

Consent Agenda Item...

NCSG Region 1 Report - July 2008

Despite fielding concerns regarding NCSG annual membership dues versus the increased cost of maintaining individual trade certifications, I am happy to report new and renewing membership remains steady in Region 1. There are currently over 484 NCSG members in Region 1.

[Membership tallies used are taken from ncs.org member listings. At the time of this report, page three of NY member listing still links back to ncs.org homepage, current NY member total reported obtained from NCSG office]. NCSG Region 1 also includes members located in the District of Columbia and Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario, Canada.

July 2008 NCSG membership at 484 from Region 1 in : CT 38; DE 5; ME 24; MD 43; MA 57; NH 25; NJ 80; NY 110; PA 76; RI 11 and VT 15.

Regional Updates

Chimney sweeping companies, retail operators and distributors serving the northeast regions of Region 1 report the energy crisis has pushed consumers to seek alternative heating sources and wood/pellet appliances are a popular choice. Sky-rocketing prices have oil dealers scrapping or delay pre-buy program ... this year the heating season began June 1 instead of September 1.

Respectfully submitted,
George Stroup
Region 1 NCSG Director

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Region 2 Director Report:

July 2008

Virginia and the Southern Chimney Sweep Association have been very active in education seminars this summer.

Reports from areas in the region vary. Most report a very slow spring and early summer – but just recently picking back up to the norm. A very busy fall and winter is expected.

During conversations with some in Region 2 – I have received good feed back regarding attendance to the upcoming National Convention in Winston Salem (Feb 2009).

Regards,

Jay Walker
NCSG Region 2 Director

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July 18, 2008

BOD Region 3 Report:

I have communicated recently with some R3 sweeps and all report concern with the current business climate, yet all express a guarded optimism. Here in Indiana I can report that leak repairs are possibly at an all time high and I'm certain that is true in the adjoining states as well as large areas of the central US. Sweeping work does not appear to be driven by anything other than forward scheduling efforts.

I have recently heard seers forecasting a tremendous upswing for our industry in the fall but I am personally content to just wait and see what happens. It is my conclusion we will always be busier than we have the potential to be in the fall. Once someone demonstrates the ability to predict a strong 1st quarter, they will have my attention.

Sweeps Week concluded yesterday and some good work was accomplished. I think when the BOD arrive they will notice some nice house-keeping was accomplished. Participation was at an all time low but it was a dedicated group. Thank you to Bud Hinchman, Barry Waninger, Tim Smith, Ken and Caryl Hoelcher, and Kevin Deluncenay. Everyone involved thanks Marion Schroll for the rib "care package".

And a special tip of the top hat to Ron and Renee Brigman for running the event this year. They really put in the time and effort and without them stepping up it would not have happened.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Baynes

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Region 4 Report

REGION 5 REPORT

July 2008

As the flooding subsides in most areas, lives are slowly getting back to normal. There is heavy damage to homes, foundations and basements from water entering. We have seen a lot of leaking chimneys and flashing in the region due to the heavy rains. Those companies doing masonry repairs are fairing well. Sweeping seems to be slow. Some companies are keeping busy due to their direct mailing and forward scheduling.

The real estate market has picked up substantially from the 1st quarter but is still not like it was in the past years. Most companies have either raised their prices or added a gas surcharge due to the high price of fuels. I think this is something that is going to be part of our pricing structure for the future and we are going to have to learn to include it in our pricing. The weather has turned hot and humid. This has brought inquiries for wood stoves and other appliances down.

The Wisconsin Guild of Chimney Service Specialists 3rd annual charity workshop at the YMCA camp in Suring, WI was a complete success. The camp now has new and more efficient appliances in all the cabins. The units that were installed in previous years were swept and inspected. Some of the cabins even sport new brick chimneys with weather tight flashings.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Maynard
Region 5 Director NCSG

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Region 6 report:

Attempted to contact several companies in region with no response. Local companies report a slow summer. No activities have been reported to me on a local or regional level.

-Jeremy Biswell
Region 6 director

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Region 7 Report

Region Eight Report

July 2008

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 April. California remains the largest member state in the region.

The "Golden State Chimney Sweep Guild" remains the only state guild within region 8. The GSCSG held its 28th annual convention and trade show in Sacramento, CA this month. There were four days of education available to sweeps from all over the country. Turnout was poor to say the least.

Business was better across the board for region 8 this past year. Many say that the increased awareness of the need to have hearth products serviced and inspected has increased the inspection portion of their business throughout the region. Many more home inspectors are recommending NFPA-211, level II inspections as a way to limit their liability in real estate transactions. The buyers real-estate market is increasing the need for inspection in many areas.

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

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Supplier Director Report

July 2008

Conversations with suppliers show that there is significant interest in pellet appliances and venting. That interest has already created spot shortages of appliances from some manufacturers. The question in many minds is if that interest will continue through the fall and if fuel will be readily available. Interest in wood burning is picking up but not to the extent pellet is. Gas appliances for the most part are dead in the water.

The real hot area right now is in the Northeast and Mid Atlantic states areas. Hopefully that spreads nationwide. The consensus seems to be this will be a good year but not to 2005 levels.

Russ Dimmitt
Technical Support Supervisor
Copperfield
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NCSG Governance Task Force Report

August 2008

The NCSG Governance task has no recommendations to the board at this time.

The task force is made up of the following individuals:

Robert Huta – Chairman
Mark McSweeney
Chris Prior
Bart Ogden
Steve Pietila
Randy Brooks –President
Howard Rowell – Immediate Past President
Chuck Loring – Professional Consultant

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Huta
NCSG Governance Task Force Chairman

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NFPA 31 Report

No meetings were held.

John Pilger
NFPA 31 Committee

NFPA 211 Report

July 2008

NFPA 211 is having a meeting on August 19 in Orlando, FL to review proposed changes for the 2010 edition of NFPA 211.

Royal Edwards
Technical Director

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**NCSG Board Meeting
July 30, 2008**

Bylaws Committee- No Report

Long Range Planning-

1. We have begun preliminary research in two areas. We are looking into methods and costs of advertising the Chimney Sweep industry as a profession to military members leaving active duty.
2. We have begun looking into creating an on line “photo bank” as a resource for NCSG members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Priesing
NCSG VP
At-Large Director

Reporting Period: 3/15/08-6/10/08

Trademark	New Violations	Resolved/Closed Violations	Total Active Violations
CCS	5	3	23
CDET	0	0	0
NCSG Member	4	4	9

Ethics New Cases	Resolved/Closed Cases	Total Active Cases
CSIA 1	2	2
NCSG 1	2	2

Restrictions	NCSG	CSIA
Will expire in 2007	N/A	1
Will expire in 2008	N/A	1
Will expire in 2009	2	2
Will expire in 2010	2	3
Will expire in 2011	3	2

Note: Most restrictions are for 3 years and are defined as a company's ineligibility for membership (NCSG) or an individual's ineligibility for certification (CSIA). It is not uncommon for a company or individual owner to be under both restrictions simultaneously.

Above is the most recent ethics update per Sherri on the dashboard. Complaints are being dealt with per procedure. I am still learning the processes, but feel that the committee is doing well.

Thanks to all committee members and all the hard work from staff.

-Jeremy Biswell

Membership Committee Report

Membership numbers are holding relatively steady over the last few months with the usual lose and gains.

One of the projects that staff is working on is determining if each membership category is providing sufficient value to promote membership. Each membership category is being reviewed with two standing out as needing further analysis to ensure members receive the value they deserve. There will be ongoing discussions concerning the international membership category and the senior membership category.

A mailing is scheduled in September to prospective members with an offer relating to length of membership. I would ask that all potential members information be forwarded to staff for follow up. Something we can all do is be alert not only to individual membership but also categories such as ladder manufacturers or scaffold manufacturers. They should not only belong but also attend our trade show.

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