

Consent Agenda

(Reports can be found on pages 12-29 of this packet)

Directors' Reports

- Region 1 *submitted by G. Stroup*
- Region 2 *submitted by J. Walker*
- Region 3 *submitted by J. Baynes*
- Region 4 *submitted by J. Wharton*
- Region 5 *submitted by H. Rowell*
- Region 6 *submitted by J. Biswell*
- Region 7 *submitted by S. Pietila*
- Region 8 *submitted by R. Brooks*
- Supplier Director *submitted by R. Huta*

Committee Reports

- NCSG Bylaws Committee *submitted by R. Brooks*
- NCSG LRP Committee *submitted by R. Brooks*
- Membership Committee *submitted by J. Walker*
- Convention Site Selection Committee *submitted by J. Walker*
- Ethics Committee *submitted by G. Stroup*
- Governance Task Force *submitted by R. Huta*
- Chimney Academy Task Force *submitted by J. Baynes*

NCSG Region 1 Director Report

Region 1 National Chimney Sweep Guild members are tackling legislative changes in New Jersey and New Hampshire.

NCSG President and NCSG Executive Director are assisting representatives of the New Jersey Chimney Sweep Guild with research in support of a position paper NJCSG is developing with regard to a pending NJ legislative bill requiring new licensing requirements for work performed by several trades including chimney sweeps.

Effective January 1, 2007, all persons engaged in the installation, servicing and/or repair of gas fired appliances shall be licensed by the NH State Fire Marshal's Office in compliance with New Hampshire's Building Safety & Construction Mechanical Safety and Licensing Gas Fitters' Law (Amilia's Law). Applications for licensure were available online as of October 3, 2007; the 'regular' application route is for those persons who have a certification from one of the approved training or testing agencies and who can demonstrate the requisite number of work experience hours for the level of licensure they are applying for.

Regional Updates

Committee members of the Chimney Sweep Professionals of the Northeast (CSPN) are putting the finishing touches on programs and special events for their upcoming regional chimney sweep convention to complement an anticipated banner trade show! CSPN Nor'easter '08 will be held January 23 through January 26 in Mystic, CT. Registration applications can be downloaded at cspnconvention.com.

Membership Outlook

NCSG continues to promote the success of its members by providing progressive services, encouraging professionalism, ethical accountability, and advancing the chimney and venting industry through public awareness of the trade. New and renewing members share that among the many benefits of membership, access to the online NCSG member discussion list is one of the top three.

Respectfully submitted,
George Stroup Region 1 NCSG Director

NCSG Region 2 Director Report

October 21, 2007

Fellow Directors and Staff,

I have made contact with various members in Region 2 as to any communications and to spread the word about our upcoming convention in Reno, Nevada.

I was able to make an official visitation to Virginia during one of their guild's workshops. At that event I did make contact with members and non-members to promote NCSG and to help give a one-on-one communication as their liaison from Region 2. Most everyone I made contact with is very busy with work at this time – basically because of the time of year. This is a plus due to the “slow” months reported in Quarter II.

As a director for the last 6 months of so, I have gotten more familiar with my duties and responsibilities. I am fairly familiar with the dashboard concept and frequently check in from time to time. As Membership chairman, I have kept in communications with Debbie Cornelius and our executive director in this regard. Plans to visit potential sites for the 2010 convention will be in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jay K. Walker

NCSG Region 3 Director Report

Everyone I have spoken to from sweep to supplier is reporting a slow year and early season. From my personal perspective I'd have to concur. For the most part the economy is still pretty good in the Midwest though it is obvious consumers are watching their money a bit closer right now. I have been quite concerned with how few sweep calls have been coming in although we are 10 days from November and still wearing shorts. It's been a long hot and dry summer and though the trees are turning it hasn't felt like fall. Of course by the time of our next meeting that should have all turned around.

I've had numerous opportunities to interact with R3 members this year between Convention, Sweeps Week, classes at the Tech Center, Cert Reviews and NCSTS. Everyone is quite optimistic about our industry and focused on continuing education.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Baynes

NCSG Region 4 Director Report

November 2007

Submitted by John Wharton

	TN	AR	MS	AL	LA
NCSG members	10	9	2	12	6
CSIA Certified	8	7	2	11	5
Total sweeps	10	9	2	12	6

The First rush of sweeping is upon us here in TN. From all reports, it is starting to happen in the majority of the region as well. The hot, dry summer has made everything dry as tinder. The recent price increases for oil, natural gas and propane have most folks on edge. Some are angry enough to replace their propane or gas stove or insert with wood again. The same woodstove customers I converted to gas about 10 years ago are now looking to converting back to wood. I am seeing this a lot. My advice to all is that all energy is experiencing price fluctuations. Wood is too, but not to the extent that the others are. If you cut your own, you'll see only a minor increase as your fuel use to cut and haul your wood.

My older customers who have converted to LP are affected but not to a major extent. I am able to help keep lp prices in line with natural gas, but increases are coming this way, and fast. If we have a cold winter, expect higher gas prices.

There has been a considerable discussion on the Internet regarding Logo Violators and Ethics complaints. It is interesting, open and thoughtful. While I have received no specific e-mail or phone messages, I feel that most all sweeps are deeply concerned about these 2 major issues. Please place your opinion forward to share. We are working on finding a workable solution to these two issues.

NCSG Region 5 Director Report

Business on the service side for the region has been good so far for most in the region. The unusually warm weather pattern across the country this fall has had an impact on the region, as well as with backlogs not as strong as last year. Most are keeping their sweeps and repair crews busy with multi truck companies feeling the impact a little more than the single man company. Retail sales are reporting down with some smaller companies reporting sales about even with last year's numbers.

The Wisconsin Guild is planning a workshop on January 19-20. One day will be Dave Pomeroy presenting on Sales Training and the second day will be a CCS review followed by the CCS test. Preliminary review day attendees are projected between 20-30 with a few on the list that are taking the test again after letting their certification lapse for a few years.

The weather in the region has been unusual this year. Very dry spring through summer with rainfall higher than normal for August, usually one of the driest months. Temperatures are much higher for the fall season so far and most are optimistic that cooler weather will give an added push to the later part of the fall season. Retail sales may remain sluggish with real estate transactions and new construction down along with predictions of only 3-4 % increase in natural gas prices, about 75% of the home heating market followed by LP at 20% in the rural areas.

Most felt that cold temperatures, fuel prices, and changes in the housing market will be the biggest factors determining how business will be for winter.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Rowell
Region 5 Director NCSG

NCSG Region 6 Director Report

Called 8 member companies in various states of the region. All reported that business is excellent.

Membership issues –

None noted. I am concerned about the lack of new members in my region.

-Jeremy Biswell
Region 6 director

NCSG Region 7 Director Report

November 2007

Submitted by Steve Pietila

Here are the current membership figures for Region 7:

Oregon – 7
Washington – 11
Wyoming – 3
Montana – 2
Idaho – 4
Alaska – 1

Total – 28 (one less than last report)

There are 36 CSIA Certified Chimney Sweeps in the region.

Unlike other parts of the country we are experiencing a more normal fall season so far. Sweeping is very busy and stove sales are brisk. Both gas and solid fuel appliances continue to be installed. The economy also seems to be more stable in the Northwest. Even though the real estate market has softened a bit values are still increasing if not a bit more slowly.

The Oregon Chimney Sweep Association (OCSA) is planning for their annual convention to be held in early May 2008, this time on the Oregon Coast. Details are pending, but there is a healthy treasury and they may use this to step up the program a bit.

Membership numbers & certifications remain flat in this region. I'm hoping that we can strengthen this as we approach a convention location out west.

NCSG Region 8 Director Report

Currently, member sweeps total 2 in the state of Hawaii, 4 in Arizona, 4 in Nevada, 5 in Utah and 77 in California. That's a total of 92 region eight members. That's a ten member decrease over the 102 members I reported on last July. California had the only decrease in members, 12, with both Utah and Nevada picking up one apiece.

The "Golden State Chimney Sweep Guild" remains the only state guild within region 8. The GSCSG is held its 27th annual convention and trade show in Buena Park, CA this July. There was four days of education available to sweeps from all over the country, yet only 25 or so member companies participated. This may be an underlying reason for the significant drop in NCSG members for the "Golden State."

Business was down across the board for region 8 this past year. Membership has suffered because of this. As goes the Regional guild, so goes the National.

I'm optimistic that the 2008 National convention in this region will increase enthusiasm for NCSG membership.

I will continue my efforts to increase membership within the region and make myself available to the members.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Brooks
NCSG Region 8 Representative

NCSG Supplier Director Report

November 2007 BOD meeting

There are few major developments from the supplier side of industry to report, just general conditions. A slow September for many has transitioned to a fair October. This November and December will make or break this busy season for suppliers. With no nationwide cold snap to date, many of our supplier members are watching the sky for dark clouds and cold weather. If we do not see a strong finish to the year, I fear the supplier side of the chimney and hearth may see more consolidation and closures. These are tough times for many of our supplier members. This situation has the potential to hurt the NCSG and other industry associations in terms of lower booth sales, advertising, and other support.

The supplier code of ethics is moving forward, with the help of a number of suppliers who shared their time and input on this project. More details on this are available in the presidents' report. The supplier code of ethics will also be discussed under new business.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Huta,
NCSG Supplier Director

NCSG Bylaws Committee Report

There is no mandate by the BOD or recommendations for bylaw changes from the committee at this time.

Randy Brooks

NCSG Annual Planning Committee Report

Actively seeking new LRP considerations for the May, 2008 meeting.

NCSG

- Develop a “Governance model” to address long term board recruitment and development
- Promote Membership: Identify opportunities to attract younger members to the Guild
- Promote Membership: Promote membership to non-members
- Trade Development: Provide business skill development opportunities for Sweeps, including self-study options
- Promote Membership: Continue to develop innovative member benefits
- Information Dissemination: Increase public awareness of NCSG and the trade
- Trade Development:* Develop a strategy for NCSG to address the issue of “chimney scammers” nationally

Randy Brooks

NCSG Membership Committee Report

October 12, 2007

RE: Membership Committee Report (activities as of 10/11/07)

I have received the following communications from Debbie Cornelius our NCSG Outreach Coordinator from Member Services.

“On September 28th, a letter was mailed along with a Suppliers Advantage Benefit Package brochure and NCSG membership application form to 161 vendor prospects. The same incentive was given as last year where if they joined between October and December 31, 2007 they would receive an additional 3 months to their 12 month membership. As of this week we have had 1 new supplier member as a result of this mailing.

I have the list of attendees from the National Air Duct Cleaners National Convention held in March this year and plan to check against our records. Those not included in our database will be added as prospects for future mailings. Possibly a special mailing will be done specifically to those on the revised list.

Other affiliated trades to add to our list of potential prospects and future mailings would be the National Roofing Contractors Association, ASHI (American Society of Home Inspectors) attendee list from the national convention in January, NAOHSM attendee list from convention in May, and other affiliated trades as they become available.

This summer Vic Imgarten brought me a couple of magazines i.e. ***Alternative Energy Retailer*** which included the Annual Directory of Hearth Suppliers and ***SNIPS*** (sheet metal, heating, cooling and ventilation contractors buyers guide. From these two sources I added several Vendor Prospects to the NCSG Database. (I would still like to have someone else review these sources and highlight others that need to be added).

Below is a comparison of the NCSG membership for this year against last year at this time. While we are down 10 in the voting member category, we are up 11 due to increases in other categories.

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Voting	1010	1000
Dual	10	10
Sub-total	1020	1010
Affiliate	15	23
Canadian	6	7
Foreign	1	-0-
Senior	7	11
Supplier	45	54
Total	1094	1105

Once a member expires and they are changed to a non-member, they are mailed an Expired NCSG Member Questionnaire. I am seeing several of these coming back with payment information requesting that their membership be reinstated. This is after the fact that I call and/or email them 15 days or so before they are to be officially removed as a member from the database. “

Report continued next page...

2006 – 2007 Monthly Membership Comparison

	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
CATEGORY	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
VOTING	945	997	969	1002	972	1001	992	1015	999	995	1003	995
DUAL	7	9	2	9	8	9	10	10	10	9	10	10
Subtotal	952	1006	971	1011	980	1010	1002	1025	1009	1004	1013	1005
AFFILIATE	11	13	12	16	12	19	16	18	15	19	14	20
CANADIAN	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6	6	6	6	6
FOREIGN	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SENIOR	14	14	14	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
SUPPLIER	38	48	42	49	42	51	41	51	39	50	39	51
TOTAL	1023	1081	1052	1090	1049	1094	1073	1108	1077	1087	1080	1090
EMPLOYEE	1827	2138	1851	2156	1915	2203	1985	2278	1997	2277	2035	2277

	JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
CATEGORY	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
VOTING	1002	1003	1013	1004	1029	998	1010	1000	1014		999	
DUAL	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		9	
Subtotal	1011	1013	1023	1014	1039	1008	1023	1010	1024		1008	
AFFILIATE	13	22	14	23	14	22	15	23	13		13	
CANADIAN	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	6		6	
FOREIGN	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1		1	
SENIOR	7	9	7	9	7	9	7	11	7		7	
SUPPLIER	38	53	38	53	39	53	45	54	46		46	
TOTAL	1076	1104	1089	1106	1107	1099	1094	1105	1097		1081	
EMPLOYEE	2062	2305	2073	2332	2093	2346	2085	2369	2115		2103	

NOTE: The figure of 14 in the Senior Category for January '06 and '07 and February '06 was incorrect. This was corrected to the correct number of 7 in February '07.

Convention Site Selection Committee Report

October 2, 2007

It's official – we have a signed contract with the Marriott/Embassy Suites in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Convention dates will be April 4-7, 2009.

We are planning on looking into the mid west area for 2010 convention venues this winter with the intent of having a contract signed in early 2008. Doing so will allow us to turn our attention toward 2011 later in the year with the intent of having that contract signed before the end of 2008 (getting us to our three-year goal).

NCSG adopted a convention rotation back in 2003. As discussed at our July board meeting, the site selection committee feels that the rotation is too restrictive in our searches to enable us to find the best deals and packages. The committee was requested to formulate a new policy for consideration at the next board of directors meeting. We suggest we drop the rotation agreement after the 2010 convention and adopt the policy proposed below. The current rotation policy is too limiting and does not give us enough flexibility to be competitive in the national meetings market.

The new policy the site selection committee submits is:
(To become effective as of the 2011 NCSG convention)

NCSG convention site selection committee will attempt to select the best sites available within the United States. Sites will be chosen in regard to those that best serve our members and the NCSG. To encourage national access to the conventions, as well as limit encroachment on regional events, convention sites will not be held in the same region in consecutive years. The committee will attempt to have host site contracts signed 3 years in advance in order to better serve the membership and our affiliates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Walker

NCSG Ethics Committee Report

October 2007

Penalty restrictions for NCSG Trademark and Ethics violations are being reviewed by the President, the Executive Director and Ethics Committee members.

There are currently two new NCSG trademark violations before committee.

There is currently one active NCSG Ethics violation complaint.

Seven companies currently ineligible for NCSG membership; two restrictions expire in 2007, two expire in 2009, two expire in 2010, and one in 2011. Most restrictions are for 3 years and are defined as a company's ineligibility for membership, is not uncommon for a company or individual owner to be under NCSG and CSIA restrictions simultaneously.

Respectfully submitted,

George Stroup
Chairman, NCSG Ethics Committee

NCSG Governance Task Force Report

November 2007 BOD meeting

While at this time there is little to report to the board on business of the Governance Task Force, there has been some behind the scenes progress. The task force team is almost completely assembled. I hope by the time we meet the team will be finalized.

This project has been dashboarded and has a timeline of presenting by-law changes / recommendations to the board shortly after the New Year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Huta
Governance Task Force Chairman

Update

Task Force Members are:

- Robert Huta, Chair
- Steve Pietila
- Mark McSweeney
- Bart Ogden
- Chris Prior
- Chuck Loring (consultant)

Chimney Academy Task Force Report

10/21/07

As previously reported on Monday Oct. 8, 2007- Mark, Melissa, Ashley and I met at the Tech Center with Mike Zimmerman. (Day 1 of NCSTS) Mike is the Career Pathway Specialist for all the high schools on the west side of Indy. This was a very productive meeting and Mike offered us some great ideas for attracting the attention of candidates and professionals in the region. He also offered to introduce us to his colleagues in central Indiana.

I think we all sensed Mike was more than a little impressed with our facility and our mission. (And I believe a bit surprised at our professionalism and the true nature of our industry.)

As encouraging as this meeting was, understand we're still very early in the game. This is a long-term commitment and it is clear we'll have to remain steadfast for several years, bag a few success stories and gain our credibility with these professionals before we can declare victory. However, right now the Chimney Academy looks more promising than my original expectations.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Baynes

Committee Members: Jim Baynes, Mark McSweeney, Melissa Heeke, Ashley Eldridge, Greg Polakow.