

Report of the Executive Director
NCSG Board of Directors Meeting
May 14, 2008 • CSIA Technology Center

On behalf of the professional staff and many volunteers, I am pleased to report that the feedback received across the board relative to our most recent convention in Reno has been overwhelmingly positive. I recently shared with the board a wonderful letter from long time members Sally McKnight and Enzo Palacco of The Irish Sweep, Inc in Alameda, CA that very eloquently complimented the efforts and results of the full ensemble of individuals who worked together to pull off the event. That letter will be appearing as a testimonial in an upcoming issue of *Sweeping Magazine*. In reference to reprinting their letter, Sally and Enzo have told me that they *“hope our experience would champion others to reach into their minds, hearts and pockets and make the journey to our annual convention.”*

In a recent email response that I received back from Sally and Enzo, they indicated that as a result of their convention experience, they have joined a MIX group. In their reply they stated, *“Looking forward to that experience coupled with what we have learned from Ellen; we are feeling on top-o-the-world. When we are ready to sell our business and retire (although we are a few years away) we feel like we’ll be in a great position to achieve our goals.”* I share this additional information with you because their statements are exactly what we would hope any member would say about their association with NCSG. At the end of the day, it is our mission to have a positive impact on the business success of sweeps within the industry.

As we look forward to the annual board planning meeting, the mission of promoting the success of our members and the advancement of our industry should be the common thread running through any of the priorities that we discuss. We have the professional infrastructure in place to compliment the insights of a well-rounded board, so I am confident that the year ahead will continue to build upon the successes we have enjoyed in the recent past. Our president plans on allowing the NCSG board to have a full day of planning that focuses solely on NCSG objectives. Not having to balance the day’s discussions with the CSIA board, as we have traditionally done in the past, will afford NCSG the opportunity to delve much more deeply into its true potential.

The economy continues to have an impact on many within our industry (as it does in many other industries as well), so that is an issue worth considering as we develop our plans for the next year. Returning to the East Coast for our convention in 2009 will certainly help our bottom line, but I’d like to see us err on the conservative side relative to any new programmatic initiatives during this planning session.

We’ve had a few changes in staffing since the start of the year, so I’d like to take a moment in this report to bring the board up to speed in terms of the current staff structure:

- Mark McSweeney, Executive Director
- Ashley Eldridge, Director of Education
- Melissa Heeke, Director of Communications & Marketing
- Judy Thompson, Director of Finance (part-time)
- Royal Edwards, Technical Director
- **Sherri Ellison, Office Manager**
- Debbie Cornelius, Member Development & Outreach Coordinator
- Vicki Barton, CSIA Certification Coordinator
- Sara Sighting, CSIA Program Coordinator
- **Megan Beal, Administrative Assistant (part-time)**

HPBA is working with UL to update two standards: UL1618, the hearth pad and backing standard; and UL1482, inserts placed in manufactured fireplaces. Because of his participation in the UL STP panels, Royal has become involved in both of these related task groups. At a meeting earlier this year in Raleigh the hearth pad issue became a hot topic, and similarly at the HBPA Expo in Atlanta this spring the insert issue came to the forefront. Considering both of these issues involve sweeps' interests, Royal and I agree that it's worth him keeping an eye on. Both of these task groups will be meeting at the UL main facility in Northbrook, IL later this month and Royal plans on being in attendance.

The staff will be conducting its annual retreat and planning meeting late in June. This will allow for any loose ends relative to the board's planning meeting to get wrapped up, and still provide time to reflect needs in the budget that will be presented to the board in August.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon in Plainfield.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McSweeney, CAE
Executive Director