

NGA and GANA: Combination FAQs

Association leaders share updated FAQs relevant to the combination.

Q: Is the NGA and GANA combination final?

A: Yes, both organization's memberships voted overwhelmingly to approve the combination. As of February 1, 2018, NGA and GANA are now combined to form the largest trade association serving the architectural glass and metals industry supply chain, including glazing contractors, full-service glass companies, glass fabricators, primary glass manufacturers and suppliers to the industry.

Q: Is there a new name for the combined Association?

A: The newly combined association will be known as the National Glass Association; a name change will be considered within two years of the Closing Date. The GANA name will remain on technical documents and related materials during this period.

Q: Will my membership change?

A: Yes, in that it will be stronger and more relevant, but members can expect the most vital aspects of both GANA and NGA will continue.

We need your continued support and involvement as we integrate, and both leaderships ask that companies renew their 2018 membership when notices are issued. A new combined dues structure will be put in place at the beginning of the 2019 membership year.

Please note that for GANA member companies to maintain their voice in the technical document development process, their 2018 GANA dues invoice must be paid immediately if not yet paid.

Q: What happens with GANA's staff?

A: GANA employed two full-time staff members, Urmilla Jokhu-Sowell and Sara Neiswanger. They have both been welcomed as full-time NGA employees.

The NGA formed a new Technical Services & Advocacy Department. Urmilla Jokhu-Sowell leads the department as Advocacy & Technical Director, reporting to NGA President & CEO, Nicole Harris.

Sara Neiswanger joined the NGA as Senior Manager, GANA Member Services, reporting to NGA's Membership & Marketing Director, Michele Nosko.

Code consultants, Tom Culp, Birch Point Consulting, and Thom Zaremba, Roetzel & Andress, will continue their work monitoring and representing the association and the industry's interests at building code hearings. Other consultants will be retained as needed.

Q: How about the BEC Conference and the Annual Conference?

A: The Building Envelope Contractors Conference (BEC) will be held as planned March 4 - 6 in Las Vegas. The Annual Conference will also proceed as planned April 23 - 26 in Napa. Registration information can be found on glasswebsite.com. NGA members can attend the events at the member rate with a discount code provided in NGA's monthly newsletter.

Additionally, the Fall Conference will again be co-located with GlassBuild America in Las Vegas, being held Sept. 12 - 14. Per attendee feedback, there will be minimal overlap between the Fall Conference and GlassBuild activities. The Fall Conference will begin on Monday, Sept. 11.

Q: What happens with existing task groups and committees?

A: As mentioned above, the Integration Task Force will work to outline the new Association’s volunteer processes, and has recommended that the legacy GANA Division committees continue to operate as they have up through the Annual Conference in April, focusing on activities, deliverables, and documents in process.

The Association staff will also tap individual volunteers for “micro-volunteering” activity and projects, such as establishing course curriculum for education and training programs, writing questions for an industry trends survey or providing input on event programming.

Additionally, the Glazing Industry Code Committee (GICC) and the Flat Glass Manufacturing Division (FGMD) will carry over to the new Association, and NGA will provide management services for the Glazing Industry Secretariat Committee (GISC).

Q: What’s next?

A: A joint Integration Task Force (ITF) of six representatives, will oversee and advise the Board of Directors on transition and integration matters. NGA’s representatives are: Michael Albert, S. Albert Glass Co., Angelo Rivera, Faour Glass Technologies and Nicole Harris, NGA President & CEO. GANA’s representatives are: Ren Bartoe, Vesuvius USA, Julia Schimmelpenningh, Eastman Chemical Co. and Stanley Yee, Dow Corning.

The task force will outline the new association’s technical document development plan, refine the voting and approval process, and determine the advocacy process, among other tasks integral to the success of the combined association.

The ITF met for the first time on January 24 and recommended that the legacy GANA Division committees continue to operate as they have up through the Annual Conference in April, focusing on activities, deliverables, and documents in process. Previously generated GANA documents will be maintained and offered. The ITF meets again in February and at BEC in March to continue its review of the technical process and structure. The end product of its work will come before the newly composed 13-member NGA Board of Directors as recommendations.

Q: What is the new governance structure?

A: The new Board of Directors of the combined Associations will consist of 13 voting Board members:

- 3 glazing contractors
- 3 full-service glass companies
- 2 WDDA dealers
- 2 glass fabricators
- 1 primary glass manufacturer (company changes yearly or biennially)
- 2 glass industry suppliers
- the NGA President/CEO as a non-voting *ex officio* member

Effective February 1, two voting positions of the initial combined Board of Directors were filled by the current GANA President (Doug Schilling) and current GANA Immediate Past President (Stanley Yee) by special designation in a resolution of the NGA Board.

Q: What are the benefits to combining?

A: There are many positive benefits resulting from the combination. First and foremost, NGA members will get to take advantage of GANA’s wide array of member publications and technical services, while GANA members will have access to NGA’s education and events. Also at the top of the list are positive impacts to Association activities, including reducing operational and meeting redundancies. It will also trim time and expense for our members and volunteers so they can better focus on their companies’ growth and objectives, and the long-term health and welfare of the glass and glazing industry. In addition, companies that have two memberships—one in NGA and one in GANA—will see a reduction in membership dues.

Q: *How were the combination decisions made?*

A: The Boards of Directors of NGA and GANA appointed a Joint Task Force made up of members from both associations. NGA's representatives were: Michael Albert, S. Albert Glass; Angelo Rivera, Faour Glass Technologies; Nicole Harris, NGA President & CEO; Jerry Jacobs, NGA General Counsel. The GANA task force was represented by: Stanley Yee, Dow Corning Corp.; Doug Schilling, Schilling Graphics; Gus Trupiano, AGC Glass Company; Steve Marino, Vitro Architectural Glass; Kim Mann, GANA General Counsel.

The Joint Task Force met several times over the course of eight months to work through what the combined association would look like, covering governance, bylaws and the final transaction document. In September 2017, the Boards of Directors of both NGA and GANA both unanimously approved combining our Associations.

Please [click here](#) for previous releases covering news of the combination, and look for a special celebratory article on this historic combination in the April issue of Glass Magazine.

ABOUT NGA: Founded in 1948, the National Glass Association (NGA), www.glass.org, combined with the Glass Association of North America (GANA), www.glasswebsite.com on February 1, 2018 to form the largest trade association serving the architectural glass and metals industry supply chain, including glazing contractors, full-service glass companies, glass fabricators, primary glass manufacturers and suppliers to the industry. It is a technical powerhouse that brings some of the best minds to the table to create technical resources and promote and advocate for glass in buildings. NGA's education and training programs—both online at MyGlassClass.com and in-person at association-sponsored events—and its official publication [Glass Magazine](#), keep the industry knowledgeable and well-informed. NGA also produces the industry's largest annual trade show in the Americas, [GlassBuild America](#), and hosts the [Building Envelope Contractors Conference](#), the [Glazing Executives Forum](#) and other educational and networking events, bringing together thousands of industry professionals to help them build more profitable businesses.