

Consent Agenda

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Governance Committee Report *submitted by H. Rowell*
- Long Term Planning – “No Report” *submitted by R. Priesing*
- Bylaws Committee – “No Report” *submitted by R. Priesing*
- NFPA 31 Report *submitted by J. Pilger*
- Government Affairs *submitted by D. Pilger*
- TAC Report *submitted by R. Priesing*
- Membership Committee Report *submitted by R. Dimmitt*
- Ethics Committee Report *submitted by J. Biswell*

NCSG Region 1 Report

Chimney sweeps in Region 1 share that with the fall season upon us and their customers looking for ways to lower their heating expenses, customer awareness of the federal consumer tax credit for fuel-efficient stoves and fireplace inserts has been a blessing. With the new tax credit, there's really never been a better time for homeowners to hire their professional chimney service company to install a new wood or pellet stove.

The economy is still being referred to as the most significant factor in the slow start up of the traditionally busy time of year for chimney sweeps in the Northeast. Toward the middle of September, sweeps began sharing an increase in their call volume but state that the current volume is less than it was a year ago at this time (the fuel crisis was driving sales and service calls last fall).

Respectfully submitted,
George Stroup
Region 1 NCSG Director

NCSG Region 2 Report

There have recently been educational events held by state guilds in Virginia, South Carolina and Florida. Unfortunately, I have not been able to attend any of these recent events due to conflicts in schedules. I feel it is important to keep up communications with all states in the region – and have telephoned and emailed in that regard.

Looking at membership numbers today there are *101 NCSG member companies* in Region 2. And two years ago, back in June 2007, there were *112 member companies* (down 11).

While Florida (+4) and Georgia (+1) increased in membership numbers this year, S.C. (-1) and W. Va. (-1) stayed about the same and Virginia (-10) and N.C (-4) had a decrease in membership.

The state of the economy has impacted most everyone. I'm hoping that with our new strategic marketing efforts to maintain our current membership and attract new members from existing companies, we will be able to sustain our level of member benefit and address our fiscal responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Jay Walker
NCSG Region 2 Director

NCSG Region 4 Report

10-20-09

NCSG Report 10-09

Due to the cooler weather sweeps that I have conversed with are glad that they are finally busy. I've not talked with anyone who has any issues with NCSG nor the new governance changes. I hope to get more involved with the membership committee in the coming months. The only thoughts I have at this time is that hopefully the TAC can possibly go online in a format similar to the online members list, yet with only relevant information.

Dennis Dobbs

NCSG Region 4 Director

Region 5 Report

Region 5 business has picked up considerably. In talking with sweeps across the area, the phones are ringing and business is busy. The early cold weather has triggered the panic mode of the consumer and they need it now. Most sweeps are booking out approximately 2 to 3 weeks taking them half way through the busy season. The recession seems to be lifting in the area. Unemployment has not gone up but the home sales have dropped significantly in the month of October. August and September found real good home sales attributed to the first time buyer program. Appliance sales have increased with the tax credit available. Hope this is a sign of things to come. Nobody seems to be able to say one way or another if December is going to be the end of busy season.

Respectfully submitted –

Mark Maynard
Region 5 Director

Region 6 Report

Hello,

The busy season has hit region 6. Members contacted are reporting a slow year thus far. Hopefully things will start improving.

No other business to report at this time.

Stay safe,

Jeremy Biswell, Region 6 director
Office: 913-236-7141
fluesbrothers@yahoo.com

Region Eight Report

Currently, member sweeps total 2 in the state of Hawaii, 1 in Arizona, 2 in Nevada, 4 in Utah and 57 in the state of California. That's a total of 66 region eight members. That's a four member decrease since my last report in August 2009, and a 35% lose of members from this region alone since May of 2006.

Many, if not all parts of the region have been hit hard by the currant financial crises and this has certainly impacted the chimney sweep trade. Consumers are loosing their jobs, credit is restricted and the loss of equity in homes only adds to the slide.

The "Golden State Chimney Sweep Guild" remains the only state guild within region 8. The GSCSG is held its 27th annual convention and trade show in Bakersfield, CA last month. There was four days of education available to sweeps yet only eight members bothered to show up. Member numbers are down significantly in this regional guild as well with only 48 current individual members listed on the web site representing only 40 companies state wide. The GSCSG does a great job keeping local sweeps connected and providing workshops and educational opportunities to sweeps in region eight. Members must participate in these events or this organization of over 25 years will become a memory.

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

NCSG Governance Committee Report

The Governance Committee has been busy contacting potential board candidates for the upcoming 2009/2010-election cycle. I am happy to report we have candidates interested in all of the open seats coming up for election. The GC has also started a list of those interested in board service for future election cycles.

Developing a well-rounded slate of candidates for the next election cycle has already started. The GC asks all directors coming up for election next year in the 2010/2011 cycle to state your intentions if you desire to run for re-election next year. This will help the GC reach its goal of giving members a choice of candidates for future elections.

Seeking out potential board candidates needs to be a team effort if we are to be successful in reaching this goal. The GC asks all directors and committee chairs to submit at least one potential candidate name for this committee to contact during the course of the next year for future board service. With your help we can achieve our goal of developing a well-rounded slate of NCSG board candidates for future elections.

Howard Rowell
NCSG Governance Committee Chairman

NFPA 31 Report

The NFPA 31 committee is currently voting on the proposed changes for the 2010 edition of NFPA 31. I have included in this report the changes that are of interest to the chimney industry. The changes that the NCSG rep (me) proposed are on the top line. Where you see *Committee Meeting Action* that mean it was a hand vote (the first of 3 votes) When the committee does the official paper ballot vote it moves onto the NFPA membership, which almost goes with the committee recommendation. When the final ballots officially known I will inform you.

John Pilger
NCSG Rep to NFPA 31

Report on Proposals – November 2010 NFPA 31

31-9a Log #CP9

Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment, (John Pilger, rep NCSG)

Revise 6.5.7 to read: "The connector, for its entire length, shall not be smaller in effective cross-sectional area than the flue collar of the appliance, as delivered or as modified in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Any change in size made to accommodate a chimney lining system shall be done at the connection to that system."

Substantiation: This clarifies where a change in effective cross-section is allowed to be made.

Committee Meeting Action: **Accept**

31-9b Log #CP10

Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment, (John Pilger, rep NCSG)

Revise 6.5.9 to read: "Where insulation of the chimney connector is required to maintain the temperature of the combustion products, an insulated Type L chimney connector or a factory-built chimney connector listed for the purpose shall be used."

Substantiation: This addition is made to recognize other available products that meet the intent of this provision.

Committee Meeting Action: **Accept**

31-9c Log #CP11

Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment, (John Pilger, rep NCSG)

Revise 6.5.20 to read: "Connectors for appliances installed in attics or crawl spaces shall be of either a Type L ~~vent material~~, chimney connector or a factory-built chimney connector listed for that purpose or the appliance shall be attached directly to the chimney."

Substantiation: There are now available listed chimney connectors that will maintain flue gas temperatures at acceptable levels and are acceptable for appropriately reduced clearances to combustible construction. These should be allowed to be used.

Committee Meeting Action: **Accept**

31-9d Log #CP12

Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment, (John Pilger, rep NCSG)

Add new 6.5.28 to read:

"Single-wall connector pipe shall be installed in accordance with one of the following:

(1) the appliance manufacturer's instructions

(2) with the crimped end towards the chimney"

Substantiation: This new requirement will provide a smoother flow of flue gases from the appliance to the chimney and will prevent leakage of same into the building.

Committee Meeting Action: **Accept**

31-9e Log #CP13

Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment, (John Pilger, rep NCSG)

Add new 6.5.29 to read:

"The minimum thickness for steel pipe connectors shall meet the requirements of Table 6.5.29.

Table 6.5.29 Minimum Thickness for Steel Pipe Connectors

Thickness,

Pipe Diameter, in. Sheet Metal Gauge

up to 9 26

> 9 up to 10 24

>10 up to 16 22

> 16 16"

Substantiation: The new table clearly defines the appropriate metal thickness for various diameters of steel pipe.

These are based on current industry use and proven performance over time.

Committee Meeting Action: **Accept**

31-9f Log #CP14

Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment,

Revise 6.6.7 to read: "Prior to the installation of a new or replacement oil burner or oil-burning appliance, the installer shall perform a visual inspection of the chimney and flue gas venting system and shall verify the proper size of the chimney or flue gas venting system. (See Annex E for additional information.)"

Substantiation: Annex E should be referenced to provide guidance on sizing of the flue gas venting system for the

appliance being installed. With the introduction of new technology and higher efficiencies, flue gas temperatures are

lower than previously experienced. Guidance is necessary and the reference to Annex E.

Committee Meeting Action: **Accept**

Technical Committee on Liquid Fuel Burning Equipment,

Revise 6.7.3.2 to read: "The flue gas outlet of an appliance other than a direct vent appliance shall terminate at least 4 ft (1.2 m) below, 4 ft (1.2 m) horizontally from, or 1 ft (0.3 m) above any door, window, or gravity air inlet of the structure and also shall terminate at least 1 ft (0.3 m) above grade.

Also, delete 6.7.3.4, 6.7.3.5, 6.7.3.6.

Substantiation: These changes establish uniform requirements for the purpose of limiting the risk of carbon monoxide

contaminated gases from being drawn into the structure. The deleted paragraphs are now redundant.

Committee Meeting Action: **Accept**

Government Affairs

Not many relative bills have come through Leg Alert recently. Melissa Heeke has been updating any new legislation that is relative to the NCSG Government Affairs Webpage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Pilger
NCSG Government Affairs Chairman

Technical Advisory Council Report

4 calls were reported during the month of August.

I have a few recommendations for the future of TAC:

- Technical assistance to members should be converted to a Frequently Asked Questions page in the Members section of the website. An e-mail address should be provided for additional assistance.
 - Since most, perhaps all, manufacturers and/or distributors offer technical assistance for their products a full time, on call technical assistance service not needed. Call volume supports this position.
 - The current structure of the TAC, and the lack of consistent recording and reporting of calls, may leave the Guild open to potential liability. A web/e-mail based system would offer the benefit of recording all web page visits, e-mail requests, and replies.
- The TAC may need to be reduced in size. An SOP should be published, and should require that members actively fulfill obligations of membership, or they will be dropped.
- Implementation of our program to offer a stipend for published articles and Q & A's is underway.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Priesing
NCSG VP
At-Large Director

Membership Committee Report

The membership committee has taken on the task of achieving the goal of the board of directors to increase membership to 1500 by the 2015 convention. We have obtained a list of companies who perform chimney work who are not members of our Guild and they are the primary focus of our efforts at this time. We are planning to employ an integrated marketing campaign to achieve these goals.

An important part of the campaign will be retention of current members. For lack of a better analogy it is like trying to fill a bucket with a leak in the bottom. It doesn't matter how much you put in the top of the bucket if it is running out the bottom as fast as you are putting it in the top. By increasing retention we make the leak out the bottom smaller and the bucket will fill faster.

We will be sending quarterly post cards to prospective members the first having gone out in mid October. We have retained the services of a call center to follow up on these post cards and recruit the potential members. The call center efforts commence early in November. Results of this early effort will determine our actions as follow up to the future quarterly mailings.

Because retention is such an important part of the effort there are several endeavors in process to increase service to existing members. To name only two of the things we are working on. There is a new contest this year that will utilize the prevalence of YouTube in many people's minds to increase awareness of our trade. In addition Public Service Announcements are being developed for use by membership. We are very excited about the possibilities to provide ways for our members to grow their business.

We welcome ideas from members to both increase new members but also ideas of how to better serve our existing members. Please feel free to share with me any ideas you have.

Russ Dimmitt
Membership Chair NCSG

Ethics Committee Report

Currently there are 2 NCSG ethics cases on the dashboard.

It has still been pretty quiet since convention. Very few cases have come in.

Thanks to all,

Jeremy Biswell
Ethic committee chair