



WINLPG

Women in LPG



Ms Nandini Sankara

**Vice President, Marketing and
Brand Strategy, and
Spokesperson
Suburban Propane
United States of America**

“The LPG industry needs more women in leadership positions as the industry continuously changes and evolves towards a more sustainable energy future. To stay on pace with the ever-changing nature of energy, we need visionary women to have a seat at the decision-making table so that their unique perspectives may be heard.”

Ms Nandini Sankara

Meet the Role Models

WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.

I serve as the Vice President, Marketing and Brand Strategy, and Spokesperson for Suburban Propane Partners, L.P. I joined Suburban Propane in 2017 and in my tenure with the company, had the opportunity to re-imagine the company's marketing, media relations, and brand strategy and spearheaded our brand refresh. I also launched and oversee SuburbanCares, a wide-ranging philanthropic community-giving program that has impacted non-profit organizations throughout the nation.

A focus of my position is to further elevate Suburban Propane's 90 plus year commitment to customers and employees as well as enhance the core brand and associated subsidiaries' missions. I have also led and implemented key partnerships with the American Red Cross and various major sports organizations including the New York Yankees, Baltimore Orioles, and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Prior to joining Suburban Propane, I have held several leadership positions including Global Customer Experience and Market Intelligence Leadership with Sealed Air, Director and Head of Marketing and Brand with Aetna, and several global management positions with Pitney Bowes. I also serve as a member of Chief.

I earned my MBA in Management Information Services (MIS) and Marketing from the University of Bridgeport, where I also played Division II soccer and hold a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Economics from the University of Mumbai, India. I spent my early years in Mumbai and moved to the United States in 1999 to pursue higher education. I currently reside in New Jersey. Travel and learning global cultures are my passions and I speak four languages.

“WINLPG provides a robust platform to empower, foster leadership and development, and champion women in the LPG industry.”

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SIX KEY QUESTIONS

What is your goal today, this can be personal or professional?

My goal is to work with our leadership team at Suburban Propane to continue our efforts to deliver our value proposition to our customers, employees, and the communities we serve by being responsive to the world's ever-changing needs. It's also my continued goal to learn every day and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the industry.

Giving back to the community is an integral part of my DNA. Our SuburbanCares platform has allowed me the opportunity to construct key endeavors during the height of the pandemic to aid healthcare workers across the nation who were on the front lines caring for those in the community. We also focused on women and children's organizations and those that cared for families. So many people were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and needed a little kindness, support and care and I am proud of being a key player in Suburban Propane's efforts to make a difference!

Describe your pathway (your career path)

When I left India 23 years ago, I knew that I wanted to move to the United States for opportunities in higher education, as that was the key to opening doors to new and exciting opportunities. While I didn't set out to work in the energy field, working for global companies with a diverse client base and an international approach to doing business positioned me perfectly for my current role at Suburban Propane. I am very fortunate to work with an amazing leadership team, especially Michael Stivala, our President and CEO and Steve Boyd, our COO and my direct manager, both of them have empowered me every step of the way and trusted my decisions to affect meaningful and critical change for our brand.

What any specific challenges do believe face women in our industry?

Women in most industries including ours are not represented in key decision-making roles in the same numbers as their male counterparts. We have come a long way in many aspects, but still have miles to go before there is true gender equality. Drive, determination, intelligence and experience are universal traits and employers need to respect that in their hiring and compensation.

Regardless of industry, there needs to be a constant focus on gender, inclusion and equality

Did you have a mentor and how did they help mold your business style?

My first professional position was as a graduate school intern to Luis Jimenez, the Chief Strategy Officer at Pitney Bowes Inc. Luis taught me about the importance of time management, organization, and navigating marketing across verticals, geographies, and cultures. He also showed me how to manage by opportunity. His style of opening doors and allowing those who worked for him to lead and carve their own path was instrumental to developing my present-day management style.

What does leadership mean to you?

I am deeply inspired by this quote by my incomparable compatriot, Indra Nooyi, "Leadership is hard to define and good leadership even harder. But if you can get people to follow you to the ends of the earth, you are a great leader."

I view leadership as the ability to bring out the best in those around me by allowing those who work with me to have a stake in the process; to own projects and feel empowered to bring their perspective and experience to each decision.

As an immigrant who came to the United States without a support system or a community, I was grateful to work with visionary leaders who brought out the best in me and allowed me to take risks, shoulder responsibility and make thoughtful decisions. Those experiences transformed my outlook and ultimately my future by showing me what was possible when I not only believed in myself but also was in a position to impact change.

What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?

1. Combating climate change is absolutely critical to the future of not only our industry but also our planet. Join our industry and be a changemaker as we carve the path towards a sustainable energy future!
2. While the LPG industry has traditionally been male driven, there has been significant emphasis placed on transforming it to be more inclusive. There are so many exciting developments in LPG – from propane created from renewable resources, to exciting new technological developments, there is a wealth of opportunity for anyone interested in pursuing a career with LPG.
3. The LPG industry offers a smorgasbord of opportunities in innovation, cutting edge technology, and the ability to make an impact to lower the world's carbon footprint!



#WINLPG

Women in LPG Global Network

www.wlpga.org