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ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

Sold Out Flame Golf Tournament Delivers Networking and Camaraderie Despite Rain

The Blue Flame Gas Association's annual golf event on June 11th at Cannon Golf Club proved that a little rain can't dampen the spirit of Minnesota's natural gas industry.

Again this year, 132 golfers participated in the outing, gathering under overcast skies and navigating occasional rain showers throughout the day. Despite the weather, participants enjoyed a great day of golf, networking, and fellowship with colleagues and industry partners from across the state.

The annual tournament continues to be one of Blue Flame's premier networking events, providing an opportunity for utility representatives, contractors, suppliers, consultants, and industry stakeholders to strengthen relationships and connect in a relaxed setting.

A special thank you goes to our event sponsors, whose generous support made this successful event possible. Their commitment to Blue Flame Gas Association and the natural gas industry helps create meaningful opportunities for education, collaboration, and professional networking throughout the year.

Blue Flame Gas Association is proud to bring together professionals from across the industry, and we look forward to seeing everyone at future association events.

Congratulations to our Tournament Winners!

Vic Krauze, Teresa Ladenberger,
Randy Robinson & Jason Brod



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Minnesota Legislature Concludes 2026 Session & Campaign Season Begins

The 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session adjourned on May 19 after one of the most unique sessions in state history. With the Minnesota House tied at **67 Republicans and 67 Democrats**, every bill required bipartisan support to move forward. As a result, lawmakers passed a capital investment (bonding) bill and a supplemental budget, but relatively few policy initiatives were enacted.

One measure of interest to the natural gas industry—the proposal to eliminate the sunset on the **Gas Utility Infrastructure Cost (GUIC) Rider**—did not pass but is expected to return in 2027.

The GUIC Rider allows natural gas utilities to recover costs for critical infrastructure projects, including replacing aging pipelines, meeting federal and state safety requirements, and relocating gas facilities for road construction projects. Every project must be reviewed and



approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before work begins, and the PUC also reviews actual project costs before approving final cost recovery. Eliminating the sunset would provide greater certainty for long-term infrastructure investments while maintaining strong regulatory oversight.

With the Legislature adjourned, attention now turns to the 2026 election season. Every one of Minnesota's **201 legislators** will be on the ballot, along with all **eight congressional seats**, every statewide constitutional office—including Governor—and one highly watched **U.S. Senate race**.

Minnesota's Primary Election is **August 11**, with absentee and mail-in voting already underway. The General Election will be held on **November 3**.

The next Minnesota Legislative Session begins **January 12, 2027**.

A Voice for Natural Gas: Public Policy Committee Coming Soon

Energy policy decisions are being made every day at the Legislature, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and in local communities. Too often, those decisions move forward with little or no input from the natural gas industry.

To help change that, the Minnesota Blue Flame Gas Association is preparing to launch a **Public Policy Committee** dedicated to strengthening our industry's voice and engagement in the public policy process.

The committee will bring together members from across the natural gas industry to monitor legislative and regulatory issues, identify emerging policy challenges, and help develop coordinated advocacy strategies. By sharing expertise and working together, members will help ensure policymakers have access to accurate information about the safety, reliability, affordability, and environmental benefits of natural gas.

As energy policy continues to evolve, it is more important than ever that our industry is represented in conversations that shape Minnesota's energy future. A strong, informed, and unified voice will help ensure decisions are made with a clear understanding of how they affect utilities, businesses, and the customers we serve.

The Public Policy Committee is currently being organized, and additional details—including its purpose, membership opportunities, and meeting schedule—will be announced soon.

Stay tuned! We look forward to sharing more information about this exciting new initiative and inviting members to participate in building a stronger voice for Minnesota's natural gas industry. If you are interested in joining or learning more, contact Annette at Ahenkel@blueflame.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information or to become a sponsor contact
Annette Henkel at (612) 720-7681 or ahenkel@blueflame.org



Blue Flame Fishing Event

NITTI'S HUNTER POINT RESORT - MILLE LACS LAKE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026



Three Person Guided Boat \$800

Includes: Boat, Guide, Bait, Box Lunches & Dinner for 3 people



Launch Option \$200

Includes: Spot on LAUNCH, Launch Fishing, Lunch & Dinner - Per Person

Sponsorship Opportunities

Support Blue Flame while promoting your company through our sponsorship options.

Walleye Sponsor \$2,000

- (2) - Three Person Guided Boats
- OR Eight Spots on Launch
- Box Lunches and Dinner for Six (Boat) OR Eight (Launch)
- Signage at the Event
- Logo on Promotional Pieces

Raffle Prize Opportunity

- Consider bringing an item or cash to donate as a prize to the event
- Recognition at the Event

Northern Sponsor \$1,200

- (1) - Three Person Guided Boat
- OR Four Spots on Launch
- Box Lunches and Dinner for Three (Boat) OR Four (Launch)
- Signage at the Event
- Logo on Promotional Pieces

Bait Sponsor \$600

- Signage on Box Lunches and at Dinner
- Logo on Treat Bags
- Logo on Promotional Pieces

REGISTER NOW!
blueflame.org



Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, Aug. 27 - Labor Day, Monday Sept. 7, 2026

Blue Flame Lodge at the MN State Fair

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Blue Flame Fishing Event — Mille Lacs Lake

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Blue Flame Fall Energy Conference — Surly

Thursday, June 10, 2027

Blue Flame Golfing Event — Cannon Golf Club



MN BLUE FLAME GAS ASSOCIATION FALL ENERGY CONFERENCE

On Tap: Issues, Insights, and Lunch

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November 10, 2026
11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Surly Brewing Company
520 Malcolm Ave SE
Minneapolis

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Utility Panel - Negotiating Industry Challenges and Opportunities
- 2027 Legislative Session Preview
- National Trends

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Become a sponsor by **July 15** to have your logo included on the invite.

PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$750

- 5 Event Registrations
- 1 Vendor Tabletop
- Logo on Electronic Promotions
- Listing on Printed Materials & Signs

GOLD SPONSOR - \$500

- 3 Event Registrations
- 1 Vendor Tabletop
- Logo on Electronic Promotions
- Listing on Printed Materials & Signs

VENDOR TABLETOP -

\$250 MEMBERS/
\$350 NON-MEMBERS

- 2 Event Registrations
- 1 Vendor Tabletop

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT:
Vendors will have the chance to address attendees during the conference.

VOLUNTEER at the

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

BLUE FLAME LODGE

AUG. 27 - Labor Day, SEPT. 7, 2026



The Great Minnesota Get-Together will be here before you know it! Please consider taking a Volunteer shift (or two) at the Blue Flame Lodge. ALL volunteers will receive a ticket to the Fair. Volunteers working the evening (5-9pm) and weekend/Labor Day shifts will be paid \$12/hour. Open to friends and family also!

Sign Up Today!

**Grab a friend or coworker and
sign-up to volunteer**



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Blue Flame Advertising Opportunities

Support the Association while reaching hundreds of natural gas industry professionals.

Contact us to reserve your advertising opportunities, including the next Association Newsletter edition.

Contact Annette: ahenkel@blueflame.org

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