

Item 9. Consent Agenda

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

- * *Region 1 submitted by G. Stroup*
- * *Region 2 submitted by J. Walker*
- * *Region 3 No report submitted*
- * *Region 4 submitted by D. Dobbs*
- * *Region 5 submitted by M. Maynard*
- * *Region 6 submitted by J. Biswell*
- * *Region 7 No report submitted*
- * *Region 8 submitted by R. Brooks*
- * *Supplier Director to be submitted by R. Dimmitt*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- * *Vice President's Report submitted by B. Priesing*
- * *TAC Report submitted by B. Priesing*
- * *Ethics Committee Report submitted by J. Biswell*
- * *Government Affairs Report submitted by D. Pilger*
- * *NFPA 31 report submitted by J. Pilger*
- * *Governance Committee Report submitted by H. Rowell*
- * *International Relations Report submitted by V. Imgarten*

NCSG Region 1 Report -July 2009

The months of June and July offer annual gatherings for chimney professionals in the northeast.

Attendance at June's gathering brought sweeps and vendors together from NH, MA, ME, VT, NY, NJ and PA. Discussion centered around the recent fiscal necessity to eliminate the position of technical director from staff with the overwhelming sentiment being the position was a most valued NCSG membership benefit – knowing when faced with a problem in the field, unbiased technical support was just a phone call away. Concern was expressed that the volunteers comprising our technical advisory board may not be available in the hour of need. Suggestions were offered to explore other cost saving budget cuts. While attendees were not yet in receipt of NCSG ByLaw Amendment Ballot, there was discussion regarding the necessity of the proposed changes.

The city of Keene, NH, is forming a committee to address implementation of an EPA Great American Woodstove Changeout program. City planners are taking a proactive approach to a “heads up” from NH-DES that the results of air quality monitored over the past two years are heading towards non-attainment status. The city is located in a “bowl”; analysis of pollutants have identified wood smoke as the offender. As the Woodstove Changeout program has never been implemented in the state of NH, Keene will be modeling the rebate program on the trials and tribulations of Vermont's recent statewide Woodstove Changeout program. The importance of inclusion of utilizing certified professional installers within the parameters of program was shared with representatives from NH-DES, EPA and potential subcommittee members.

Membership Outlook

As reported last quarter, NCSG membership in Region 1 appears to have declined by about 3 ½ % over the past year -the declining economy being stated as a driving decision maker.

Respectfully submitted, George Stroup Region 1 NCSG Director

NCSG Region 2 Report

July 31st, 2009

Upcoming Events:

- 1) Florida Guild is planning a workshop in Middleburg, Fl either end of August or 1st part of September. Plans to do a masonry workshop.
- 2) Georgia: Have not heard any updates from the Georgia Guild. Last I heard Mike Wilcox was President. I got an email from him on July 4th – he was in Afghanistan, as he has gone to active duty to serve in the military.
- 3) South Carolina has plans September 25-27 for a meeting and workshop. More to be announced soon.
- 4) North Carolina: I talked with a few NC guild members and left message for the President of the guild. But have not heard any updates or events.
- 5) Virginia: Has a upcoming workshop planned. Chris Prior teaches masonry on August 12-14th. And some exciting news reported from Jim Bostaph that the Dept of Labor and Interior (State) is now recognizing chimney repair and chimney inspection as an apprenticeship. That means there are set standards in place to become a sweep. This type regulation once finalized could catch on and be copied by other state authorities. There is a couple proposals being lobbied to the state authority – one that includes CSIA certification.
- 6) W.VA – haven't heard any news.

Market Share:

I got on the horn with several sweeps in the region. Most all reported business is way down from previous years and things are slow. A few I talked with are in survival mode, however most sweeps I talked to were optimistic and hoping for a strong turn around in business soon.

Sincerely,

Jay K. Walker
NCSG Region 2 Director

Region 4 Director Report

7-29-09

I've talked to various sweeps in the Region, most of the work load has been slow due to the weather and the economy. One fellow sweep from Arkansas expressed his outrage of the CSIA maintenance fee. I've received no comments from anyone about the current voting on the governance issues.

Dennis Dobbs
NCSG Region 4 Director

Region 5 Director Report

Greetings –

The region has been slow due to the lack of rain and the economy based on the members I polled. The consumer index is low due to the doom and gloom picture being painted in the media. The unemployment rate in the region varies from 5.3 to 17.7. This is contributing to the slow down I am hearing about. The fall busy season outlook is positive but the majority feel it is going to be a shorter than normal season.

I have not heard any response to the governance task force letter or been called regarding questions to the ballot. I guess no news is good news. I have spoken with several new members that have recently joined for the first time. They have spoken highly of the training school and are excited about being a member of the NCSG and all it has to offer.

Mark Maynard
Region 5 Director

Region 6 Director Report

Hello members,

Business climate in the region seems to be stable. Real estate has opened up and people are taking vacations and getting ready to send kids back to school.

No new activity to report.

I am looking forward to representing Region 6 at the next NCSG Board of Directors meeting in August.

In the mean time, if you have questions, concerns, comments, or just want to “vent” feel free to contact me:

Jeremy Biswell, Region 6 director
Office: 913-236-7141
fluesbrothers@yahoo.com

Region 8 Director Report

August 2009

Currently, member sweeps total 2 in the state of Hawaii, 1 in Arizona, 4 in Nevada, 4 in Utah and 59 in the state of California. That's a total of 70 region eight members. That's an eight member decrease since my last report in May 2009, and a 33% loss of members from this region alone since May of 2006.

Many, if not all parts of the region have been hit hard by the current financial crises and this has certainly impacted the chimney sweep trade. Consumers are losing their jobs, credit is restricted and the loss of equity in homes only adds to the slide.

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 Bakersfield, CA last month. There was four days of education available to sweeps yet only eight members bothered to show up. Member numbers are down significantly in this regional guild as well with only 48 current individual members listed on the web site representing only 40 companies state wide. The GSCSG does a great job keeping local sweeps connected and providing workshops and educational opportunities to sweeps in region eight. Members must participate in these events or this organization of over 25 years will become a memory.

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

Supplier Director Report

To be submitted by R. Dimmitt

**NCSG Board Meeting
August 2009**

July 31, 2009

Bylaws Committee- Bylaws Amendment vote still pending

Vice President's Report- I would like to have training that discusses duties and responsibilities of Board members, corporate structure and communications between the Board and Staff. There seems to be some misconception about our roles and responsibilities as Board members. This could be something as simple as a PowerPoint presentation on CD, sent to all Board members.

TAC Report-

Royal Edwards' last compilation of TAC calls was in March of this year. It showed that TAC members had received a total of 20 calls, presumably during the month of March. There was no indication on this report of how many calls Royal handled personally.

Since stepping up as acting chair of this committee on May 7, 2009 I have logged a total of 23 calls reported being received by various TAC members.

I have a few recommendations for the future of TAC:

- Technical assistance to members should be converted to a Frequently Asked Questions page in the Members section of the website. An e-mail address should be provided for additional assistance.
 - Since most, perhaps all, manufacturers and/or distributors offer technical assistance for their products a full time, on call technical assistance service not needed. Call volume supports this position.
 - The current structure of the TAC, and the lack of consistent recording and reporting of calls, may leave the Guild open to potential liability. A web/e-mail based system would offer the benefit of recording all web page visits, e-mail requests, and replies.
- The TAC may need to be reduced in size. An SOP should be published, and should require that members actively fulfill obligations of membership, or they will be dropped.
- Technical articles for Sweeping are often hard to find. I recommend we offer a \$100 stipend to the writer of any technical article published. I further recommend a \$50 stipend to the writer of any Q & A published. A small announcement could be published in Sweeping each month announcing

congratulations to that month's winners. I believe if we advertise this it will encourage members to submit articles. Since money is paid only when the article or Q & A is published we would budget \$2200 per year for this.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Priesing
NCSG VP
At-Large Director

Ethics committee report

Currently is 1 NCSG ethics case on the dashboard. I am happy to say that all cases are decided on and information is going out to close the cases.

It has been pretty quiet since convention. No new cases have come in.

Debbie has done a great job sorting out and updating the cases. The committee members are doing a fine job.

Thanks to all,

Jeremy Biswell
Ethic committee chair

Government Affairs Report

August 2009

I have been actively informing members of legislative issues on a regular basis via the NCSG discussion list. In the April 2009 e-NewsLink the membership was given direction on how to access the Government Affairs Webpage on the NCSG website.

I have had NCSG members forward legislative information to me from their state and inquire or comment about it.

I feel the information that I have put out has been well received by the NCSG membership and has truly become a NCSG member benefit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Pilger
NCSG - Government Affairs Chairman

NFPA 31 Report

I was unable to attend the last NFPA 31 committee meeting because of a scheduling conflict. NFPA moved the meeting to the same time as the New Hampshire Association of Chimney Professionals Sweepsfest for which I was the keynote speaker. Below is the report I submitted to NFPA as the Chair for the chimney liner sizing sub-committee.

Flue gas liner vent sizing sub-committee

On March 23, 2009 the sub-committee on flue gas liner vent sizing held a meeting at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY. In attendance was John Pilger, Aaron Clark, Ed Angelone, John Levy, John Batey (via phone), Tom Butcher and Roger McDonald.

A discussion was held on the history of the current sizing charts.

Chimney failure, flue tile damage, chimney location and wet cycles were also discussed.

Dr. Tom Butcher was very interested with GTI's Fluent (sp?) program for calculating vent sizes.

The sub-committee talked about requesting funding for the research with NORA, NHRI and NFPA. The Gas Technology Institute (GTI) TC 610 task force is doing a review for ASHRAE and Dr Tom is going to ask GTI for a Summery Proposal to provide independent validation of Appendix E in NFPA 31 through the fluent program and laboratory testing. Ed Angelone was to assist Dr. Tom.

Respectfully submitted,

John Pilger

At the meeting I missed it was reported to me that we basically left things unchanged and have combined the chimney and the ventilation/fresh air task forces. We are waiting for the results from the tests from the different labs and such. So really nothing right now, until our test results come back and we can evaluate the results.

Respectfully submitted,

John Pilger

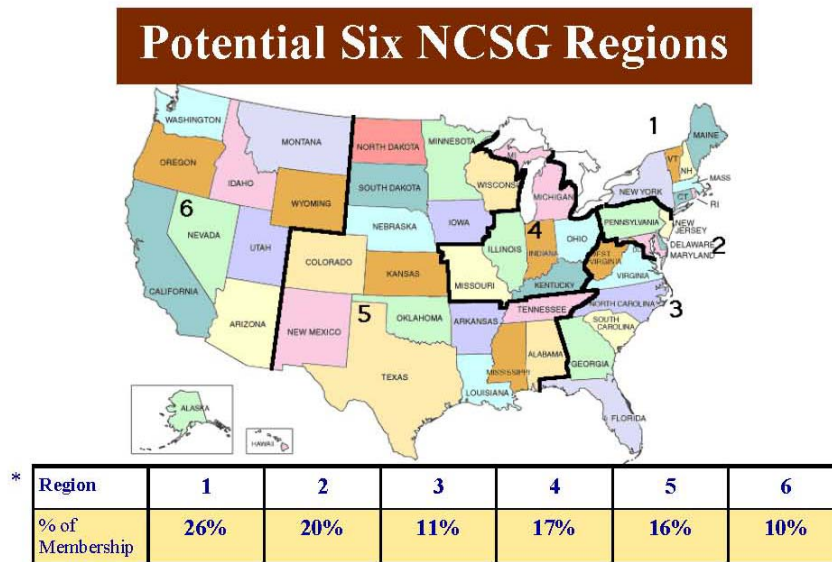
Governance Committee

At the previous board meeting the board voted to present changes to the bylaws for a vote by the general membership. We will have the results of that vote later this week and need to plan for the tactical implementation of the proposed changes if they are approved by the membership.

Much work has been done by the Governance Task Force in assembling Phase One of the mission for the transition from the GTF to the newly formed Governance Committee. The next step is tactical implementation of Phase Two of the proposed changes and needs to take place in a timely manner to coincide with the time requirements as stated in the bylaws.

There are two areas the board needs to address during the board meeting:

First is approval of the attached regional map presented at the board meeting in May reflecting the six NCSG regions.



** Percentages as of 6/1/09*

Second is determining who is willing to serve for the upcoming term of board service and in what capacity as; regional, at large, and associate directors. As discussed at the last board meeting the least confusing way of accomplishing this in fairness to the membership is to have all director seats up for election this year as there will be two regions that have been combined and new lines drawn that will reflect a different make up moving from eight to six regions. Most directors have stated their intentions, but there are a couple of directors that need to make their intentions known so the Governance

Committee can accomplish their task of identifying candidates for a full slate in the upcoming election.

As part of identifying future potential candidates for board service I am asking all directors to be thinking about individuals who would be good potential candidates for board service with the goal of having two people submitted by each director. The ongoing work of the GC will be to develop a list of potential candidates for board and committee service. Another part of developing this list will be through membership surveys listing individuals who have indicated they are willing to step up and serve.

I ask all directors and committee chairs to think ahead as to who you are mentoring to be your replacement at some point in the future. We will all have to pass the baton on to the next person at some point and with everyone's help we can accomplish smooth transition with better continuity for those who follow us in service to NCSG and it's members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Howard Rowell
Chairman Governance Committee

International Relations Report

August 2009

International Relations, will be establishing a ESCHFOE 2011 committee after our return from the ESCHFOE meeting and we will have a committee meeting at convention to establish and firm up plans for 2011

Submitted,

Vic Imgarten
Chairman

Item 13. New Business

- * J. Baynes resignation confirmation
- * FY2010 Budget Approval
- * Acceptance of new regional boundaries (pending bylaw amendment approval)

Potential Six NCSG Regions



* Region	1	2	3	4	5	6
% of Membership	26%	20%	11%	17%	16%	10%

** Percentages as of 6/1/09*

- * Next Board Meeting: November 4, 2009, 11:00am ET, Teleconference Meeting