

Ky/Tenn Report

Volume 26, Number 3 & 4

March/April 2019

TOGA CONVENTION UPDATES & DEADLINES – The 48th Annual Tennessee Oil and Gas Convention is just five weeks away! April 11 marks the deadline for TOGA's group rate at the Park Vista and April 22 will be the last day for Early Bird Registration! Don't delay – make your reservations to join us on May 13-14 for this exciting event!

We have a great lineup of speakers, sponsors and attendees for the convention! Check out all of the [updates and information on the TOGA website](#).

COMMITTEES CLOSE AS ADJOURNMENT LOOMS – Despite the numerous changes and new faces, the legislature is beginning to wrap up the first session of the 111th General Assembly. In the House, 87 percent of the subcommittees have closed or are on their final calendar. Only two subcommittees remain open – Finance, Ways and Means and the Naming, Designating and Private Acts. As subcommittees close down, full standing committees are following suit. Seven full committees are closed or on the final calendar while five of the committees continue to hold weekly meetings.

The Senate has only closed one committee – Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources – but four other committees are on their final calendar. Four other Senate committees remain active.

Optimists at the Cordell Hull Building look for adjournment in late April. Realists look to the beginning of May.

Pipeline Bill Stalls In House - An effort to criminalize vandalism of critical infrastructure, including oil and natural gas pipelines, has stalled in the House of Representatives due to fiscal concerns. The legislation ([HB156/SB264](#)) sailed through the Senate, passing the chamber unanimously on March 19. However, the potential \$34,200 incarceration costs has held up the bill in the lower chamber.

The Senate has a \$50,000 budget “sweeper” which allows legislation with financial impacts under that amount to move forward. The House, however, does not have a sweeper of any amount so any bills requiring funding must be identified in the state budget. Bills that aren’t financed explicitly are placed “behind the budget” and receive further consideration after budgetary priorities are addressed.

POLITICAL PAL PROCURES PARKS POSITION – Perennial political candidate and former state representative Joe Carr has been named as TDEC Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Recreation. The position was previously held by Brock Hill who was fired from TDEC in January after allegations of sexual misconduct against four Department employees were revealed.

Pundits have pointed out that Carr was an early and vocal supporter of Gov. Bill Lee and have opined that this \$130,000/year job was reciprocation for Carr's loyalty.

GOOD NEWS – TOGA is delighted to announce that Secretary Anne Byrd is now in remission from her cancer! Diagnosed with stage four cancer just one year ago, Anne's tumors have stabilized or decreased. Anne reports that her treatment has been relatively painless – her only side effect was weakness early on. She also reported that Bill Ray is now cancer free and is also doing well! We are so excited that Anne and Bill have weathered these health storms!

MONTHLY DRILLING PERMITS – The monthly reports for new drilling permits for the states of Tennessee and Kentucky can now be found as PDFs in the members' only section of the TOGA website. This year's password is **2019Gusher**.
