



ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION OCTOBER IS HVAC AWARENESS MONTH

Blue Flame Conservation Committee

In an effort to increase awareness of the importance of keeping HVAC systems properly maintained and serviced for the upcoming heating season, the Blue Flame Conservation Committee submitted a request to the Governor's office to have October declared as HVAC System Awareness Month. The proclamation was signed by Governor Dayton on September 27th. This is the second year the Blue Flame Conservation Committee has initiated this proclamation.

The proclamation urges Minnesota residents to have a qualified technician perform an annual inspection of their HVAC systems to ensure safety and reliability. Inspections and maintenance will:

- Address unsafe conditions
- Help prevent malfunctions
- Help appliances perform more efficiently
- Save energy and money
- Foster environmental stewardship through more efficient operation

Member utilities, HVAC trade allies, etc. will be able to use this proclamation to help create awareness with their customers on the importance of a properly tuned and efficiently running HVAC system. It is a reminder to all of us that the heating season is coming – have you had your heating system checked yet? Don't wait – winter's coming!

The Blue Flame Conservation Committee consists of members from various member utilities and their focus is to establish and provide a forum for committee members with common responsibility and focus to create strategies to help utilities meet Minnesota's CIP goals and assist consumers to conserve natural gas.



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems play a vital role in the safety and comfort of all Minnesota residents; and

WHEREAS: Properly maintaining HVAC systems is the single most important factor in ensuring these systems perform reliably; and

WHEREAS: Annual inspections and maintenance of HVAC systems by qualified technicians can address unsafe conditions and prevent malfunctions; and

WHEREAS: HVAC systems that are inspected annually perform more efficiently, saving energy, money, and fostering environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS: It is important to recognize the vital role of HVAC systems and raise awareness of the benefits of annual maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2017, as:

HVAC SYSTEM AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 27th day of September.



GOVERNOR




SECRETARY OF STATE



Blue Flame FISHING & NETWORKING EVENT!

8th Annual



Bending Rods, Fighting Walleye, & Great Action!

The Blue Flame's eighth annual networking/fishing event on Mille Lacs Lake took place on Tuesday, June 6th. Twenty-two members and their guests hit the lake to see if they could lure the winning fish to bite on their line! What a year – the Walleye were biting and it was exciting!

The boats averaged 40-50 walleye per boat! A great fishing year to say the least! Due to DNR rules for Mille Lacs this year, it was Catch & Release only for Walleye but everyone had a great time reeling in the fighting Walleye!

This was our fourth year of having the event in early June and using both private guided boats and a launch to get members on the lake.

Fifteen members and their guests used the individual guide boats to go out in teams of three with a private guide to troll the waters for the elusive and prized Walleye!

Congratulations to Steve Norberg, with Mulcahy Company - winner of the Longest Walleye on the boats!

Steve caught a 27.25" walleye.

If you'd prefer some shade, a bathroom and the ability to move around and network – the launch is the perfect option! It provides a great opportunity to do fishing in a more "relaxed" style. Seven members and their guests took advantage of the launch and had a great time visiting and catching fish! Twenty-five walleye were caught off the launch this year!

Congratulations to Charlotte Currier with Energy Insight – winner of the Longest Walleye on the launch!

Charlotte caught a 26.75" walleye.

All groups departed from Nitti's Hunter's Point Resort on the east side of Mille Lacs Lake in the morning and returned from the 6 hour fishing trip in the afternoon. Nitti's provided a tasty dinner that evening and the winning catches were announced!

Special thanks to Ryan Company for being the Event Sponsor!

Save the Date!: Tuesday, June 5, 2018

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS & BREWING UP A GREAT TIME!



The annual Blue Flame Golf Event was on Thursday, June 15th at the beautiful Cannon Falls Golf Club in Cannon Falls, Mn. It was a scramble format with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

2017 marks the 45th anniversary of the Minnesota Blue Flame so we celebrated this milestone!

Ninety-five golfers took to the course to have a great day of networking and golfing! This year's theme was Minnesota Breweries and we certainly "brewed" up a great day and time for all!

Back by popular demand, we had the "Split the Pot" contest to add extra excitement to the event! The lucky winner of half the pot was Tim Virant! This contest raises funds for the association and it gives one lucky person a nice "pot of cash"!

Tournament Results:

1st Place–score=56: John Restad, Marty Woolf, Craig Beckstrand, & Dean Nicholas.

2nd Place–score=57: Doug Reeves, Tim Virant, Brandon Rumpca, & Andre Joyce.

3rd Place–Random pull–score=72: Jeff Shermerhorn, Casey Tollefson, Randy Robinson, Brad Steber.

Early Bird Drawing Winner – Keith Valentyn wins \$50 cash!

Everyone who had their registration forms in by Friday, May 26th was put in the drawing.

This year's event had contest holes, a skins game, and great prizes!

A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors, those who donated prizes, everyone who came out to golf, and to those who worked so hard to make this tournament happen!!! We couldn't do it without you! Our golf event is one of the main sources of revenue to help continue the work of the association – THANK YOU!

Save the Date! Thursday, June 14, 2018



Blue Flame Lodge

State Fair Has Another Record Breaking Overall Attendance Record with 1,997,320!

A new overall attendance record was set at the 2017 Minnesota State Fair!! Final attendance for the State Fair was 1,997,320. Up from last year's record breaking attendance of 1,943,719.

The Blue Flame Lodge is the association's primary vehicle to interact with consumers and to promote natural gas, natural gas products, educational materials, and provides visibility for the association and it's members. The Lodge is located in Carousel Park across from the Giant Slide.

This year, one of the key messages in the Lodge was to educate consumers that Natural Gas supports renewable energy sources – "when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow, natural gas is there for you!" A short AGA video ran throughout the fair to help consumers learn more about it.

We had several giveaways and drawing in the Lodge again this year:

Drawings were: a Broilmaster Natural Gas Grill, \$7,000 of MEi Home Improvement Products, and an autographed Kent Hrbek baseball bat!

Giveaways were: The famous colored yardsticks, "must-have" jar openers, hand sanitizers, sunglasses, and new this year – punch balloons - a real hit with the kids!

Natural gas equipment featured in the lodge included: a gas dryer, range, fireplaces, grills, generators, water heaters-tank and tankless, furnaces, boilers, garage heaters, natural gas vehicle info, exterior home products to make your home more energy efficient, and more. In addition to natural gas product displays, the Lodge also featured safety, rebate, and energy assistance information.

Fifteen members displayed at the Lodge this year–thank you for your support and great displays!

If you are interested in displaying in the lodge in 2018, please contact Diane for more info.

Save the date!: Thursday, August 23 – Labor Day, September 3, 2018



Commercial/Industrial Fall Natural Gas Conservation Conference

On September 19, the Commercial/Industrial Committee held its annual Fall Natural Gas Conservation Conference at the beautiful Hillcrest Golf Club in St. Paul. Xcel Energy was the major sponsor of this event along with supporting utility sponsors CenterPoint Energy and Minnesota Energy Resources. This was the last year our event will be at Hillcrest Golf Club as they are closing their doors at the end of October.

The conference drew 104 attendees from all over the state to attend presentations and visit vendors displaying their natural gas products and services at the tabletops.

The conference had a half day format with two sessions, each with two seminar tracks to pick from. Topics this year were: Heat Recovery, Boiler Case Study: Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Hot Water–Storage or On-Demand, and Finding “Free” Money for Energy Efficiency Upgrades.

The breakfast keynote gave a Natural Gas Price & Supply Update for the upcoming heating season. The supply is strong, demand for natural gas is increasing, and prices are relatively low and stable. For the next decade and beyond, domestic natural gas supplies are expected to be sufficiently robust to meet growth in demand across all sectors.

After the presentation, representatives from the various utilities gave CIP (Conservation Improvement Program) updates for the next triennium.

The lunch keynote talked about Natural Gas and Renewables.

Trade Ally Sponsors were: Platinum Sponsor – Mulcahy Company

Gold Sponsors – Energy Insight, FourMation Sales, Harris Companies, R. M. Cotton Company, Ryan Company, and Tioga HVAC Rentals.

Attendees were able to visit vendor table top displays put on by the above sponsors and the following members: AMS Steam Products, St. Paul Port Authority, and Temp-Air.

A big THANK YOU to these utility and trade ally sponsors and speakers for helping to make this conference the great event it was!

Most of the conference presentations are posted on the Minnesota Blue Flame website under the Commercial/Industrial Committee tab – click the following link to see them: <http://blueflame.org/commercialindustrial-committee/>

Save the Date! Tuesday, September 18, 2018

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QUOTE
OF THE
QUARTER

“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

Author: Will Rogers

Member News

Mark Your 2018 Calendars:

Tuesday, June 5

Blue Flame Fishing/Networking Event

Thursday, June 14

Blue Flame Golfing/Networking Event
Cannon Falls Golf Club

Thursday, August 23

Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3

Minnesota State Fair

Tuesday, September 18

Commercial/Industrial Conservation
Conference

Welcome New Members

Eric Todd – Encore Energy
(763) 274-9709
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AMS Steam Products, LLC
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Steve Padrnos
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Bassford Remele, P.A.
www.bassford.com
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Best Buy
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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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