

Consent Agenda

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

- Region 1 *submitted by G. Stroup*
- Region 2 *submitted by J. Walker*
- Region 3 *submitted by J. Baynes*
- Region 4 *to be submitted by D. Dobbs*
- Region 5 *submitted by M. Maynard*
- Region 6 *submitted by J. Biswell*
- Region 7 *submitted by D. Piper*
- Region 8 *submitted by R. Brooks*
- Supplier Director *submitted by R. Dimmitt*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Membership Committee Report *submitted by J. Walker*
- Governance Task Force Report *submitted by R. Huta*
- Ethics Committee Report *submitted by G. Stroup*
- Convention Site Selection Report *submitted by J. Walker*

NCSG Region 1 Report - May 2008

Recent NCSG BOD appointment and election results command a hearty Region 1 congratulations to President, Randy Brooks; Vice-President, Bob Priesing; Treasurer, Jay Walker; Secretary, Jeremy Biswell. Joining the Board of Directors representing Region 4, Dennis Dobbs; Region 5, Mark Maynard; Region 7, Dean Piper and Supplier Representative (representing Supplier & Dual Members), Russ Dimmitt.

Despite fielding complaints throughout the past year regarding NCSG annual membership dues versus the increased cost of maintaining individual trade certifications, new and renewing membership remains steady in Region 1. There are currently 473 + NCSG members in Region 1, last year at this time Region 1 member figures were 488+. Membership tallies used in these reports are taken from ncs.org member listing. At the time of this writing, page three of NY member listing links to ncs.org homepage, I suspect our annual membership numbers are a bit closer than what I'm able to represent here.

(NCSG Region 1 also includes members located in the District of Columbia, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario, Canada).

April 2008 NCSG membership at 473 + in Region 1: CT 39; DE 5; ME 26; MD 43; MA 56; NH 27; NJ 83; NY 90 +; PA 78; RI 11 and VT 15.

April 2007 NCSG membership at 488 in Region 1: CT 38; DE 4; ME 27; MD 42; MA 57; NH 27; NJ 73; NY 105; PA 85; RI 11 and VT 19.

Regional Updates

Sweeps in attendance at NCSG 2008 Innovation shared reports of extraordinarily slow business throughout the first quarter of the year. After attending classes at convention, many headed home with a renewed sense of focus. Regional updates highlighted here are neither exclusive nor inclusive; I encourage visiting state guild websites for your next regional educational venue (state guild listings available on ncs.org).

Massachusetts Chimney Sweep Guild - Annual General Membership meeting to be held at SweepFest, Sunday, June 29th in Newmarket, NH.

New Hampshire Association of Chimney Professionals is expanding their annual SweepFest to two days of educational seminars and vendor showcases with Saturday evening entertainment by our industry's best, The Sootprints! SweepFest dates are Saturday, June 28th and Sunday, June 29th.

Pennsylvania Guild of Professional Chimney Sweeps - Offering one of our industry's finest, most comprehensive hands-on course in chimney construction and brick masonry, PA Guild Masonry School dates are June 2nd through June 6th for Basic Masonry Class and June 9th through June 13th for Advanced Fireplace Construction.

Respectfully submitted,
George Stroup
Region 1 NCSG Director

Region 2 Director Report

May 2, 2008

Good job Staff and Directors on a successful Reno convention! I have heard many positive comments to reiterate that fact. Hopefully, considering the low attendance numbers, we did not financially take a beating to bad. I look forward to the financial report from staff. Sometimes we just have to chalk it up to the cost of education. However, in the future hopefully we can budget more appropriately to at least break even with our convention endeavors.

Virginia and Florida Guilds are having active workshops this month.

I look forward to this coming year working with the current Directors and staff .

Hat's off to Howard Rowell for a job well done !

NCSG Current member companies in Region 2.

Florida:	13
Georgia:	20
South Carolina:	8
North Carolina:	19
Virginia:	45
West Virginia:	8

Total: 113 member companies

Sincerely,

Jay Walker
NCSG Region 2 Director
NCSG Treasurer

Region 3 Director Report

No regional updates to report since Reno board meeting.

Region 4 Director Report

No regional updates to report since Reno board meeting.

REGION 5 REPORT

May 2008

With little notice to compile this report, the few companies that I have had contact with were reporting first quarter business to be slow. Most of the reasoning is the slow economy. Gas prices have been steadily increasing and everyone is concerned with this. The real estate market has been very slow and new home building is almost non-existent. We had a very snowy first quarter and anticipating a very "normal spring" for our climate. Spring so far has brought normal rains and lots of flooding. There is a definite increase in homes with "leaking chimneys" due to the winter snow melting and ice dams. This may increase the 2nd quarter numbers for those companies who do flashing and masonry repairs.

In talking with suppliers within our region, business for them also has been slow. There are also reporting hit and miss luck from sweep companies. Those that have good follow through seem to be doing a little bit better than others. We personally had a so-so first quarter and are off to a fantastic second quarter due to our masonry repairs and our renovating of existing fireplaces.

The Wisconsin Guild of Chimney Service Specialists is doing its 3rd annual charity workshop at the YMCA camp in Suring, WI from June 5-9. The work schedule includes several complete fireplace renovations, liners, and chimney rebuilds. This year they are also offering CEU's for these hands on projects. This is an awesome time to get together as sweeps along with families and employees for a great learning experience. Also, fishing, canoeing, hiking and campfire discussions are a big hit.

Comments that I received at the convention were very positive. Sorry I could not attend the full convention due to multiple prior commitments. I had several people inquire if it were possible to purchase a CD copy or access the website for classes that they missed or would like to revisit for a reminder. The HPBA has had success with their CD offerings. There were also a lot of enthusiastic comments regarding February dates for next year's convention. I would like to give a special thanks to Jeff Schmittinger for presenting Howard Rowell with a plaque on behalf of the Wisconsin Guild. I personally would like to thank Howard for his leadership of Region 5 and the NCSG. Howard has done an unbelievable job representing our industry and providing us with a brighter future due to his leadership. I hope I can be half the leader Howard has been.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Maynard
Region 5 Director NCSG

Region 6 Director Report

Called 3 member companies in various states of the region. All reported that business is still slow and steady.

Membership issues –

Everyone had a good time in Reno. Looking forward to more hands on type classes at future conventions.

-Jeremy Biswell
Region 6 director

Region 7 Director Report

Dean Piper – 5/08

Region 7 - The Northwest consisting of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska and the three western providences of Canada.

In this region the Yellow Pages list 442 companies offering "Chimney Cleaning Services". Of those listed Washington has the most listings (217) and Alaska has the least listings (23). According to the latest roll of CSIA certified sweeps, this region has 37. Both Oregon and Washington claim 14 certified sweeps and presently Alaska has none. This represents an 8% involvement by certified sweeps in the offered services of "Cleaning Chimneys" by yellow page listed businesses. A very weak involvement, yet golden opportunity, for sweep education in this region.

The Oregon Chimney Sweep Association (OCSA.com) just held their 30th Anniversary May Day Convention at the Shilo Inn in Newport, OR. Highlights of this meeting were Signature Training presented by Dave Pomeroy, Hearth Protection and Pending UL Changes presented by Bruce Richmond of Hearth Classics, and the Certification Test for OCSA. This is a "State Recognized" expertise credential for sweep professionals within Oregon. Currently Oregon is the only state with any organized guild in this region. (A situation that hopefully can be rectified in the near future) This conference drew participation from seven industry vendors, thirty three "in state" attendees and four "out of state" attendees over the four days. Two members are en route to Austria to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Austria's sweep convention.

We are young and small but full of vision here in the NW. With the help of PSAs and the NCSG marketing efforts, we see strong potential for growth and education in the North West for the sweep profession.

Let it be noted I was approached for CDET and CSIA exam requests at this conference. My next scheduled event to attend in the NW will be the NWHPBA conference in June, where I shall pre-mote CSIA and NCSG involvement.

Region 8 Director Report

May 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 is holding its 28th annual convention and trade show in Sacramento, CA this July. There will be four days of education available to sweeps from all over the country.

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 there liability in real estate transactions. This is due in large part to many within the industry that frequent the monthly meetings of the home inspectors in many different areas of the region.

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
•May 2008•

I wasn't able to get around to every booth at the show but did talk to many suppliers. The general feeling was a lightly attended show but that wasn't unexpected with the location. Based on the expectation of lower attendance the satisfaction level of the suppliers I talked to wasn't bad. I did hear multiple comments that the show should stay east of the Mississippi. The venue received good reviews with several comments that normally gambling venues distract from the purpose of being at the show but that was not the case in Reno. The hotel was quiet and calm with the gambling area well separated from the show activity.

Russ Dimmitt
Technical Support Supervisor
Copperfield

May 5th, 2008

NCSG Membership Committee Report

I have been in contact with Debbie Cornelius in regards to a recent update status since our last meeting on April 15th, 2008.

- Staff (Debbie) will be contacting Supplier and Dual Members for the next (2008-09) coupon program. New coupon offers will be available in the “Members Only” section of the NCSG website by 1st of July. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the coupon status – therefore increasing the value of current membership, as well as increasing incentives to our prospective members.
- Prospective members are being contacted regularly
- Letters will be sent out soon to the newly seated NCSG Directors. These letters will explain the lists that Debbie sends out once a month by email and the importance of each regional director to make contact to those new members in their prospective regions. As stated before: Debbie, as well as I, believes this personal contact by directors helps maintain membership retention.

Sincerely,

Jay Walker
NCSG Region 2 Director
Membership Chairman

NCSG Governance Task Force Report

May 2008

The NCSG Governance task did meet in Reno and has set a timetable for recommendations to the NCSG board. The GTF plans to present those recommendations to the NCSG board at its August board meeting.

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

NCSG Ethics Committee Report - May 2008

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

Since 10/30/07, 11 new NCSG trademark violations have been reported; as of last report in March there are currently 7 active violations.

There is currently one pending NCSG Ethics violation complaint before committee.

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

Thank you to Thomas Rhines - Past Chairman, Stephen Kuber - Vice-Chairman, Judd Berg, Rick Anderson, Jay Walker and Bob Ferrari, most recent Ethics Committee members, for your participation.

Respectfully submitted,
George Stroup
Chairman, NCSG/CSIA Ethics Committee

May 5th, 2008

NCSG Convention Site Selection Committee Report

It should be noted that the NCSG convention sites (after the 2010 convention) are no longer bound to the previously adopted regional rotation schedule.

The Site Selection Committee's intent is to have a contract signed for the 2011 convention by the end of the calendar year 2008, thus, getting us to our three-year goal.

Jay Walker
NCSG Site Selection Chairman