

Consent Agenda

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

- Region 1 submitted by P. Mitchell
- Region 2 submitted by B. Fleer
- Region 3 submitted by J. Walker
- Region 4 submitted by M. Padgitt
- Region 5 submitted by M. Maynard
- Region 6 submitted by F. Joy
- Supplier Director to be submitted by E. Poplawski

NCSG Region 1 Report

Maine legislative bills, LD 124 and 264 have been the cause of significant concern. LD 124 would allow the use of 2 appliances on a single flue and LD 264 would allow unlined residential chimneys. This was apparently initiated by an HVAC contractor who had the ear of someone in the legislature. While 124 is still an issue, LD 264 is dead as of the last session. Thanks to Ashley Eldridge for helping this get sorted out. The Maine Association of Chimney Professionals is having their next meeting 4-27-11.

Massachusetts is now looking at licensing chimneysweeps. Currently, all chimney service people involved in anything more than sweeping need a Contractors Supervisory License to perform work. The additional measures are driven partly by the proliferation of "scammers." This is a topic for the next legislative session on 6-21-11. It is being met with mixed feelings by members I have been in contact with.

New Hampshire and Vermont state organizations are currently working on combining the two guilds into one. It is hoped that the end result will be renewed interest and new blood coming to the forefront to increase participation and make more education available to the state members. There is much excitement surrounding this from both states and the process is moving forward. The goal is to roll this out at NH's Sweepfest, which is June 25 and 26.

I have contacted sweeps throughout the region and the common denominator seems to be fairly soft markets, particularly in the more rural regions. Spring is historically a slow period in the Northeast, however many companies are reporting unusually low activity levels. The companies I have received information from report that people aren't willing to spend money due to these uncertain economic times

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Mitchell
Region 1 Director

NCSG Region 2 Report

At first it seemed that spring would never get here, it has been about 12 degrees below normal. When the seasonal change started along the mid Atlantic region Mother Nature sent us rain storm after rain storm with a mix of wind, thunder and lightening. The sweeps that I have been in contact with all agree when is it going to end. Repair business is down not for lack of work, but the weather is holding us back.

Things to do in and around region 2:

CSIA eLearning get your CEUs call 317-837-5362 for more information.

Lining Masonry Chimneys with Stainless Steel April 25-29 & May 23-27

Codes and Standards Quizzes May 2,3 &5

PA Guild's 14th Annual Charity Workshop May 12-14 wissahickonvalleysweeps@yahoo.com for information.

Richmond, VA Prefab Fireplace Replacement May 11-12 Contact Jim Bostaph 757-596-2298

CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep Review & Exam. Baltimore, MD May 13 call 317-837-5362

Submitted by,

Bob Fler
Region 2 Director

NCSG Region 3 Report

As usual, as a business owner, I am very thankful for our diversification at Jay Walker Enterprises, Inc.. Dryer Vents and Exterior House Washing services is keeping the "lights on" for us during this slower time of the year.

I have talked with only a few others in the region. Some report they are very busy with their Chimney Services (Tennessee/Alabama). Others are reporting they are performing much repair work and real estate inspections.

I would imagine with all the bad weather recently within our region (tornado's, high winds, & rain), repair work will follow.

Upcoming activity noted in the region is as follows: North Carolina – April 18-24, Combo NC & SC April 29 & 30th, Virginia May 12-13th, and Southern Association putting on a D&D type seminar in Atlanta, Georgia May 19 & 20th.

Currently within the Region we have 126 NCSG Member Companies. The breakdown is as follows:

- MS: (3)
- W.VA: (7)
- AL: (9)
- SC: (10)
- TN: (11)
- FL: (12)
- GA: (15)
- NC: (21)
- VA: (38)

Sincerely,

Jay Walker
NCSG Region 3 Director
JRegion3@aol.com

NCSG Region 4 Report

Region 4 members report that business has been slow lately and they are hoping that things turn around soon as the weather is breaking. They believe that the long winter and slow economy has kept people from spending money.

I sent letters out to our region with only a few responses, however, Melissa reports that the emails are being opened by a high percentage, so this is encouraging.

Several NCSG members have contacted me about the list guidelines, and complained that they are afraid to post anything anymore. They wish to remain anonymous. One of the concerns is about posting events, which the committee is already taking care of.

Education coming up in our region is a bake oven workshop June 2 – 5 in Cedar Hill, Missouri hosted by the Midwest Chimney Safety Council. Instructors are Gene Padgitt, Gary Hart, and Ron Washkowski with assistants Kirk Scott and Janie Rickord. A brick bake oven and a cob oven will be built, and a pellet stove class will be taught by Ron W. CEUs will be applied for.

Respectfully,

Marge Padgitt
Region 4 Director, NCSG

Region 5 Report

While I am sitting here trying to right this report we are digging out from 16 inches of snow. The worst thing is not 7 days ago we had 12 tornadoes go through the area causing whole towns to be destroyed and millions of dollars of damage. The region has experienced some terrible weather patterns from the north to the south. Business is picking up due to the weather.

Our past convention was considered to be a success by those within our region. Our region 5 meeting that was held at convention had limited participation. Great conversation was had during our meeting. The personal contact from me to new and reinstating members has been very well received. They enjoyed the personal touch. The region has not seen any big fluctuations in members.

Thanks

Mark Maynard
Region 5

Region 6 Report

Not all states in Region 6 have Guilds so it near impossible to make contact with all members. Only 2 states in region 6 have guilds they are Oregon and California. I have tried to come up with a NCSG membership in each state. They are as follows.

- Alaska: 5 members No Guild
- Arizona: 2 members No Guild
- California: 100 (est.) Golden State Guild
- Hawaii: 2 members No Guild
- Idaho: 3 members No Guild (Members will probably attend Oregon's May Day convention to be held May 12-15 2011)
- Montana: 1 member No Guild
- Nevada: 2 members No Guild
- Oregon: 36 members Oregon Chimney Sweep Association
- Utah: 1 member No Guild (Member attends Oregon's May Day Convention)
- Washington: 15 members No Guild (Members attend Oregon's May Day Convention)
- Wyoming: 4 members No Guild

Oregon Chimney Sweep Association (OCSA) will hold their annual May Day Convention on May 12- 15 2011 at Village Green Resort ---Cottage Grove Oregon. This will be their 33rd year anniversary of their convention.

Over all the economy has had a large impact on sweeps but to what extent is impossible to judge. Some report an increase in business while others report decrease in business. I believe the biggest economic impact has been on those who own stove shops or those who have appliance sales as a large part of their business. This being said it would be remiss of me to say that the economy has played a large part of decrease or increase of business as only time will tell.

Respectfully Submitted by

Fred Joy
NCSG Director at Large

Supplier Director Report

Suppliers and Manufacturers were pleased with the attendance at the NCSG convention in Hartford, CT. Many expressed that not only did they have existing customers stop by their booths but new and potential ones as well. They noted that many of those who visited them did so specifically to learn about new items they were offering as well as to gain information about their companies in order to do business with them.

Many Manufacturers and Suppliers have expressed a concern that they would like some representation on the site selection committee for future conventions. They would like to offer input on conflicts with other industry events and possible problems with shipping materials and items to certain locations.

The outlook for business this year is good. The economy may be questionable but several suppliers and their customers are reporting having a strong year so far.

The price of materials has risen dramatically this year. Copper, Stainless Steel and many other materials have seen a greater increase in cost than over the last few years. This will necessitate an increase in the retail price of many suppliers' products.

I have seen a greater effort this year by state guilds to add a value to their membership. One of these is to offer as many learning opportunities, such as seminars and workshops, as they can and to obtain CEU's for these events. There have also been some mergers of guilds taking place and being talked about. The guilds in states bordering those that do not have a guild have increased efforts to recruit members from those neighboring states.

Submitted by,

Edmund Poplawski
Supplier Director