

Consent Agenda

See attached for specific reports

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

- Vice President Report *submitted by J. Walker*
- Region 1 *submitted by P. Mitchell*
- Region 2 *submitted by B. Fleer*
- Region 3 *to be submitted by J. Walker*
- Region 4 *submitted by M. Padgitt*
- Region 5 *to be submitted by M. Maynard*
- Region 6 *to be submitted by R. Brooks*
- At-Large Supplier Director *to be submitted by R. Dimmitt*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Long Range Planning Report *submitted by J. Walker*
- Governance Committee Report *submitted by H. Rowell*
- Future Organizational Efficiencies Task Force *submitted by H. Rowell*
- Government Affairs Report *submitted by D. Pilger*
- Convention Site Selection Report *submitted by D. Pilger*
- NFPA 54 Representative Report *submitted by J. Brewer*
- NFPA 31 Representative Report *submitted by J. Pilger*

Vice President Report

I have accepted the interim position as Vice President since Bob Priesing (Gunny) had to resign. Gunny's insight and creative thinking has brought much benefit to the board table. I'm sure I will consult with him in the future from time to time. I wish Gunny the best and hope for a soon return to NCSG board involvement.

Last report was May 2010. Gunny reported his concerns about the separation of NCSG and CSIA. His concerns are real. Exploring future operating efficiencies for the associations is a must. I truly feel we need less separation and more working together to maintain harmony between both the CSIA and NCSG. I also feel that was the original intent when CSIA was created by NCSG and its members.

I look forward to the future of NCSG and working with all the board members involved.

Jay Walker

NCSG VP

Region 1 Director's Report

Reports from member companies throughout the region consistently mention peaks and valleys as the busy season progresses. A real cold snap hasn't occurred in most of the region and companies are reporting that while busy, the volume of calls and requests for installations, repair work has remained steady, while not frenetic. Hopefully this is coming.

Along with an increase in business, the Northeast is seeing a proliferation of scam artists, being reported by media as far north as Kittery Maine. Until a few years ago this was pretty much limited to Long Island and Greater NY. Jeanmarie Jacobson of the Massachusetts Chimneysweep Guild has been diligent on posting articles regarding this on Facebook. We are being particularly diligent about wearing our CSIA badges and identifying ourselves, especially to seniors.

An unusual and distressing phenomenon affecting parts of the region is the Asian Longhorn Beetle. Parts of Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island have reported problems with this insect, which attacks and kills hardwood trees. Worcester, MA has had a damaging infestation. Maine has prohibited firewood transport across the state line. Needless to say, the northeast sweeps which depend heavily on the solid fuel industry should be concerned.

Here's to a safe and productive, and profitable season for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Mitchell

Region 1 Director.

Region 2 Director's Report

It has happened; the season is upon us in full swing. This comes on the heels of a very hot summer that had put the start of the season about a month behind. The economy debacle of 2 years ago is behind us and it seems that the customers are now looking to have their chimneys serviced. A supplier of chimney repair products in the Midwest, who wishes to be anonymous, has informed me that sales in the mid-Atlantic region have been steadily climbing. Several sweeps in the area have made mention that they are busy and booked out until the end of the month. Surprisingly most sweeps are finding that the repeat customers are not booking and more new customers or those who don't get things done regularly are getting their chimneys serviced. Shops in the area are reporting gas appliances are up and shoppers are taking advantage of the tax credits before the end of the year deadline arrives. Other trades who rely on the housing market are seeing some upward movement and this can only mean we will follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Fleer

Director, Region 2

Region 3 Director's Report

No updates since last report in September.

Everyone that I have been in communication with is very busy with work.

Sincerely,

Jay Walker

NCSG Region 3 Director

Region 4 Director's Report

1. Midwest Sweeps gathered in Northeast Oklahoma in August for a charitable workshop at a Wildlife Preserve. The Midwest Chimney Safety Council hosted a hands-on workshop which included Rumfordizing a fireplace, restoring two stone chimneys, installing a wood-burning insert, and installation of a steel liner using the CIS System by Firesafe, Inc. CEU's were approved by the CSIA, NFI, and MHA. Attendees thought this was one of the better workshops the industry has ever presented. The Midwest Chimney Safety Council is tentatively planning a workshop for 2011 that will include firepit and smoker building. Please see www.mcsc-net.org for more information.
2. As region 4 director for Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio, I have posted two notices on the NCSG chat list requesting information about events being held in other states and so far have received only three responses. Apparently the only educational events in this area are being arranged by the MCSC.
3. Blue Springs, Missouri recently adopted a section to their code that requires a permit for flue liner installation for gas or wood-burning appliances, and for hearth appliance installation. A Master Mechanical License is required. Besides the permit, an inspection by an engineer is now required, at a cost of approximately \$600 for two trips. HearthMasters, Inc. will attempt to get this code changed soon if other chimney companies want to work with us to get this accomplished.
4. The City of Kansas City, Missouri is considering licensing chimney sweeps. I have not had any luck in finding out how they plan to do this, but have requested a meeting with the building official to see how the plan on implementing licensing and if they will consider using the CSIA program already in place. I will keep the board informed of any changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Padgitt
Region 4 Director
NCSG

Region 5 Director's Report

Due to the busy season, there is not much to report. The members I have talked to within the region are saying it has been a normal busy season for them. Most are not expecting a long season. Consumer confidence seems to be down slightly within the northern portion of the region. Wood appliance sales seem to be up due to the ending tax credit. Unemployment was on the decline until just recently. It has climbed slightly in multiple areas within the region.

Mark Maynard
Region 5 Director

Region 6 Director's Report

There is nothing new to add to the regional report submitted just eight weeks ago.

Randy Brooks

Region 6 Director

At-Large Supplier Director's Report

No particular activity to report at this time.

Russ Dimmitt

At-Large Supplier Director

Long Range Planning Committee Report

We continue to look at the strategic goals we set in place in May 2009 and updated in May 2010. I'm feeling we as the NCSG board, need to keep these goals close in hand, and keep focused on the priorities we have set.

Frequent communications in regards to the accomplishments of the stepping stones of these goals are needed.

Sincerely,

Jay Walker

NCSG LRP Chairman

Governance Committee Report

The upcoming 2011 election slate for Region 5, Supplier, and At Large Director seats is set. Two of the seats have more than one candidate running and all of them would make good directors.

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 for board action.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Rowell

Future Organizational Efficiencies/ Chairman

Government Affairs Committee Report

No activity to report at this time.

Diane Pilger, Chair

Convention Site Selection Committee Report

No activity to report at this time.

Diane Pilger, Chair

NFPA 54 Representative Report

We just had a meeting in Minneapolis in October to finalize the next edition changes, and I will be using that information for the Codes & Standards seminar at convention in Hartford.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Brewer

NFPA 31 Representative Report

There is no activity to report at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

John Pilger

New Business

- **Next Meeting: Tues. February 8, 2011, 1:00p-3:00p, Hartford, CT (Convention)**