The 2018 AGA AWARDS REVIEW highlights industry specific awards and recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the natural gas industry. The recipients are formally recognized at AGA’s Annual Operations Conference. The selection process is based on criteria involving professional and personal commitment and dedication to improving the operations and engineering sectors of the natural gas industry through safety, accident prevention, research, and active AGA committee and event participation. Visit the Safety & Operations section at AGA.org to download the Awards Manual.

This Awards Review generously sponsored by

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MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
A work commute on a late summer evening last August changed from routine in an instant for Jason Potter when he witnessed a car accident and responded to help save a woman’s life.

Jason, a gas lines construction operator for Consumers Energy, was traveling north when a speeding vehicle clipped a car, causing it to spin out of control and roll several times in front of him. He stopped his own vehicle and rushed to a scene he’ll remember the rest of his life.

The crashed vehicle had come to rest on the driver’s side door and Jason immediately noticed a large amount of blood from the driver’s arm being pinned between the vehicle’s roof and the ground.

“My first thought was to get her out of there because this car was going to catch on fire. Luckily another guy stopped to help. We picked up the vehicle and pried the door open to free her arm from underneath,” said Jason.

The unconscious woman was pulled from the car and Jason tore off his shirt and used it as a tourniquet to help stop severe bleeding from the woman’s almost severed arm while another motorist called 911. While waiting for help to arrive, the woman regained consciousness and panicked. Jason was able to calm her down and continue to maintain pressure on the artery until paramedics arrived.

“Two months earlier we went through a refresher in CPR training at work,” he said. “So it was fresh in my mind, and my instincts took over.”

A willingness to stop and help and a calm demeanor under pressure, both contributed to saving a woman’s life and it’s those qualities - seen so often in our industry - that we celebrate today in recognizing Jason with this year’s Meritorious Service Award.

SAFETY AWARENESS VIDEO EXCELLENCE (SAVE) AWARD
The annual AGA Safety Awareness Video Excellence (SAVE) Award recognizes the outstanding contributions utilities across the country make in natural gas safety communications.

Internal Video Category:
Orange & Rockland for “Listen to Our Kids”

External Video Category:
Atmos Energy for “Gus the Gopher for Call 811”
DISTRIBUTION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
The Distribution Achievement Award, sponsored by Honeywell, is being presented posthumously to Stephen Scherling. Among his many career accomplishments, Steve Scherling played a critical role in Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania’s accelerated infrastructure replacement program and has influenced, if not designed, many of the processes and strategies used by others to successfully execute their replacement programs. As an AGA member, Columbia has shared many of these best practices with other AGA member companies. Through that sharing, Steve’s influence has spread across the industry. As other utilities continue to advance their own infrastructure replacement programs, Steve’s hard work and innovative thinking will continue to propagate throughout AGA membership. His dedicated career will help the gas industry prosper for many years to come.

2017 SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
The following AGA member companies earned Safety Achievement Awards by experiencing the lowest motor vehicle accident rate for companies of their type.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION
Aspire Energy (Orville, OH)
Gas Natural Fenosa (Barcelona, Spain)

COMBINATION
Ameren Illinois Corporation (Collinsville, IL)

TRANSMISSION
Dow Pipeline Company (Angleton, TX)

SMALL MEMBER COMPANIES *
Rocky Mount Public Utilities (Rocky Mount, NC)
Columbia Gas of Maryland (Cumberland, MD)

* All companies with a fleet mileage less than 1,000,000 miles were considered a small member.

JOHN B. McGOWAN SR. RESEARCH AWARD
The John B. McGowan Sr. Research Award, sponsored by Continental Industries, recognizes an individual or company who has made an outstanding contribution to improving the natural gas system safety, delivery, design, construction, operation, maintenance or efficiency through their research efforts. This year’s award is presented to François Rongere of Pacific Gas & Electric. Mr. Rongere and his team tested more than 100 technologies and potential solutions in 2017 that, if advanced to the development stage, could provide benefits not only to Pacific Gas & Electric, but to the entire natural gas industry. Mr. Rongere’s team currently has over 200 projects underway that are helping to drive safety, reliability and innovation.

MILTON W. HEATH SR. MEMORIAL AWARD
The Milton W. Heath, Sr. Memorial Award, sponsored by Heath Consultants Inc., recognizes the individual who, in the past five years, has made an outstanding contribution to leak detection, prevention or repair. While the award will not be presented this year, AGA encourages all members to consider nominating a worthy individual who has helped to advance the industry for next year’s award.

GILD OF ANCIENT SUPPLIERS AWARD
Talmadge Centers Jr., Operations Section Chairman and Vice President, Environment, Safety and Training at CenterPoint Energy, is honored with this year’s Gild of Ancient Suppliers Award for his exceptional leadership and service to AGA and the natural gas industry.

The Gild of Ancient Suppliers will make a donation in Mr. Centers’ name to the March of Dimes (www.marchofdimes.org)
The following AGA member companies have earned Safety Achievement Awards by experiencing the lowest incident rate for the number of days away from work, restricted or transferred (DART) among companies of their size and type, based upon a maximum figure of 1,960 hours worked per employee.

**Local Distribution Company**

**Small:** Maine Natural Gas (Brunswick, ME)
Columbia Gas of Maryland (Cumberland, MD)
Aspire Energy (Orville, OH)
The Energy Cooperative (Newark, OH)
**Medium-Small:** Columbia Gas of Kentucky (Lexington, KY)
**Medium-Large:** South Carolina Electric & Gas (Columbia, SC)
Columbia Gas of Virginia (Chester, VA)
**Large:** Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania (Canonsburg, PA)
COMGÁS (Sao Paulo, Brazil)

**Very Large:** Dominion Energy Ohio (Cleveland, OH)
**Mega:** ONE Gas, Inc. (Tulsa, OK)
Gas Natural Fenosa (Barcelona, Spain)

**Combination Utility**

**Small:** Delmarva Power & Light (Wilmington, DE)
**Medium:** Northern Indiana PSC (Merriville, IN)
**Large:** Consumers Energy (Jackson, MI)

**Transmission Company**

**Medium:** Dow Pipeline Company (Angleton, TX)
Eastern Shore Natural Gas (Dover, DE)
**Large:** Enbridge Gas Transmission & Midstream (Houston, TX)

The AGA member companies listed below have earned Accident Prevention Certificates by achieving a DART (days away from work, restricted or transferred) incident rate below the industry average for their company type.

**Local Distribution Companies**

**Small**
Clearwater Gas System, City of Greenville Utilities Commission
Citizens Energy Group

**Medium-Small**
Dominion Energy West Virginia
Unisource Energy Services
AltaGas Utilities, Inc.
ENSTAR Natural Gas Company
Entergy New Orleans Public Service Inc
New York State Electric & Gas Corporation

**Medium-Large**
SEMCO Energy
TECO Peoples Gas, An Emera Company
Summit Utilities, Inc
Cascade Natural Gas Corp

**Large**
PSNC Energy
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.
Dominion Questar - Utah (LDC)

**Very Large**
Xcel Energy
DTE Gas Company
Peoples Natural Gas
Washington Gas Light Company

**Mega**
Public Service Electric and Gas
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.
CenterPoint Energy Gas
Union Gas Limited (an Enbridge Company)
Duke Energy Gas

**Combination Utilities**

**Small**
Orange and Rockland Utilities
Florida Public Utilities Company
Gainesville Regional Utilities

**Medium**
Puget Sound Energy
NV Energy Inc
Black Hills Energy

**Large**
MidAmerican Energy Company
LGE & KU Energy
Consolidated Edison Co. of NY, Inc.
Ameren Illinois Corporation
National Grid
San Diego Gas & Electric

**Transmission Companies**

**Medium**
EQT Midstream
Dominion Energy Questar Pipeline, LLC

**Large**
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.
Energy Transfer Corp
The individuals listed have earned AGA Awards of Merit for their active and continuous service to the AGA Operations Section through participation on technical committees, as well as leadership in AGA events. The awards are based on a cumulative point system.

**Lifetime Achievement Award (150 Pts)**
- Donald Lee Reynolds, Jr., NiSource Inc.

**Diamond Award of Merit (125 Pts)**
- Winston C. Meyer, P.E., CenterPoint Energy
- Kevin L. Ritz, BGE, An Exelon Company
- Tushar Shah, Eagle Research Corporation
- John R. Lansing, Lansing Measurement Services, LLC

**Platinum Award of Merit (100 Pts)**
- Ardis A. Bartle, APEX Measurement & Controls LLC
- Dannie R. Mercer, Atmos Energy Corporation
- Anita M. Romero, Southwest Gas Corporation
- Paul D. Wehnert, Heath Consultants Incorporated

**Gold Award of Merit (75 Pts)**
- Cheryl F. Campbell, Xcel Energy Inc. (retired)
- Michael J. Lyons, PE, UGI Utilities, Inc.
- Stephen F. Nowaczewski, TransCanada Corporation
- Mark J. Pelkey, National Fuel (retired)
- John Woodyard, John P. Woodyard, PE
- Grant M. Yoshihara, NW Natural (retired)

**Silver Award of Merit (50 Pts)**
- Lawrence D. Alspaugh, T.D. Williamson, Inc.
- Mary A. Bartholomew, Southwest Gas Corporation
- Robert N. Gardner, Spire Inc.
- Sheridan M. Green, Southwest Gas Corporation
- Paul P. Gustilo, Southwest Gas Corporation
- Andrew Hammerschmidt, Southern Company Gas
- Jon G. Huddleston, NW Natural
- Gregory L. Jones, Southern Company Gas
- Glenn D. Miller, CenterPoint Energy
- Diego A. Politano, Consolidated Edison Co. of NY, Inc.
- Daniel J. Rudroff, WFMS, Inc.
- Daniel D. Scarberry, Dominion Energy Ohio (retired)

**Bronze Award of Merit (25 Pts)**
- Kevin Alishouse, Itron, Inc.
- Andrew Phillip Bauer, NW Natural
- Jeffery W. Blodgett, NiSource Inc.
- Glenn Botsford, Duraline/PolyPipe
- David Bromley, BP Pipelines (North America) Inc.
- Craig Chapin, PE, Intermountain Gas Company
- Thomas B. Chrisfield, CenterPoint Energy
- Nancy E Conder, Vectren Corporation
- Daphne C. D’Zurko, NYSEARCH/Northeast Gas Assoc.
- Robert Fatzinger, South Jersey Industries, Inc.
- Brian E. Foy, DuPont Company
- William Gradie, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
- Walt Grudzinski, Vectren Corporation
- Mark Haney, GTI - Gas Technology Institute
- Doreen M. Hartley, BGE, An Exelon Company
- Mike Hawkins, Georg Fischer Central Plastics, LLC
- Reid Hess, Dominion Energy Utah
- Shawn Khoshaien, Union Gas, An Enbridge Company
- Tony Lange, KS Energy Services, LLC
- Joel Martell, Southwest Gas Corporation
- Alison E. Millerick, WEC Energy Group
- Pamela Moore, HAWAI'I GAS
- Michael O’Shea, Xcel Energy Inc.
- Mary Palkovich, Consumers Energy Company
- Jennifer L. Rose, Southern Company Gas
- Daniel Sanchez, Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- John Martin Schnitzer, GE Oil & Gas
- Harry Sheneman, PECO, An Exelon Company
- Aaron C. Stuber, Washington Gas Light Company
- Michelle Trapp, Michels Corporation
- Lawrence A. Treadway, Atmos Energy Corporation
- Jeff Webb, P.E., Avista Utilities

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