Good tidings and best wishes to all Gild members as we celebrate the Holidays! We have many blessings to be thankful for as 2016 closes and we approach a new year - 2017, not the least of which is to be fortunate to be in the Natural Gas Industry. In many ways the growth and increased interest in all things with the Gild mirror the Industry we serve, or as some referred to it as “Americas Energy Source”.

GAS IS GOOD-THE GILD IS GOOD!

Since the last Sidebar in July, we’ve continued to have excellent and well attended Gild functions, both Breakfats and Gatherings, and this will continue and grow as both participation and enjoyment increases. The 2017 Gild Industry events calendar is on our website – www.gildgas.com , so please mark your calendar and plan to make as many as possible.

RECENT EVENTS……..
Mayor Young presented a Gild Tile to APGA Chairman Richard Worsinger as well as a charity check to WARM (Winter Assistance for Rocky Mount) on behalf of the Gild at the APGA Annual Conference in Newport, RI July 25, 2016

This year’s APGA Chairman, Richard Worsinger sent the following note in regards to his charity of choice: Since it has been the citizens of Rocky Mount who have supported me in attending the various APGA events, I believe it is most appropriate to select a charity that gives back to them. Many years ago the City of Rocky Mount established a charity to assist low income elderly, disabled or recently laid off customers to pay past due heating expenses. This charity is called Winter Assistance for Rocky Mount (WARM.) And, since the majority of people who are helped by this charity heat their homes with natural gas, it is even more appropriate that the donation from the Guild goes to this charity. Here is a link to the webpage if you need any additional information on WARM: 
http://www.rockymountnc.gov/departments___services/finance/customer_service/utility_assistance_programs/

Below is the thank you letter we received from the City of Rocky Mount:
AGMSC Gild Breakfast in Pittsburgh, PA August 5, 2016
Hosted by District 6 Warden, Tushar Shah, the AGMSC Gild Breakfast was a well-attended success.

Attendees included: Warden, Tushar Shah, Alderman, Russ Schrey, Kevin Warner, PM XXVIII David Bettinghaus, Jaye Soss, Treasurer Carol Nolte, Mayor Ed Young, Ray Schnebelen, George Lomax, Scott Follin, Scott Kranstuber, Bob Perry, Jason Rosen, Clerk Scott Kleppe, Brian McDonald, Jim Deale, Jim Bowen, Jeb Bell, Alderman Scott Vigil, Tom Brown
Mid-Atlantic Alderman, Russ Schrey performs the Ritualistic Ceremony with new Suppler, Ray Schnebelen who puts together the Gild Keystone Arch.

Mike Tucker of NiSource Corporate Services and AGMSC Program Chairman, 2016 was the guest speaker at the Gild Breakfast in Pittsburgh, PA.
MEA (Midwest Energy Association) Gild Breakfast and Great Council Meeting
held in Milwaukee, WI August 11, 2016
Attendees included: District 2 Warden Michelle Trapp, PM XXVIII David Bettinghaus, Scott Kranstuber, Frank Rampton, Nick Meole, Clerk Scott Kleppe, Rich Stocker, Patrick VanBeek, Dan Rosinski & Joe Groebner

District 2 Warden, Michelle Trapp, presents a Gild tile to Guest Speaker, Dean Headlee of CenterPoint Energy
AGA Fall Committee Meetings Gild Gathering held at the Omni in Nashville, TN September 13, 2016 hosted by District 4 Warden, Jeff Dyer

ASGMT Gild Gathering September 21, 2016 at the Marriott Westchase Houston, TX

District 3 Warden, Julie Boyd hosted a Gild Gathering held in conjunction with the ASGMT in Houston, TX September 21, 2016 at the Marriott Westchase

Attendees included: Bill Humppi, Jim Bowen, Julie Boyd, Brad Frantzen, Scott Kranstuber, Jim Deale, Tod Bradley, Jon Beam, Nick Meole, David Fish, Dean Lightfoot, Lamar Jones, PM XXXIII Jim Micklos, Todd Willis, Carvel Jasmin & Kevin Warner and a special Facetime attendance from PM XXXIV Larry Brown.

In attendance: PM XXXIV Larry Brown, Jon Beam, Mayor Ed Young, Bill Adcox, Jeb Bell & David Love
District 3 Gild Holiday Luncheon at Seasons 52 in Houston, TX December 9, 2016

Attendees clockwise are: Warden Julie Boyd, Eric Thompson, PM XXX Bruce Hotze, Jim Bowen, Kris Kimmel and Tod Bradley

2nd Annual Colonial District Gild Christmas Party December 15, 2016 at Benjamin Steakhouse New York, NY
Mayor’s “bacon” socks!

Suppliers, Alderman Scott Vigil, Mayor Ed Young, Senior Warden Dean McGowan, Gerald Sims, PM XXXII Paul Wehnert, Warden Paul Sully, Brian McDonald, PMXXXIV Larry Brown, Treasurer Carol Nolte & Alderman Tony Spivey join for some have cheerful holiday fun with a side of BACON

Society of Gas Operators (SOGO’s) Annual Christmas Dinner December 15, 2016

Dist. 7 Warden Paul Sully and Mayor Ed Young present the Gild’s charity donation check to Dan Rose, Guest Speaker for SOGO’s Charity, Soldier Strong
Thank you to all for your donations collected during Gild events. With your generosity, the Gild has been able to provide donations towards charities that are meaningful to our Gas Industry Chairmen and Associations.

**NEW SUPPLIERS.....**

Please join me in welcoming the following new Suppliers of the Gild:

- Chad Zeis, Vice President of Gunter Construction Inc. Chad has been in the gas business his whole life. His Grandfather started pipelining in the 1930’s and his family has been in the business ever since.

- Michael P. McCarthy, District Sales Manager at Honeywell American Meter. Michael has 36 years of industry experience, 22 of which were with NSTAR Gas of Massachusetts.

- Ray Schnebelen, President of Precision Pipeline Equipment, Inc. in Houston, PA. Ray started his gas industry career in 1983, employed by Energy Products and Energy Production. Duties included product manager for pressure vessels and Grove regulator product lines. Acted as a purchasing agent for drilling program and assisted in the purchase and installation of 200 well drilling program of surface equipment and related pipeline. Promoted to field sales in 1984 and was assigned western PA and NY area.
Promoted to Ohio and Michigan territory and continued until 1990. Founded Precision Pipeline Equipment, Inc. in 1990 and operate to present. Expertise includes pressure regulators and various automation and pressure control devices. Involved in countless gas instillations and commissioning duties.

- Chris Wykle, Senior Director, Gas Marketing with Sensus. Chris has been in the gas industry for 22 years, of those, 7 years with Schlumberger, 8 years with Actaris, 2 years with Itron and currently, 5 years with Sensus.

- Glen Heard, Regional Sales Director at Romet Limited. Prior to Romet, Glen worked 17 years at Spire/Laclede Gas in St. Louis, MO before moving to American Meter and Instromet for 8 ½ years. He was District and Regional Sales Manager, respectively. Total years in the gas industry is 28+ years.

- Mark Bridgers, President/Principal of Continuum Capital, LLC. In Mark’s own words: My father is an underground utility infrastructure contractor and I was initially exposed to the gas industry when I worked for him in high school and college as a laborer. I began actively working in the gas distribution and pipeline industry in 2000/2001 with Washington Gas in support of their capital construction program. I joined the American Gas Association (AGA) in 2002 and have served on the Distribution Construction & Maintenance Committee since 2002 and have also periodically served with the Distribution Engineering and Transmission Operations Committees. In 2010 I was initiated into the Society of Gas Operators (SOGO) in recognition of my work in and contribution to the gas industry. In 2012, I received the Bronze Award of Merit from the AGA for my participation and contributions to the gas industry. My consulting work is global but concentrated in North American where I have served 9 of the 10 largest LDC’s and 32 of the 40 largest LDC’s operating in the US and have served the two largest LDC’s in Canada. I work less frequently in the gas transmission and midstream market where I have served several of the largest operators in the US. My experience and market focus is squarely on the gas industry and I look forward to continuing my work in this space.

HIGHER GILD…..

Ben Odom truly was an example of someone who spent his whole working career in the gas industry. After retiring from Robertshaw he became an independent representative with many lines involving gas products including ours for over 30 years. Hope you can help spread the word. I know he was special to many people in our industry. http://clevelandbanner.com/stories/benjamin-odom,39941

GILD PROJECTS……..

- Acting on an idea set forth by Treasurer Carol Nolte, the Gild Officers have been discussing ways to continue to create awareness of the Gild and to promote and serve the Natural Gas Industry. In combination of the continuing growth of our Industry and the need for more personnel, it is believed that reaching out to high school and college students to the opportunities in our Industry is a positive for both the Burghers (Utilities) and potential Associates (Vendors), and possibly future Gild members. Treasurer Nolte and Clerk Kleppe presented offering a mentoring program to students on the values and opportunities in our Industry would be send by the Burghers as an appreciated effort by the Gild. We are asking for volunteers to participate in a committee geared towards mentoring students on the Natural Gas Industry. The committee could select a couple of schools, maybe a high school, a vocational school and a college. Students who are interested in these types of opportunities would be asked to fill out the form at a link we would put on the Gild’s website. A member of the Gild will then contact that student to discuss their objectives and share some knowledge about the Natural Gas Industry. Our idea is to provide a somewhat informal mentoring program that is free.

The members of the Gild who will contact the students will do so without any intent to influence or recruit the student. This project is simply to make students more aware of career opportunities in the Natural Gas Industry.
and our attempt to give back to an industry that we are proud to serve. Once the student fills out the form and we see the areas of interest, the committee could choose members of the Gild who are willing to contact the student and are most knowledgeable in the areas that the student has expressed interest. It may end up being a conversation, pointing the student to various web sites, introductions to others and even invitations to various gas schools like the AGMSC. If you are interested in participating on such a committee, please email Anne Blong at anne@supplersgild.org.

- Clerk Scott Kleppe and Alderman Scott Vigil and their Committee have been working on an initiative to consider updating the Gild “branding” to insure the Gild is keeping abreast of Industry changes and being reflective of new generation Gild members. And with this brand updating, insure that the traditions of the Gild are retained. More to come on this in future communications.

- Historian Kris Kimmel, along with several PMs are in the process of catching up and completing the Past Mayor Gild Chronicles, as a way of preserving our history and insuring the respected leaders of the Gild are duly recorded. We have found there is a distinct gap between the dates of the pictures we have on record. We ask that any Gild member who might have pictures taken from prior Gild events between 1994 and 2013 please forward to Anne Blong at anne@supplersgild.org who will forward to the Chronicles Committee to use in the Past Mayor Chronicles. Once the Chronicles are complete, they will be uploaded to the existing Past Mayor Chronicles page on the Gild website: http://supplersgild.org/history/chronicles/

- Annual Membership dues invoices have been sent to all members. Most invoices have been sent via email from the following email address: quickbooks@notification.intuit.com. If you haven’t received your dues invoice, please check your spam folder or contact Anne at anne@supplersgild.org to request a copy. We appreciate your prompt payment!

GILD WEBSITE……..

In addition to the photos above, more photos from recent Gild events, as well Gild Chronicles and upcoming events can be found on the Gild website at www.supplersgild.org. It’s good way to keep up with Gild goings on. If there are additional gas industry related events that you would like to see on the Gild event calendar, please share the details with Anne Blong at anne@supplersgild.org.

A DAY IN GILD HISTORY……..

Circa 1976-1977
A Gild history contest for all Gild members: Please send to Anne the names of these Gild members that you might have known. The Gild member with the most names identified will receive a Commemorative 50th Gild Anniversary coffee mug, a Classic Gild tie, suitable for framing and a $25 check. The winner’s name and photo and list of (Circa 1976-1977) Gild members identified will be published in the next Sidebar.

UPCOMING EVENTS……..

Please see attached 2017 Gild Gas Industry Events Calendar and be sure to check the Gild website as the calendar will be updated with details on upcoming events. www.suppliersgild.org

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR……..

David remembers accompanying his father out shopping in the toy department of Macy's one Christmas Eve.
Dad said, 'What a marvelous train set. I'll buy it.'
The girl behind the counter looked pleased and murmured, 'Great, I'm sure your son will really love it.'
Dad replied with a glint in his eye, 'Maybe you're right. In that case I'll take two.'

MAYOR’S MEMO……..

Again, and always, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Anne Blong for her outstanding assistance to me on the Sidebars (and all her other contributions to the Gild). As you have seen in the past couple of years, the Gild grows stronger – increased Gatherings, more Breakfasts, communications continuity, growing membership with quality, greater awareness and appreciation of the Gild…..
Thanks Anne!

Thanks to all the great Wardens and Alderman, the Gild appreciates and values the time and dedication each of you make on behalf of the Gild

I want to also let all Gild members know that your leadership – Senior Warden Dean McGowan, Clerk Scott Kleppe, Keeper of the Treasure Carol Nolte are fully committed and engaged in support of the Gild. We have monthly conference calls, frequent emails and phone calls to insure the Gild is progressing.

TO MY FELLOW GILDERS, I'M HAPPY TO REPORT …… THE GILD IS GOOD-GAS IS GOOD!

Thank you With a Humble and Respectful Left Hand,

Mayor Ed Young Jr.