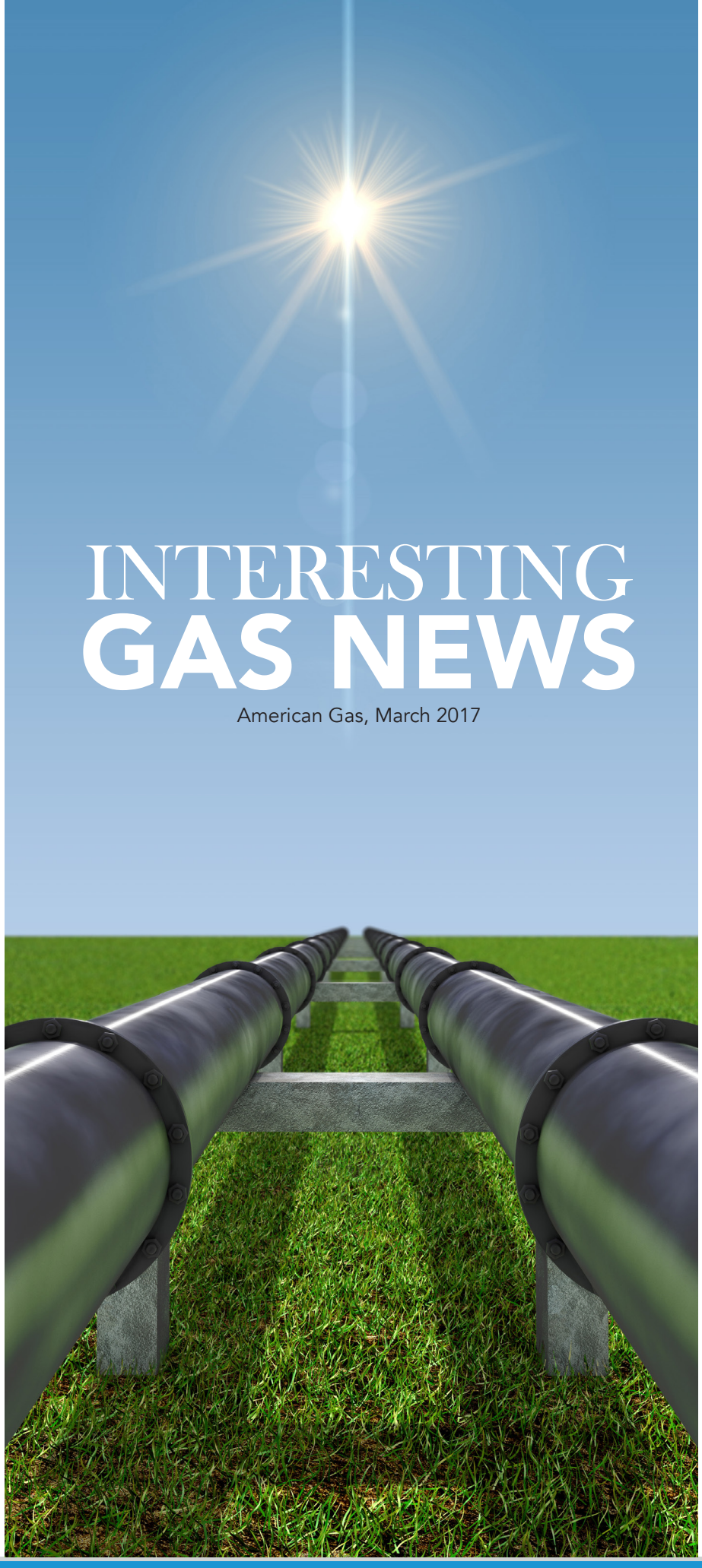
Company Size	Responded Once:	Responded Twice:
Small	21%	2%
Medium	20%	3%
Large	26%	5%

Visit www.aga.org for complete article.

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

The mind is formed by what it takes in.

Author: Unknown



INTERESTING GAS NEWS

American Gas, March 2017

The 2016 World Energy Outlook annual report published by the International Energy Agency states that renewables and natural gas are the chosen resources to reach energy demand growth through 2040.

Per the report, natural gas will continue to expand while coal and oil usage will decrease, demonstrating that the challenge to meet more ambitious climate goals is within reach. In a separate report from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, projections also indicate substantial growth in natural gas and renewables through the year 2050, as the cost of carbon-free sources declines and gas prices remain low in the mid-term.

Businesses across the country are paying less for natural gas now than at any time since 1976.

The commercial sector uses about 20 percent of all the energy consumed in the United States, and natural gas comprises about one-fifth of all total commercial energy consumption. It would be more were it not for the inherent efficiency of natural gas applications.

Chefs Prefer Natural Gas

A few years ago, the Energy Solutions Center hired Fryett Consulting Group to survey chefs from 41 states about their preferred method of cooking. An astonishing 98 percent chose natural gas. More than 93 percent cited "consistent and even control of heat," "gas is faster" and "better cooking results." Survey results further revealed that chefs preferred natural gas for:

- Flexible cooking times and more precise temperature control
- Reduced energy costs that increase profitability
- Ability to prepare larger amounts of food in a shorter time
- Greener choice for the environment

Visit www.aga.org for details and complete articles.

We're Brewing Up A Great Time For You!

THURSDAY, JUNE 15
CANNON FALLS GOLF CLUB

The annual Blue Flame Golf Event will again take place at the beautiful Cannon Falls Golf Club in Cannon Falls, Mn., on Thursday, June 15th. A scramble format with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. www.cannongolfclub.com

Get your foursomes together and get ready for a great day of golf, fun, food and prizes! It's a perfect networking event to meet other members and bring customers to!

The cost for members is $100 and this includes 18 holes of golf, ½ cart and dinner. Once again we will have free range balls before the event, contest holes, raffle items, etc. The "Split the Pot" contest is back again by popular demand!

Early Bird Registration:

Get your paid registration in by Friday, May 26th and your name goes in on a drawing for $50 cash!

Don't stand in the registration line longer than you have to! Take advantage of the advanced purchasing of your Stroke Saver Kits and Skins Game options on the registration form. Our goal: to get you through the registration line as quickly as we can so you have more time to network and hit the practice range!

Sponsorships are available

Sponsor a hole, beverages, dinner or prizes. Sponsors will be recognized and signage will be provided.

REGISTRATION FORMS AND DETAILS WERE EMAILED.

Questions? Contact Diane.

Let's Go Fishing!!!

Tuesday, June 6

8th Annual Blue Flame Fishing & Networking Event!

The Minnesota Blue Flame is hosting its eighth annual fishing/networking event. What a great venue to network and build relationships with customers or for internal teambuilding.

Once again, we offer two options for fishing:

1. Private boats of three (3) will be paired with a professional fisherman.
2. A launch for those who would prefer to move around, have shade, a restroom, etc. Fishing with a few more amenities! Lunch is included in the launch fee.

Whatever your preference, you'll have a great day of fishing and networking!

Space is limited so "hook" your spot now and get your fishing team together!

Sponsorships are available.

Questions? Contact Diane.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ASSOCIATION?

Contact Diane at dswintek@blueflame.org or visit our website at www.blueflame.org Associate memberships are $200 per year.

Join the team now!

Benefits to joining:

Website exposure on Blue Flame website (Natural Gas Product Finder), Networking Opportunities, Industry Contacts, Advertising Opportunities, Member rates (reduced rates) for Association events, seminars, etc., and many more.

INTERESTED IN JOINING A COMMITTEE?

Join the State Fair Committee, Commercial/Industrial Committee or the Conservation Committee and get involved! If you're interested, contact Diane at dswintek@blueflame.org

Have something to submit?

E-mail change?

If you would like to submit information to be considered for the next member newsletter or have an e-mail change, contact Diane at dswintek@blueflame.org

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