



Member Q&A

Armistead Mauck

Cherry Energy, Technologies and Innovations Committee Chair

Where do you call home?

I have two places I'd call "home." My childhood home is Richmond, VA and my adult home is Kinston, NC. I love living in North Carolina, especially the eastern part of the state and being close to the coast.

How did you get from Richmond to North Carolina?

When I graduated from college I took job in Raleigh with Wachovia Bank. I had no intentions of moving to North Carolina and certainly did not expect to stay long term, but after starting a family in Raleigh, we decided to make North Carolina our home.

What was your first job?

Working at the bank was my first job. I was a mathematics and economics major and interviewed on campus for banking jobs. I have always enjoyed numbers and finance. Working for a large bank as a first job has greatly benefited my current career.

What is your job now?

I am fortunate enough to be a partner with my brother-in-law in a fourth generation oil and propane distributorship, Cherry Energy.

What do you like most about your job?

I like: working with a team that shares a common vision. This encourages creativity and collaboration. The result is positive change. In today's world, the ability to change is a key factor to success.

What are the skills you use most in your career?

Problem solving, analytical, and coaching skills are the ones I use the most.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

The toughest thing is getting others to share the vision. Without a common vision nothing ever changes and companies wither away.

Give us an idea of what an average day includes:

That's what's great about my job. There are no average days. And we joke about that. We talk about a perfectly normal day. When we're working on a goal, we always get the response, "I couldn't get it done today cause all these other things happened." We have to get our work done plus all these other issues that pop up during the work day. And we call that a perfectly normal day.

How has your business grown?

I've been in this 19 years. And when I started, the company was a typical convenience store chain. Since then we've changed into an energy company. We still work with stores, but we supply them. We embrace new technologies like solar energy and propane autogas.

How long have you been involved in NCPGA?

Shortly after we started with propane in 2005 we got involved in NCPGA. We were of course concerned with safety and compliance. We started

working with Cyndi Kibler, owner of Professional Propane Services. She introduced me to the NCPGA and got me on a committee.

What is the best advice you ever received?

Two things: if you do not pop out of bed fired up every morning, you're probably in the wrong job. And number two: if you're doing what everyone else is doing, you're probably doing the wrong thing.

What advice would you give someone entering the industry today?

Be patient. It took me over 10 years to feel like I could contribute. There's a lot to learn.

If you could pass one piece of legislation, what would it be?

I'm thinking about industry and also globally. I'd probably pass a simplified tax structure. Our whole tax structure has gotten so complex that there's no fairness to it. Everybody is applying it in a different way because no one really understands it. It's too complex.

What characteristics do you admire most in others?

Sincerity and a willingness to help others.

What is your greatest achievement to date?

Making the decision to marry the right person. I worry about that one every day with my kids. It's the biggest decision you'll make in your life and you make it at a time when you're

probably not mature enough to make it. I got lucky. My wife, Louise, is also my best friend. We just celebrated our 26th anniversary.

What are some things you do in your spare time?

I'm a project guy. I love building things. Give me a saw, drill, and some lumber and I will disappear for several days. Also, now that our children are grown I have picked up my childhood love of playing golf again.

Do you follow any sports?

I have a hard time sitting down and watching TV or a game, but I do like watching a little golf.

Do you have a gadget you can't live without?

That would be my iPad. It's been banned from the dinner table.

Where would you like to visit?

This one's a little odd. I'd like to visit Augusta National the week of the Master's tournament.

If you could spend 10 minutes with your hero, what would you do?

I would play the first hole at St. Andrews, Old Course, with Old Tom Morris. Tom Morris is the father of golf and St. Andrews is the home of golf.

He was the first professional golfer. He was the greens keeper, the caddy master, he did it all. I recently read the book "Tommy's Honor." It's the story of young Tom Morris and it chronicles the early days of golf. This past summer I had the privilege to travel to Scotland and play some of the courses. It was the opportunity of a lifetime.

What is something unusual or funny that no one knows about you?

If I'm waiting in the Doctor's office and I have the choice of picking up a Sports Illustrated or a Coastal Living Magazine, I grab the Coastal Living Magazine. 🏌️



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