

Consent Agenda

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

- Region 1 *submitted by P. Mitchell*
- Region 2 *submitted by B. Fler*
- Region 3 *submitted by J. Walker*
- Region 4 *submitted by M. Padgitt*
- Region 5 *submitted by M. Maynard*
- Region 6 *submitted by R. Brooks*
- Supplier Director *submitted by R. Dimmitt*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Governance Committee Report *submitted by H. Rowell*

NCSG Region 1 Report

A recent cold snap in the Northeast has driven temperatures into the below 0 zone, with areas in the north country reporting -20 to -30 below. Very low temperatures combined with 3 months of relatively mild winter weather make for hazardous conditions for homeowners. A tendency to over-fire wood burning appliances compounds the chance for problem situations and damage-related repairs.

Reports concerning year end results are extremely varied with companies from the same locale having completely different end results. The economy is still expressed as being the driving force for business, or lack thereof. The northern areas of New England and New York State are generally hardest hit, with some companies reporting significantly less income from the year prior. Customers are very price conscious with “shoppers” being the norm. In contrast to this, some companies are reporting increases over last year and a few companies are reporting record years.

The big news in Region 1 at this time is hosting NCSG Innovation 2011 in Hartford, Ct., February 9-12. Many service and retail operations in the Northeast who generally don't travel to conventions are expected to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Mitchell
Region 1 Director

NCSG Region 2 Report

After several years of warmer than usual winters, followed by the economic downturn two years ago last year's snow storms bringing the mid-Atlantic to its knees it seems as if we have been on a rebound. We have found that chimney sweeping has been on the public's mind along with the help of the EPA's energy tax credit wood stove sales have moved in a positive direction. Of course this has increased liner sales and other associated chimney repairs. The outlook for the spring is that repairs to masonry that could not be completed due to the very cold weather, thank you Canada, this year will help with revenue. With the colder weather we feel that the after season service of chimney systems will be up from previous years. We all hope that this cold winter will be remembered and that it will bring an early start to the fall season.

Account manager John Wilson of Copperfield Chimney Supply from what I can tell is that the east coast has had a productive season. A slight slowdown in some areas due to the extreme cold weather and snow, but things will be bouncing back shortly.

Dale Howard from Regional Chimney Supply states that it has been a steady season some of the older companies have weathered the financial woes of the last 2 years and are coming back strong.

Nathan Antrim owner of Antrims Complete Chimney Service located in Pottstown, Pa. We are sitting here with 18 inches of snow and taking care of business. We have had a good season, one of the best in a while, and looking forward to a great spring, when the snow moves out. We have put on a new certified sweep to keep up with the busy season.

Bob Fler
Region 2 Director

NCSG Region 3 Report

January 31st, 2011

Members in the region have reported a very busy and prosperous fall and winter. Virginia Guild, Southern Association, and NC & SC are still actively having sweep educational workshops throughout the year.

Member totals in the region are as follows:

W. Va - 4	Va. - 40
NC - 21	SC - 10
GA - 14	AL - 9
TN - 11	MS - 3
FL - 12	

Total: 124 Region Three Members

Respectfully,

Jay K. Walker
NCSG Region 3 Director

NCSG Region 4 Report

January 24, 2011

I am encouraged by reports from members in region 4 who say that business has picked up significantly, and that the fall of 2010 was better than the past two years. A few sweeps say that business is still slow, but they are mostly the smaller businesses that don't offer other services besides sweeping. My own company has been terribly busy, so if that is any indication of what is going on with the economy it is good news for all of us.

I recently sent out a letter to the Region 4 members of the NCSG, and am encouraged by the "open rate," see more about this in my PR Task Force report.

The Midwest Chimney Safety Council is currently planning a workshop but no dates have been scheduled yet.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marge Padgitt
Region 4 Director, NCSG

Region 5 Report

The region had a fairly normal busy season and is now experiencing the typical winter lull. We have had several more businesses go out of business due to lack of business and revenue. I have been in contact with our new members that have joined recently. The Wisconsin Guild recently held a winter meeting which included a CSIA review and test and a business building class. I was unable to attend this event due to a MIX group meeting and training session. However, it was very well attended. I did attend Jack Pixley's memorial funeral in Andover, MN. I must say, as far as funerals go, it was a true celebration of Jack's life. It was hard to believe Jack orchestrated the whole thing himself.

Winter has been very interesting so far in the upper 2/3 of the region. We are experiencing lots of ice and snow. This is causing some optimism for spring repairs.

Mark Maynard
Region 5 Director

Region 6 Report

There has been no communication regarding questions or concerns related to NCSG region 6 since the last report. With such a large geographical area, it's impossible to note what the weather may have been in a particular area during this time period, which may have played adverse or positive roles in members businesses. The economy has been difficult in many areas affecting many businesses. I have known of others that have had a prosperous year in 2010.

This is my last report as director of region 6 and I will make myself available to whoever may step up to serve the members in this capacity in the future.

Randy Brooks

Supplier Director Report

To be submitted

NCSG Governance Committee Report

The votes are in and have been tabulated for the 2011 NCSG board of Directors cycle. There were three seats up for election this term and the winners are:

Region 5 - Mark Maynard

At large - Fred Joy

Supplier - Ed Poplawski

All of the nominees that did not get elected for this cycle have been contacted and expressed interest in running for the board in the future.

The GC continues to work on identifying board candidates for the 2012 election cycle with eight seats coming up for election.
Respectfully submitted,

Howard Rowell
NCSG Governance Chairman

Future Organizational Efficiencies Task Force Report

The purpose of this TF is to identify Future Operating Efficiencies for the association. There are no recommendations requiring board action.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Rowell
Future Organizational Efficiencies TF/ Chairman

NCSG Long Range Planning Committee:

January 31st, 2010

After next board meeting on February 8th, 2011, there are plans for the committee to re-visit our strategic plan and work with staff to facilitate the boards input (SWOT or something similar), and ideas for the upcoming May Planning meeting. We must have better realistic achievable goals with the end in mind.

Communications to and from all board members is a must to keep all board members engaged.

Sincerely,

Jay K. Walker
LRP Committee Chairman

Site Selection

Ginny Heagney and I will be attending the DMAI's Destinations Showcase Conference & Expos Washington, DC - Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011. We will be submitting RFP's for our NCSG Convention and Tradeshow 2014 for consideration by nationwide CVBs attending this conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Pilger
NCSG Site Selection - Chairman

Government Affairs

Legislation has been extremely quiet the last quarter of this year. I would like to acknowledge Melissa Heeke, who is the my staff partner on this committee. She has been there from day one for me and should get a lot of the credit for the Legislation information provided to our members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Pilger
NCSG
Government Affairs Chairman

NFPA 31

NFPA 31 - The next meeting of the NFPA 31 committee will be in March at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY

John P.

NCSG PR Task Force Report

January 24, 2011

PR Projects implemented in 2010:

- 1.) Quarterly press releases were implemented in the fall of 2010, and are planned to be submitted to media at least once per quarter. The latest release concerns the annual convention. We will continue the press releases in 2011, and they are posted on the Media page on the NCSG website.
- 2.) The PSA was released. It will be played at the convention in order to get more people interested in sending it to their local media.
- 3.) I, like all of the board members, have been frustrated at the lack of communication and feedback from the membership. So I sent out an e-mail letter to all of the Region 4 members through Melissa. It was opened by 79 out of 118 of the recipients, which is a high number compared to the open rate of my letters in Newslink. This is very encouraging. I would like to suggest that all Regional board members send a similar letter out at least twice per year in order to make a more personal contact with the NCSG members. (See the attached sample letter).

PR Projects planned for 2011:

- 1.) We plan to keep doing the same projects listed above in 2011.
- 2.) Additionally, the PR Task Force is working on a proposal to present to the NCSG Board of Directors at the planning meeting in May. Briefly, this would be a contest that all NCSG members can participate in. The goals of the contest are to encourage participation in an NCSG sponsored event, to retain membership, to provide a media event in order to gain more attention from the public, and to promote our members. The proposed categories will be:
 - Masonry Chimney Construction:** Brick or stone chimneys (Three places)
 - Fireplace Construction:** Fireplaces and fireplace facial walls(Three places)
 - Outdoor Living Construction:** Site-built masonry fireplaces, bake ovens, fire pits, smokers, barbeques, walls, counters, and other outdoor living features. (Three places)
 - Chimney Sweep of the Year**
 - Best Chimney Sweep Advertising**A similar contest has been done for three years at the Masonry Heater Association, with great results. More to come in May.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Padgitt, PR Task Force Chair