As an opening to this Sidebar, as I’m sure my fellow Gild members will acknowledge and agree, the Gild has made many great and reinvigorating strides in the past several years. I believe this acknowledgement is something that we can all agree on. We have seen-heard-felt, whether with increased Sidebars, increased Gild Breakfasts, increased Gild Gatherings, increased Membership, and increased communications, increased value-appreciation-pride to be a Gild member. So with all these recent “increases” with the Gild, it would be good to reflect on “What the Gild Is and Why It was Created” so that we can increase our appreciation of this historic fraternal group that we are honored to be a part of….

THE GILD – WHAT IT IS – WHY IT WAS CREATED

Throughout the history of the Gas Industry, representatives, company officers and professional men serving the gas companies, came to know each other well and developed friendships. These hearty men, at conventions, at company offices and plants, while traveling about the country supplying Gas Companies with supplies, raw materials and appliances, met, worked and played together.

As the service of these men expanded through the years their friendships grew, bolstered by mutual respect. The trust and confidence accorded these merry men by their customers and clients, were rewards for their loyalty and enthusiasm for gas and the Gas Industry.

That such a group of men should wish to express their kinship in a society was inevitable and evident from the talk which followed wherever and whenever they forgathered.

So was born the Gild at a Convention of the Pennsylvania Gas Association at Skytop Lodge, May 5th, 1937. A group of veteran suppliers met and took definite action toward organizing the Gild. They knew they could call to membership many men of similar qualifications throughout the country.

To hold the loyalty of its members the Gild must express the ideals, motives and philosophy of life entrenched in the hearts and minds of those who were to become members. This thought, perhaps hitherto unacknowledged or even unrecognized, guided the group who made up the Charter Membership List. The pattern of the ancient Gild was chosen as affording the best symbolism expressive of loyalty to craft, worthiness of membership and dignity of years of service. Its ancient form and ritual in a modern age provided opportunity for entertainment and pleasure, without detracting from serious and idealistic purposes.

The Gild plan of organization provides for simple mechanics of operation and government. This simplicity is essential because only a few meetings of the Gild attract large numbers of members. It was also felt that
the Gild should not become cumbersome or a burden to its members, it is, after all essentially an honorary society.

Membership in the Gild is only by invitation from the Gild. Members may not extend an invitation and there is no provisions for membership by application.

Seniority of service is recognized by the membership into classes by their years of service to the industry, not time of membership in the Gild. Members having served more than ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five years are classed respectively as Villeins, Apprentices, Yeomen, or Masters.

Membership in the Gild is personal to the member. The Gild is not concerned with the business affiliations of its members. The Gild does, however, foster loyalty and devotion to the highest standards of ethical business conduct. The Gild is in no sense a Trade Association.

Provisions are made for convocations or meetings of the Gild in any part of the country wherever members gather. Regional Wardens, who serve the Gild in certain territories, encourage and supervise the Gild meetings and other matters, at times and places other than those of the formal national convocations.

The first Session and Dinner of the Gild was held at Cleveland, Ohio during the Convention of the American Gas Association in September, 1937 - Reproduced from the original Gild Chronicles History & Objectives

RECENT EVENTS.......

APGA 2015 Annual Conference Gild Gathering and Capes on Stage held during the Opening Ceremony at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield, CO July 27, 2015

As is our tradition, the Gild of Ancient Suppliers provided a charitable donation in the name of Jose Lozano to American Heart Association to commend him for his leadership this year as Chairman of the APGA, and in order to underscore the Gild’s appreciation of the APGA and its efforts on behalf of the Natural Gas Industry, of which the Gild proudly is affiliated.

The Chair for this year’s Okaloosa/Walton Heart Walk, Gordon M. King, Executive VP, Operations of Okaloosa Gas District thanked the Gild for the donation on Jose’s behalf.
In addition, below is the thank you letter we received from American Heart Association:

APGA 2015 Annual Conference Gild Gathering held at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield, CO July 28, 2015

AGMSC Gild Breakfast Pittsburgh, PA August 5, 2015
District 6 Warden Tushar Shah presents a Gild tile to the Breakfast Guest Speaker, Rob Braxton, Jr. of PECO Energy.
Guest Speaker Rob Braxton, Jr. of PECO Energy, District 6 Warden, Tushar Shah, Mayor Young and PM Bettinghaus pose for a picture at the AGMSC Gild Breakfast

Gild members enjoying AGMSC Gild Breakfast camaraderie

Suppliers fill their plates at the **Annual MEA Gild Breakfast on August 13, 2015** held at the Doubletree by Hilton in Rochester, MN
Smiling, dining & conversing at the MEA Gild Breakfast in Rochester, MN August 13, 2015

Guest Speaker Tracy Peterson of Black Hill Corporation, IA Gas was presented with a Gild Tile by Clerk Scott Kleppe at the MEA Gild Breakfast August 13, 2015

Officers Clerk Scott Kleppe, Mayor Ed Young, Jr., Far West Alderman Bill Murtaugh and PM XXVIII David Bettinghaus are all smiles at the MEA Gild Breakfast
NEW SUPPLERS……..
Please join me in welcoming the following new Suppliers of the Gild:

- Christopher M. Atkins, Sr. Product Marketing Manager Gas AMI with Sensus. Chris has been with Sensus for 5 years. Prior to his current position, he was the Sr. Product Marketing Manager Telecommunication with Nortel for 26 years, 7 of the last 10 years providing telecom equipment to Natural Gas Utilities among others. Chris has 12 years total current service to the Gas Industry.

- Ronnie Hoff, Executive Vice President at Magnolia River. Ronnie has been in the utilities industry since 1983 (32 years) and the natural gas industry specifically since 1988 (27 years). Per Ronnie: I began my career in the electric industry as a staking engineer in Shreveport, Louisiana. After five years, I picked up wife & belongings and moved my family to Birmingham, AL where I began working for Alabama Gas as an engineering representative. I worked at Alagasco (the largest natural gas distributor in the State of AL through 1996 where upon I accepted an operations supervisor position with Wheeler Basin Natural Gas (then, the smallest natural gas distributor in the State of AL). In 2000, my wife, Kim, and I started Magnolia River. While Inspections Services stood up the company, we soon started adding other business segments as the opportunities presented themselves. To date, there are five business segments supported by 175 employees. Magnolia River has offices in Decatur AL, Atlanta GA, Orlando FL, & Birmingham AL, with proposed offices in Charlotte NC, and New Orleans LA. Magnolia River has had an emphasis on relationship building. The company is all about making a difference, one relationship at a time. This has been established by being actively engaged in gas associations across the country.

- Tim Hallmark, Eastern Regional Manager at Consolidated Pipe & Supply in Lawrenceville, GA. Tim has spent 31 years serving the industry, all with Consolidated Pipe & Supply.

FORMER SUPPLERS……..
The Gild leadership would like your assistance in reaching out to former members within your district or knowledge, who might be interested in reconnecting with the Gild. These former members might have ceased membership due to varying issues such as corporate policy changes, employment relocation, disconnection or merely lack of communication. The Gild by-laws allow reinstating former members and we welcome your assistance in getting the word out that they are welcome back in and now have an option to pay dues by credit card.

MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL FORM……..
It was brought to Clerk Kleppe and my attention some months ago of recent incidences where new/prospect members were proposed by Gild members either from the same Company and/or Gild members with current or past close business involvement with proposed members and/or the Gild members proposing a prospect with all the supporting Gild members being from the same Company. Because of this and the importance of a fair and ethical proposal process, Clerk Kleppe and I brought forth the incidences to the Officers and at the Great Council meeting of our concerns and suggested actions to address this, which was to provide a “Statement” that either reminds Gild members or gives a notice of reaffirmation.
The following statement has been added to the membership proposal form:

*In acknowledgement of the Gild’s long standing Principles highest ideals of service, integrity and loyalty, in regards to new member proposals, one of the Gild’s strength is its diverse cross section of membership from various Companies and Organizations. As Gild members cannot propose members from same Company or Organizations and the associated Companies and Organizations, it is recognized that there is no higher honor or acknowledgement for a Candidate than to be proposed by a diversity of peer Gild members. With this acknowledgement, Gild members proposing Candidates should seek a diversity of Gild members as (the three) signers of the proposal form.*

Attached to this Sidebar is the updated Membership Proposal Form. You can also find the online membership proposal form on the Gild website at: [http://suppliersgild.org/member-login/membership-proposal/](http://suppliersgild.org/member-login/membership-proposal/).

Pursuant to Article 3 of the By-Laws:

**Membership**

**SECTION 1-A. Eligibility.** An individual who has provided as a substantial part of his business activity, products and/or services for use in the Gas Industry. The individual shall have served this industry for 10 or more years in a worthy, honorable and ethical manner and be active currently. This individual must not be in a business whose primary purpose is the sale or transportation of gas and must not have previously declined Gild membership.

And Pursuant to Article 1 of the By-Laws:

3. The clerk will communicate with the references given by the proposer and upon receipt of their replies will forward copies of the proposer’s letter and replies from references to all members of the Great Council who will approve or reject the candidate.

4. In the case of approval of the candidate by four members of the Great Council, the Clerk shall immediately write to all members of the Gild telling them the name, business connection, years of service and address of the candidate and that he has been approved by the Great Council.

5. In the case of lack of approval by four members of the Great Council, the Clerk shall immediately notify the proposer of the rejection of his candidate.

6. Should any Gild member disapprove of the candidate’s election, he shall, within thirty days from date of notification of approval of candidate by the Great Council, state his objections truthfully to the Mayor in a confidential communication. The objection will be communicated to the Great Council who, within sixty days from first approval, shall elect by vote of at least, four members of the Great Council, or in the lack of such vote, reject the candidate.

**UPCOMING GILD PROJECTS…….**

- For the Gild’s continuing efforts to increase the Gild’s awareness in the Industry, Mayor Young accepted Alderman Vigil’s suggestion to hand out the Glad You Asked brochure at any Gild “Capes on Stage” appearances. And in regards to this, Alderman Vigil is to develop a “elevator speech” for all new Gild members in the form of a letter to these members to increase their knowledge of the Gild and pass on to any that ask, what the Gild means and what it means to them.

- There is a critical need to address the PM’s Gild Chronicles as there is a large number of PMs where there is not a Chronicle for these PMs. Mayor Young, along with Clerk Kleppe
will be contacting Historian Kimmel and Town Crier Klinger, along with several PMs to form a Committee begin the process of catching up and completing the Chronicles, as preserving our history and insuring the respected leaders of the Gild are duly recorded.

- The Gild Wassail has been a tradition since the inception of the Gild, however this tradition has not been observed as well as it should have been. Your Gild leaders are considering plans to observe the Wassail on a more consistent basis by hosting the Wassail at the AGA non-display years. More details to come, please let us know your thoughts and interest….and so, “Wassail to you, be you healthy and merry”.

- In valuing our long and rich history, I have discussed with Gild Officers and leaders the idea of honoring our heritage and the many past members who contributed to the Gild, but who did not serve as Mayor or were knighted. The idea is to create a “Gild Hall of Honor” for deserving members, honoring their commitment and devotion to the Gild and providing our Members, particularly new or young Members, a better sense and understanding of those that went before them and thus demonstrated “the highest ideals of service, integrity and loyalty to the gas industry in their relationship to their customers, clients, associates, employers and principals”.

GILD DUES INVOICES........
Please be on the lookout for the 2016 Gild dues invoices to be sent via email or regular mail for those without an email address. Last year we implemented an option to pay your dues by credit card via Paypal. This year a 3.13% processing fee will be added upon checkout to cover the additional fees incurred by Paypal. To avoid this fee, you can opt to pay by check.

GILD WEBSITE........
As we near the end of 2015, we look forward to a new year of camaraderie and service to our Industry – Natural Gas Americas Energy. Please note on the web site, the Calendar of Events. If you have any details on the events listed, or events that should be included in the upcoming 2016 calendar, please contact Asst. Keeper of the Treasure, Anne Blong. You may view the current Gild Events calendar on our website at: http://suppliersgild.org/member-login/meetings/

As a reminder, the following credentials are required to login to the Gild website:
Website address is www.suppliersgild.org
User Name: gildgas
Password: 51pine12

GLAD YOU ASKED BROCHURE........
We have a plentiful supply of Glad You Asked brochures available to hand out or display at shows and conferences to those involved in the gas industry who may express interest in what the Gild is all about. These brochures explain the purpose of the Gild of Ancient Suppliers and are a great conversation piece for Suppliers you may be interested in recruiting to join the Gild. If you would like copies of the Glad You Asked brochures, please contact Anne Blong at anne@suppliersgild.org with how many you will need and the address to send them to.
A DAY IN GILD HISTORY.......  

Circa 1955-1958

HIGHER GILD.......  
Please take a moment of silence in remembrance of the following members who have moved onto the Higher Gild:

John F. Laughner, Master Sage, initiated in 1971, from Equimeter passed on to the Higher Gild October 2, 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS.......  

Gild Holiday celebrations:

District 3 – Holiday Lunch Friday, December 4, 2015, 11:30am at The Capital Grille, 5365 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX  77056

District 1 – Christmas Lunch Wednesday December 9, 2015 11:30am at the Del Rae Restaurant in Pico Rivera CA. We have a table reserved under the name “Gild’.

District 7 – Holiday Gild Gathering December 17, 2015 1:30pm - 3:00pm at Benjamin Steakhouse 52 East 41st NYC, NY 10017 at the table by the fireplace.

SOGO – The Yale Club of New York City - December 17th. Although the SOGO event is not an official Gild function, besides Gild SOGO members, there are some non-SOGO Gild members, including Mayor Young that are attending this year’s SOGO event to further the bonds of friendship between the Gild and SOGO, and to further the awareness of the Gild with this historic group. The Gild will make a charitable contribution to SOGO’s charity – Guiding Eyes for the Blind.
Grant was a rather distinguished and handsome man who decided to move into an active adult community. Several single ladies took notice and took the initiative to start a conversation with Grant. They soon found out Grant was a man few words.

Q. Are you still working?
A. Retired

Q. What line of work were you in?
A. Military

Q. What branch did you serve in?
A. Marines

Finally one of the ladies decided to get to the point and bluntly asked

Q. Do you still have sex?
A. Infrequently

Instantly she asked "Is that one word or two?

Courtesy of;
Sir John (Knight of the Gild John Schnitzer) as told at the 2015 AGA Gild Breakfast

MAYOR’S MEMO……..
In closing this Sidebar, this Sidebar has covered many items, so please let me and your Gild leaders know your thoughts and comments on the “increases”, the “Upcoming Gild Projects” and any comments or concern general or specific in nature on the Gild.

Thank you With a Humble and Respectful Left Hand,

Mayor Ed Young Jr.