



# 2022 Awards Review



GILD OF ANCIENT  
SUPPLERS AWARD

## ERIC DEBONIS

Eric DeBonis, AGA Operations Section Chair and Senior Vice President, Operations, Southwest Gas, will be receiving the Gild of Ancient Suppliers Award. A donation in the amount of \$500 will go to [HELP OF SOUTHERN NEVADA](#) on behalf of Eric DeBonis.

.....



MILTON W. HEATH SR.  
MEMORIAL AWARD

## BRENT SHULER

The Milton W. Heath Sr. Memorial Award, sponsored by Heath Consultants, recognizes Brent Shuler of NiSource Inc. for his tireless efforts to improve gas safety across the natural gas industry.

Shuler is being recognized for helping NiSource drive enhanced leak survey practices by implementing new technologies and transitioning from traditional leak survey methods. Through partnership, Brent has expanded the number of units available to dispatch across the NiSource footprint and worked with internal and external partners to build awareness of the technology and benefits.

.....



AGA MERITORIOUS  
SERVICE AWARD

## DAVE BOLLNER, STEVE DEMSKO, ERIC EGGELSTON, JASON FICKE, JEREMY HERMANN, JOHN LONG, ROY OBERNDORFER, WILL SAMMET AND JOHN VIOX

Spire, Inc. assists local Fire Department in the rescue of infants and a young woman from a building fire.

Every year, the AGA Meritorious Service Award is presented to individuals who have performed the worthiest act in the gas industry in saving a human life during the prior calendar year. This year, Dave Bollner, Steve Demsko, Eric Eggelston, Jason Ficke, Jeremy Hermann, John Long, Roy Oberndorfer, Will Sammet and John Viox from Spire, Inc. have been chosen as the winners for [showing bravery and compassion in the protection of human life.](#)



**JOHN B. MCGOWAN SR.  
RESEARCH AWARD**

**ED NEWTON**

The John B. McGowan, Sr. Research Award, sponsored by Hubbell/GasBreaker, has been presented to Ed Newton. Newton is being recognized for his dedication and leadership on research and demonstration of technologies to provide an aerial leak mapping in populated distribution service areas, covering 3,500 miles of main and service.



**AGA DISTRIBUTION  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**PRESTON FORD AND TOM ROBINSON**

Preston Ford of PG&E and Tom Robinson of UDC have been awarded the AGA Distribution Achievement Award for their contributions to review and strengthen PG&E’s Gas Distribution Corrosion Control Program including the implementation of an Enhanced Cathodic Protection survey and asset inspection programs. Their experience and vision have made a significant improvement on the safety and reliable operation of PG&E’s Gas Distribution system.

**2021 INDUSTRY LEADER ACCIDENT PREVENTION**

The following AGA member companies have earned Accident Prevention Certificates by achieving a DART- incident rate below the industry average for their company type.

*Companies with records of employee death(s) are not eligible for Accident Prevention Certificates or Safety Achievement Awards.*



**Local Distribution Companies**

- Small
  - Gainesville Regional Utilities
  - City of Wilson Utilities Department
  - Columbia Gas of Maryland
  - City of Clearwater Gas System
- Medium-Small
  - Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works
  - Ameren Missouri
  - Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
  - Hearthstone Utilities, Inc.
- Medium-Large
  - Dominion Energy West Virginia
  - ENSTAR Natural Gas Company
  - Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation
  - Entergy Services, Inc.
  - Dominion Energy South Carolina
- Large
  - Summit Utilities, Inc.
  - Elizabethtown Gas

- South Jersey Gas Company
- Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
- SEMCO Energy
- Metropolitan Utilities District
- TECO Peoples Gas, an Emera Company
- Very Large
  - Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania
  - Peoples Natural Gas
  - New Jersey Natural Gas Company
  - Dominion Energy Utah
  - New Mexico Gas, an Emera Company
  - Columbia Gas Ohio
- Mega
  - Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.
  - DTE Gas Company
  - Duke Energy Gas Operations
  - Public Service Electric and Gas
  - Southern Company Gas
  - Spire, Inc.

**Combination Utilities**

- Small
  - Unitil Corporation

- Medium
  - Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation
  - Black Hills Energy
  - NorthWestern Energy
- Large
  - Puget Sound Energy
  - LG&E - KU Energy
  - Consolidated Edison Co. of NY, Inc.
  - Pacific Gas and Electric Company
  - Consumers Energy

**Transmission Companies**

- Medium
  - Dominion Energy Questar Pipeline
- Large
  - BHE-GT&S Eastern Gas Transmission & Storage
  - Enbridge Gas Transmission and Midstream
  - Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline
  - Energy Transfer Corp.

## SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The following AGA member companies have earned Safety Achievement Awards for their outstanding commitment to employee and vehicular safety in 2021. The selection was based upon the companies that submitted their annual safety statistical data for calendar year 2021, based upon OSHA Recordable Injuries and Illnesses and Reportable Vehicle Incidents.



### Employee Safety

#### Local Distribution Companies

##### Small

- National Gas & Oil Cooperative
- SiEnergy
- Aspire Energy
- Valley Energy, Inc.
- Greater Minnesota Gas
- Appalachian Natural Gas Distribution Company
- Maine Natural Gas
- Union Oil & Gas
- NV Energy

##### Medium-Small

- Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.

##### Medium-Large

- Columbia Gas of Kentucky

##### Large

- Dominion Energy North Carolina

##### Very Large:

- Dominion Energy Ohio
- Comgás

##### Mega:

- ONE Gas

#### Combination Utilities

##### Small

- Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.

##### Medium

- Liberty

##### Large

- MidAmerican Energy Company

#### Transmission Companies

##### Medium

- Dow Pipeline Company
- BHE-GT&S Carolina Gas Transmission
- Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company

##### Large

- ONEOK, Inc.



### Vehicular Safety

#### Local Distribution Companies

SiEnergy

#### Combination Utilities

MidAmerican Energy Company

#### Transmission Companies

BHE-GT&S Carolina Gas Transmission

#### Small Member Companies

Greater Minnesota Gas

## AWARD OF MERIT

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)

Craig R. Hoeflerlin, Spire Inc.

### Diamond Award of Merit (125 Pts)

Ardis A. Bartle, APEX Measurement & Controls LLC

Dannie R. Mercer, Atmos Energy Corporation

James N. Witte Retired-Formerly with TC Energy

Paul E. Pirro, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

### Platinum Award of Merit (100 Pts)

Henry W. Poellnitz, III, Retired-Formerly with Kinder Morgan Inc.

### Gold Award of Merit (75 Pts)

James W. Bowen, SICK, Inc.

Reid Hess, Dominion Energy Utah

David S. Jordan, Hubbell Gas Connectors & Accessories

Glenn D. Miller, CenterPoint Energy

Jerome T. Schmitz, Southwest Gas Corporation

Rick Spann, Dominion Energy Utah

### Silver Award of Merit (50 Pts)

Neil P. Anderson, Peoples Gas

Belinda J. Bell, Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.

Ilia Bluvshstein, Retired-Formerly with Union Gas

Peter Clyde, LG&E-KU, PPL Companies

Michael Farlow, ONE Gas, Inc.

Martin Garza, Peoples Gas

Lisa Hamilton, New Jersey Natural Gas Company

Joe Hampton, Spire Inc.

Larry Dean Kennedy, Jr., Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Theodore J. Lakeberg, Honeywell Process Solutions

Ryan N. Nutter, BHE GT&S

Reese Platzer, Jr., Enterprise Products Partners, L.P.

Steven Schueneman, Puget Sound Energy

James D. Street, Vectren Corporation

### Bronze Award of Merit (25 Pts)

Andre Barajas, CPS Energy

Johnnie R. Butler, Atmos Energy Corporation

Phil G. Cisneros, Retired-formerly w/ Southwest Gas Corporation

Joel P. Clancy, Colorado Engineering Experiment Station Inc

Steve Clausen, Dominion Energy Utah

Steven C. Coleman, Black Hills Energy

Shane Dolar, Dominion Energy Utah

Steven T. Donatiello, Spire Inc.

Mike R. Eutsey, MDU Utilities Group

Lauren Gilliland, Xcel Energy Inc.

Matt Holsten, Black Hills Energy

Josh Hunkele, Dominion Energy Ohio

Jeff C. Imsdahl, Xcel Energy Inc.

Nicholas Inga, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

Charles Jackson, Washington Gas

Antwan Jones, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

Mike Kerans, Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Tania Klippert, Puget Sound Energy

Steve Knapp, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation

Craig Lam, SICK, Inc.

Kevin M. Lang, Southwest Gas Corporation

Scott W. Lovelady, ONE Gas, Inc.

Scott Lundgren, NW Natural

Zora Raoufpour, Atmos Energy Corporation

Scott J. Reising, Black Hills Energy

Brian K. Roberts, NiSource Inc.

Michael Romein, DTE Gas Company

Swarandeeep Sandhawaliala, TC Energy

Mara A. Sikora, Duke Energy Corporation

Gerald V. Sims, Heath Consultants Inc.

Gerry Turner, Ameren Illinois

Marcel Vermeulen, MSc, Sensia

Boris Visnjevac, Enbridge Gas Inc.

Connie Waterman, Southern Company Gas

Preston Weaklend, Southwest Gas Corporation