

## **Executive Director Report**

Thus far we have not seen much in the way of reaction to the passage of the new NCSG Bylaws this past August. As you know, everything is in effect with the exception of the new six regions and their official board representation. However, as those are due to become effective with the seating of the new board in February, the Governance Committee is conducting the current elections in accordance with the new regional makeup.

With the advent of moving from three year terms to two year terms, we have lost the natural rotational balance that had evolved over time with the board. With the four regional positions (1, 2, 3 and 4) as well as the two new nominated and confirmed positions being seated for 2-year terms (2010-2012), and our two current at-large director terms as well as the current Region 8 (soon to be Region 6) term not due to expire until 2012, we will only be electing the Region 5 and the Supplier Director seats next year. This means we have 9 seats coming up for election in 2012 and 2 seats up for election in 2011. Our Governance Committee chair has requested that I summarize this for everyone, and as such I have attached a grid and explanation to this report.

While I don't suggest any additional proposed amendments at this time, I do recommend that the board keep the notion on the front burner to consider an amendment down the road that would help to balance this out. Doing so will limit the potential of a massive turnover of the board in any given year.

We are beginning to see signs of the economy beginning to turn for some of our membership. In a September eNewsLink poll, over half of those responding indicated that they expected this season to be similar or better than before. Comments from those calling into or emailing the office seem to be positive overall relative to the amount of business they are experiencing so far this fall. We've seen several posts to the discussion list supporting that notion as well. All of that said, we do continue to hear comments from the other side of the fence as well, indicating it's still somewhat of a mixed bag out there. None-the-less, while I don't suggest we're out of the woods yet, and there's certainly still plenty of debate over the economy, some positive feedback from the field is encouraging to see.

The membership committee and staff have been hard at work this fall gearing up for an aggressive recruitment campaign. The committee report to the board highlights some of the activities already underway. In addition, some of the specific strategies have been reported to the board via the dashboard. We have already begun receiving inquiries on the first recruitment postcard of the year sent to prospective members, so we remain optimistic about the efforts we are employing this fiscal year.

Progress on the fall protection issues we are attempting to get addressed by OSHA continues to move painstakingly slowly. We are working on assembly industry training materials for them to consider. The initial plan was to obtain copies of similar materials

that OSHA already uses so that we were better prepared to provide our materials in a format (both style and content) that they were familiar with. Requesting those documents from a federal government entity is easier said than done, and after navigating through various legal hoops, counsel has determined that OSHA is unable to provide what we need (due to 3<sup>rd</sup> party copyright issues among other things) without considerable expense. All of that said, we are using the materials we readily have access to , including CSIA's new Successful Chimney Sweeping manual, to put together materials for OSHA's consideration.

The 2010 convention is coming together. We have a couple of seminars that we are awaiting speaker confirmation on as of the writing of this report, but we anticipate having the details wrapped up prior to the board meeting. We are making good progress on the open house event that NCSG will be hosting with CSIA at the Technology Center. Because of the uniqueness of this event, it will serve as a combination of an opening general reception as well as the President's and International Guest receptions.

Vic Imgarten has begun working with Randy and myself to start the early planning process for the technical meeting we will be hosting for the European Federation of Chimney Sweeps. ESCHFOE will meet at the CSIA Technology Center August 17-20, 2011.

I look forward to speaking with you all soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark McSweeney, CAE

Attachment