



Gild of Ancient Supplers

of Gas Appliances, Skills, Gins, Accessories and Substance

HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MAYOR,
Bill Murtaugh

SIDEBAR

December 2022

Greetings Fellow Supplers,

As 2022 comes to a close and most of us are knee deep in holiday mode, it provides us with the perfect opportunity to reflect on the year that was and look forward to the new year to come. We are pleased to report that the Gild has persevered through the COVID lockdown era and, alongside the natural gas business that we humbly serve, returned with the typical ebbs and flows of the annual business cycles that we traditionally anticipate from our side of the industry, albeit with a few notable changes to highlight from this past year.

The American Gas Association's Annual Operations Conference, the highlight event for our industry each year, was held in New Orleans LA as scheduled in early May. This was the first AGA Ops Conference in several years to go off as planned. Additionally, the APGA as well as the majority of the Regional Associations returned to a normal schedule, which provided us all with the ability to reconnect in the flesh with our fellow Gild members during the course of the year. Although Teams and Zoom meetings were a good alternative as a means of keeping in contact with everyone during the lockdown era, the sense of comradery and fellowship that one feels upon physically interacting with our fellow Gild members was thoroughly gratifying and stirred emotions and memories of why we all are Gild members in the first place. Simply put, it is great to be back at full throttle!!!

The changes in our industry have been considerable over this past year as well and, despite what some outside our industry might think, the natural gas industry is not only surviving but thriving and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. During this past year the natural gas industry has seen unprecedented increases in the level of LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) exports and in fact the USA has become the #1 exporter of LNG worldwide as per the US Governments Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=55025>

Also, the EIA has noted that dry natural gas production in the USA has set monthly records for both October and November of 2022 and they are projecting an annual record will be set once all the data is compiled for years end. Certainly, all good omens for the future and plays right into our mission to promote the use of natural gas

<https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=54959>

As for the Gild itself, there have been changes to long standing traditions that have come to pass in 2022. After a poll of our community, we collectively voted to retire the capes and replace them with sports jackets and polo shirts. While this represents a departure from our legacy traditions and customs, the timing was right to migrate to a new tradition that should serve us well moving forward, especially with the Millennials and Gen Z folks who will be entering the business and moving the industry forward in the coming generations.

The Gild itself has seen a slight increase in membership, growing to 193 members, up from 191 members from this point in time last year. As always, please keep on the lookout for those in the industry who you feel are “Gild Worthy” and put forth a nomination for any candidate that meets our criteria. The process and honor of being selected as a Gild member and being identified by your peers as being one of the “best of the best” in our industry represents one of the most prestigious personal honors one can achieve during the course of one’s career.

Philanthropically we continue to be active and charitable to the industry at large. We put our resources to good work in 2022, which reflects favorably on the Gild as an organization while concurrently providing financial assistance to worthy causes that everybody can get behind and support. We continued the tradition of awarding a \$2500 scholarship to a deserving student who is studying for a career in the natural gas industry.

This year’s recipient was Mr. Peter Reese from the Bridge Valley Community and Technical College out of South Charleston WV. Peter has a family, is working full time and is going to college later in life. The scholarship money was well received by Peter and we are happy to assist such a worthy recipient.

In addition to the scholarship, we also provided charitable donations to the following organizations:

- SOGO Christmas Dinner: \$500 to Fostering Family Hope Inc.
- APGA Annual Conference: \$500 to Junior Achievement of Memphis and the Mid-South, Inc. in honor of Alonzo Weaver, APGA Chair
- AGA Annual Conference: \$500 HELP of Southern Nevada in honor of Eric DeBonis

We are also continuing to reflect as to how we serve our own Gild Community moving forward. With the emergence of the “Gild Gathering” as a viable alternative to the traditional Gild Breakfast, we will be providing some documented guidance in the coming months for all the Wardens and Alderman to follow as it relates to hosting these events. Stay tuned, as we anticipate these guidelines to be issued in time for the SGA Spring Gas Conference in Charlotte NC in March of 2023. Please note that special attention will be paid to Gild Members who register to attend our events but fail to show up.

Also, we have a good news, bad news situation as it relates to the Gild playing cards that requires you to take note. The good news is that the playing cards have been a bona fide success with our membership, and we have received orders for thousands of decks that were recently backfilled based upon the large demand. The bad news is that the most recent printing of the cards resulted in them not including the pips nor the King/Queen/Jack insignias. We are in the process of getting this sorted with the vendor, but for those of you who have issued the cards, please take note and make arrangements with Anne for a swap out to take place. As the natural gas facts were printed solo, the only silver lining here is that anyone who opened the faux playing cards will be a natural gas expert in short order if they rummage through the deck wondering what happened 😊

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has participated in the Gild in some form or fashion in 2022. The effort put into our organization by its entire membership has allowed the Gild to endure even in these most turbulent of times. As a volunteer organization there is a conscious decision one makes to participate in our events and typically that means taking time away from something else of high value. As such, the effort put forth is recognized and appreciated by all the Officers and Senior Leadership.

I would be remiss to not state that it has been an honor to serve as the Mayor of our organization over the last few years and I look forward to passing on the baton to Senior Warden Michelle Trapp in 2023, knowing that she is the right person at the right time to guide us going forward. We are not sure what the future holds but of one thing we are certain; and that being that natural gas will continue to play a vital role in meeting the North American Energy needs in this decade and beyond!

With a devoted left hand,
Bill Murtaugh
Mayor XXXVIII

PAST EVENTS.....



**APGA Annual Conference
Minneapolis, MN
July 2022**

Gild Keeper of the Treasure Jon Beam presented a \$500 check to APGA Chairman, Alonzo Weaver, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Memphis Light, Gas, and Water in Memphis, TN for his dedication to the Natural Gas Industry.

The Gild is pleased to provide a donation of \$500.00 to Alonzo's chosen charity: Junior Achievement of Memphis and the Mid-South. Junior Achievement's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed through the efforts of community volunteers who not only deliver the lessons but share their experience as well.

The Gild received the below letter of gratitude:



To Whom it May Concern,

Because of you and your generosity to Junior Achievement of Memphis and the Mid-South, children across the city and region are becoming world-ready every single day. Your support is crucial to the mission of our work: **work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy for all.**

Thank you so much for your recent gift to support our mission in the amount of **\$500 on behalf of Alonzo Weaver.** What an amazing contribution to the future - again, thank you.

Your generosity means that we'll be able to continue to strengthen our programs and enrich existing ones, all the while building the capacity and effectiveness of our staff and our new home, which is quickly becoming a reality.

Junior Achievement is helping children in our region redefine their future. We empower children to be world ready so they may lead fulfilling lives as engaged members of their communities. We're engaging our children today so they will be ready for tomorrow. You are a part of this story.

Please do not hesitate to reach out at any time as we continue to support this important work together.

The future is bright and exciting. We are once again so grateful for your support.

In gratitude,

Mary Kanowitz
Senior Development Manager



**AGMSC Gild Breakfast
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh Airport
Moon Township, PA
August 3, 2022**

Clerk Tushar Shah & Alderman Russ Schrey hosted a Gild Breakfast in conjunction with the AGMSC. AGMSC Program Chair, James Johnson of Williams Midstream was our guest speaker.



Pictured left to right: Rick Schneider, Kevin Warner, Bill Dobbins, Jaye Soss, PM XXXIII Jim Micklos, Nicole Ford, District 7 Warden Brian McDonald, Clerk Tushar Shah, Alderman of Our First West Russ Shrey, David Kerr, Chad Millinor, Hunter Ward, Dan Rosinski, Glen Heard, and Justin Johnson.



Clerk Shah performed the Gild’s initiation ritual with new Supplers completed the Gild’s new member “Objectives” blocks to build an arch symbolizing loyalty to the craft, worthiness of membership and signity of service.

The completion of the arch represents your promise, that you will, to the best of your ability, uphold the ideals, motives and philosophy of life which perhaps hereto unacknowledged or even unrecognized, were in your heart and mind. As a Supplier we do not have any secret words, signs or ceremonies, however, when greeting a Supplier extend the left hand (Business – shake hands with left hand) the closest to your heart. Our congratulations to you on becoming affiliated with the Gild. We recognize in you not only one who has served well, rather one who has redirected himself (themselves) in perpetuation the Gas Flame.



2022 AGMSC's Program Chair Jim Johnson, Staff Engineer, Measurement Programs – Technical Services at Williams G&P Technical Services was the AGMSC Gild Breakfast Guest Speaker.

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MEA Gild Breakfast
CHI Health Center
Omaha, NE
August 11, 2022





District 5 Warden Glen Heard hosted a Gild Breakfast in conjunction with the MEA Gas Operations Technical & Leadership Summit in Omaha, NE.



**District 3 Gild Christmas Luncheon
Federal Grill
Houston, TX
December 7, 2022**



Pictured from left to right: Randall Rogers, Southwest Alderwoman, Julie Boyd, PM XXXIII Jim Micklos, Richard Hotze, District 3 Warden Gerald Sims, Tod Bradley, Senior Warden Michelle Trapp



**District 4 Gild Christmas Luncheon
Stoney River - Roswell, GA
December 13, 2022**



Pictured from left to right: Keeper of the Treasure, Jon Beam, Brett Jones, Jeff Swart, District 4 Warden David Love, Keith Ormsby, Jeb Bell



**Colonial District 7 Gild Christmas Luncheon
Benjamin Steakhouse - New York, NY
December 14, 2022**



Pictured from left to right: Senior Warden Michelle Trapp, Don Barder, PM XXXI Paul Wehnert, Nora Kelly, District 7 Warden Brian McDonald, Northeast Alderman Scott Vigil, Chuck Lang V, Paul Sully, District 1 Warden Patrick Jacobs, District 3 Warden Gerald Sims, Eric Six.



**Society of Gas Operators (SOGO)
Yale Club
New York, NY
December 14, 2022**

Alderman of Our First West Scott Vigil & Senior Warden Michelle Trapp present the Gild's charity donation to SOGO's annual charitable organization: Fostering Family Hope



Fostering Family Hope emerged out of an idea to help foster children in practical ways. Beginning as a foster closet and evolving into Fostering Family Initiative, a program we designed to better the connections of foster children with their families through the improvement of visitation areas, the once small project finally took root to form Fostering Family Hope. Established in 2021, we're an organization driven by a strong foundation of support, community involvement, and physical & financial donations to meet the needs of the foster community that too often go unnoticed.

Thank you letter from SOGO's charity:

Dear Gild of Ancient Supplers,

As an organization that relies solely on donations, we can't thank you enough for supporting kids in care and their families right here in Connecticut. Your generous donation of \$511.55 will help us continue to meet the needs of kids coming into care and aid the numerous foster, adoptive, kinship and reunited families throughout the state. Your donation not only provides a tangible gift to children in the CT foster care system, but also sends a message of love and support to their entire family.

Thank you for joining with us in our mission to encourage, provide for, and lift up children impacted by foster care!

Sincerely,

Your Friends at Fostering Family Hope



**District 1 Christmas Luncheon
The Firehouse Restaurant
Old Sacramento, CA
December 20, 2022**



Pictured left to right: Vince O'Connor, Jim Green, Murray Royce, John Morris, Claude Transue, Sam Hegje, District 1 Warden Patrick Jacobs, and Erwin Cayanan with Miners and Pisani

ALDERMAN & WARDEN POSITION CHANGES.....

The following Alderman & Warden Office position changes have been made:

- Mid-Atlantic Alderman, **Scott Kranstuber** replaces Russ Schrey (retired 2/4/22)
- Our First West District 6 Warden, **David Kerr** replaces Scott Kranstuber
- Rising Sunset District 1 Warden, **Patrick Jacobs** replaces Vincent O'Connor
- Colonial District 7 Warden, **Brian McDonald** replace Albert Apicella (relocated to District 4)

NEW SUPPLERS.....

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

- **Jakob Hernig**, Technical Sales – Marieco, Inc. Jakob has been in the natural gas industry since 2008. From 2011-2015 in ball valve sales, and in Technical Sales since 2015.
- **Steven “Sevie” Karolewski**, Vice President of Operations with Groebner, a strategic sourcing partner for Natural Gas Distribution Utilities and Contractors. Sevie has been with Groebner for 12 years. He has also served on the MEA Energy Association Committee for 12 years, including 5 years on the Board of Directors.
- **Samuel “Sam” Hegie**, Product Line Manager – Tri Pacific Sales Inc. Sam has served as a Tri Pacific Sales Inc. Product Line Manager for 10 years. Tri Pacific Sales works with the transmission and distribution of natural gas.
- **Mike Legittino**, Sales Manager – Western Gas Technologies Inc. Mike has been with Western Gas Technologies in an account manager /sales manager rold for the past 10 years. Prior to his time with Western Gas Technologies, he spent time on the manufacturing side in various roles and positions with Advance Engineering Corp. focusing on above ground distribution type components.

RECENTLY RETIRED.....

- **Dan Hicks** retired from Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District June 30, 2022.
- **Brad Frantzen** retires from Sensus on January 31, 2023.
- **Douglas Cunningham** retired from Control Equipment Sales in 2022.
- **James “Jim” Bowen** is easing into retirement over the next year.

HIGHER GILD.....



Former Assistant Keeper of the Treasure, Shirley Innaurato, joined the Higher Gild October 29, 2022. Shirley was well-loved by many & will be missed.

GILD PROJECTS.....

Gild Scholarship

The Gild has selected **Bridge Valley Community & Technical College** as our institution of choice to receive \$2500 to provide to a student the school believes meets the criteria we have established.

Bridge Valley Community & Technical College instructors, Ken Haynes and Buzz Knapp have nominated Peter Reese as the recipient of this year's scholarship. "Buzz Knapp and I would like to nominate Peter Reese. He is a student in our Instrumentation, Measurement, and Control – Natural Gas Program. Peter is completing his first year in the program. He currently has a 3.8 grade point average. He has a family, is working full time, and is going back to school later in life. He is conscientious and hard working. Without our blended model of learning, Peter would not have been able to attend college."



On July 28, 2022, Gild Clerk Tushar Shah presented the scholarship check at Bridge Valley Community & Technical College.

Thank you email received from scholarship recipient, Pete Reese:

"This is Pete Reese. I would like to thank you for the scholarship that you presented me with today. I am grateful that I was selected for this scholarship, for it will definitely help me with my schooling. I already have plans to purchase my own laptop for school so that I will no longer have to borrow my teenage daughters. She is also starting college this fall. It was a pleasure to meet you and learn about your career and how it is related to the degree that I am pursuing. Maybe one day when I get started in my career, our paths will cross again. Again, thank you for the scholarship award." - Pete Reese

Natural Gas Advocacy Committee—Committee Chair, Dan Pajak

Committee Members: Patricia Kittleberger, Bill Murtaugh, Matt Dvorak, Scott Henrich, Lloyd Pirtle, Tushar Shah, Jon Beam, Brian McDonald, Scott Vigil, Anne Blong

Purpose Statement: The Gild's Natural Gas Advocacy Committee is passionate about educating and raising awareness of a green, independent, low cost, dependable, life-sustaining and life-enhancing energy solution.

We are committed to vetting and sharing fact based, unbiased information with the members of our association and when appropriate, the general public.

The Gild Natural Gas Advocacy Committee has recently joined forces with the Gild Marketing Committee members, Scott Vigil, Jon Beam & Brian McDonald whose talents and industry connections help contribute to the initiatives that the committee is devoted to meeting over the course of the year.

We are seeking volunteers to join the Gild's Natural Gas Advocacy Committee. If interested, please contact Dan Pajak: dpajak@upscoinc.com

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES.....

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@supplergild.org to request a copy. We appreciate your prompt payment!

A DAY IN GILD HISTORY.....

Taken from Milton W. Heath, Jr. PM XX Gild Chronicles 1986-1988:



50th Anniversary Gild Gift by A.G.A.'s Ken Cuccinelli and Dick Schulte, 3/87



Milt tests the food before the guests arrive

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

- SGA Spring Gas Conference Gild Gathering Charlotte, NC – March 13-15, 2023 - TBD
- AGA Operations Conference Grapevine, TX - May 2, 2023

Please check the Gild Gas Industry Events Calendar on the Gild website, as the calendar will be updated with details on upcoming events. <http://supplergild.org/member-login/meetings/>. Upcoming Gild event invitations sent by email will include a link to register for each event online. Alderman and Wardens hosting each event are automatically notified of each attendee registration. There is also a link to add each event to your calendar to serve as a reminder.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR.....

- People think "icy" is the easiest word to spell. Come to think of it, I see why.
- A man walks into a library and orders a hamburger. The librarian says, "This is a library." The man apologizes and whispers, "I'd like a hamburger, please."
- I walked past a farm, and a sign said, "Duck, eggs." I thought that was an unnecessary comma. And then it hit me.

Thank you With a Humble and Respectful Left Hand,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William T. Murtaugh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mayor William T Murtaugh