

Consent Agenda

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

- Vice President's Report *submitted by D. Pilger*
- Region 1 *submitted by P. Mitchell*
- Region 2 *submitted by R. Flee*
- Region 3 *submitted by J. Walker*
- Region 4 *submitted by M. Padgitt*
- Region 5 *submitted by M. Maynard*
- Region 6 *submitted by F. Joy and R. Brooks*
- Supplier Director *submitted by E. Poplawski*
- At-Large Director Report *submitted by D. Dobbs*
- At-Large Director Report *submitted by J. Biswell*

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS:

- Technical Advisory Council *submitted by D. Dobbs*
- Discussion List Committee *submitted by M. Padgitt*
- PSA Task Force *submitted by M. Maynard*
- Governance Committee *to be submitted by R. Brooks*
- Long Range Planning Report *to be submitted by D. Pilger*

Vice President Report

I just returned from Spazzacamini in Italy. I attended the ICU meeting in Malesco and spoke at the meeting about our upcoming convention in Orlando. I handed out many flyer and pins promoting our event. There was interest from several attendees at this meeting.

I also handed out many more flyers and pins at "Black Friday" in the park on Friday evening. There was also some interest from two foreign vendors who are thinking of attending and getting a booth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Pilger
NCSG Vice President

NCSG Region 1 Report

Business in the Northeast Region over the late spring and summer season has been very slow across the board. Repair work appears to be more plentiful than sweeping. The sweeps with forward-scheduled work are reporting more cancellations than usual. It seems that those who have not felt the economic pinch are now experiencing it, my company included.

The good news is the level of interest and the serious intent of the sweeps recently attending two regional workshops. NH's Sweepfest had seminars on building masonry fireplace arches and strong emphasis on serving oil venting systems which many companies are now taking a hard look at. We were honored to have Royal Edwards and CSIA President, John Pilger, there to lead the seminars. Sweepfest continues to grow and again, it is refreshing to see new sweeps so interested in bettering themselves.

The big news is the renewed interest in the New York State Chimney Sweep Guild's summer workshop. It focused on masonry with Chris Prior leading the charge. It was well-attended and obviously on the upswing again. I am particularly pleased to see two quality events in the Northeast Region.

The New Hampshire-Vermont state guild merger is in the hands of slow-moving lawyers and has not made progress as of late. I anticipate this merger to continue to move forward despite this temporary roadblock.

Here's hoping for a busy busy season.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Mitchell
Region 1 Director

NCSG Region 2 Report

These past few months have been a real mixed bag of weather; lots of heat followed by some much needed rain and again sweltering temperatures and more rain. To top things off we have had many wind storms bringing down trees only to be followed by an earthquake and topped off with a hurricane. Talking with sweeps in my area we have all mentioned that doing a thorough inspection on all chimneys being serviced is of the utmost importance. We should all be giving the Chimsan or other video inspection systems a real workout. Because of all the weather issues, Region 2 has had its share of repairs to deal with. Chimneys hit by trees, shaken by the earthquake causing chimneys to pull away from houses and foundations to settle; this along with the many water leaks that have surfaced.

We are all looking forward to another busy season. Other sweeps and I have seen an early move by repeat customers to get on schedule. We are also finding that people that have put off service and repair work, due to the economy, are moving forward. Real estate inspections in Maryland and surrounding areas have been up following the housing market.

A reminder to all sweeps that keeping your membership in the Guild helps us support ourselves. We all don't see the immediate return on our dues but it is there. Getting discounts from those in our industry that support the Guild, Sweeping magazine which is an invaluable resource for our trade not to mention the insights of many professionals that have helped build our Guild. If you think that the dues are a financial burden look into the monthly payment plan, and use the discount vendor coupons, these coupons will pay for your membership dues and so much more.

Soon coming to an area near you www.csia.org checkout the educational events and meetings. Do you have a new sweep on board? Look into the sweep training school.

If you need to contact me my e-mail address is bobfleer@aol.com.

Robert A. Fleer
Director Region 2
Complete Chimneys Inc.
Severna Park, MD 21146

NCSG Region 3 Report

Since my last regional report in late April 2011, NCSG has been active. In May at our long range planning meeting we were able to set new goals and update our long range plan. I was unable to attend the Southern Associations workshop in Atlanta – as it was the same time as the week long Gas Class in Plainfield, which I attended. I have plans to attend the NC/SC upcoming meeting & workshop, September 15-17th, 2011 at Lake Murry, SC.

The board will meet again in about a week – to re-visit our long range goals and budget for this fiscal year. As Region 3 Director, my goal continues to our members with communications. As always, promotions to potential new member companies are a must.

Work in my area has been steady, but not as busy as in previous years. (retail sales are way down). Others in the region are experiencing the same. However, some I have spoken with – are doing well and not missing a beat. I suspect the economy, lack of large tax credits, and different jurisdictional locations are coming into play with this factor.

Currently within the Region we have 123 NCSG Member Companies. The breakdown is as follows:

- MS: (3)
- W.VA: (7)
- AL: (9)
- SC: (10)
- TN: (12)
- FL: (11)
- GA: (15)
- NC: (19)
- VA: (37)

Sincerely,

Jay Walker
NCSG Region 3 Director

NCSG Region 4 Report

Most of the Region 4 members I have spoken to report that business is still slower now than it was three years ago and they are hoping that things turn around soon as the fall weather starts. I have been busy, but it is most likely do to the fact that we do a lot of masonry work. Other companies that do masonry work have also said they keep busy during Spring and Summer. Perhaps the NCSG should do more to encourage masonry education among our members.

The Midwest Chimney Safety Council held a Bake Oven Workshop in June, which was attended by 35 persons. The instructors were Gene Padgitt, Gary Hart, and Ron Washkowski with assistants Kirk Scott and Janie Rickord. A brick bake oven and a cob oven were built, and a pellet stove class was taught by Ron Waskowski. The attendees had never seen ovens being constructed before and were surprised to see how complicated brick ovens are and how simple cob ovens are. All of the attendees had good things to say about the project and want more in the future. These ovens are permanently set up at Scott's Chimney in Cedar Hill, Missouri (Kirk and Sally Scott, owners) and plans are to have a bake oven use workshop next year with a professional baker along with a workshop on masonry finishing skills headed up by Gene and Gary.

The MCSC has also been invited to do another workshop at the Vian Wildlife Preserve in Oklahoma, where we did a large workshop in 2010 to restore a large stone chimney and fireplace and build a firepit. This is under consideration by the MCSC Board. For 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Padgitt
Region 4 Director, NCSG
Missouri

Region 5 Report

Relatively quiet on the region 5 front. Weather has been a huge factor in the southern portion of the region with major drought issues which has slowed the economy and the northern half has been relatively stable. The financial outlook by most for the upcoming busy season is good. I have not attended any regional events but have attended a national event sponsored by Saver Systems. This was a productive class and I did a lot of networking with others that were in attendance.

Respectfully submitted-

Mark Maynard
Region 5 Director

Region 6 Report

The fall season is almost upon us. I hope everyone is preparing for a bumper fall season. I know that due to weather-related and economy-related slowdowns some of us are wondering what business is going to be like this season.

Actually the weather may aid our businesses as many areas were hit by storms and inclement weather. Repairs now need to be made, and chimneys now, more than ever, need to be inspected due to the storms that hit during the summer. We should be emphasizing the need for our services due to safety issues. Are you in position to take advantage of the seasonal rush?

I have talked to many sweeps this summer and have been told they could not afford Guild dues due to the slowdown in the economy. My question to you is "Can you afford not to?" We have made it easier for you to afford the dues by offering monthly payments instead of having to pay all at once. You can now pay by the month. How much easier can it be to get over 10 times your dues by belonging to an organization that continues to work for you and bring money into your business? All you have to do is take advantage of the perks NCSG offers. Go to www.NCSG.org check it out. Don't know how to access your benefits? We will walk you through it. When you visit www.NCSG.org, look on the left side of the screen for a video to give you step-by-step instructions on how to access your benefits. There are vendor coupons giving you substantial discounts as well as Public Service Announcements that you can use for increasing your business. All you have to do is use them.

Someone once told me that if the water is rising don't quit paddling just paddle a little faster. This I have found to always be true. Let's get ready for a very busy fall season and stay positive. Remember the Guild is working for you. If you have questions or need help, feel free to contact the Guild office. Or you can contact me directly at joyfredm@live.com or call me at (785) 986 6432 and I will help you all I can.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Joy
NCSG At-Large Director
NCSG Region 6 Director Pro Tem

I attended the Golden State Chimney Sweep Guild annual convention and trade show in Reno, NV back in July. The visit was three-fold as I proctored three CSIA exams for region 6 sweeps, represented both the NCSG and CSIA at the trade show and spoke with / searched for a potential NCSG director from the region. The director search will continue. We do have a new member though, Charlie Baltimore, from "The Chimney Sweep" in Lancaster, CA, welcome Charlie.

Randy Brooks
NCSG Ex-Officio

Supplier Director Report

Suppliers and Manufacturers are having a very diverse year. Many are doing well while others are struggling. From what I can understand from most I have talked to is that the ones who have diversified or added new products are doing well while others who are still selling the same products they always did are not faring as well. This also goes the same for sweeps I have talked to.

Many Manufacturers and Suppliers have been happy with the increased communication with them as well as keeping them more informed about convention plans.

Many sweeps I talk to in the Northeast tell me they are booked out several weeks in advance now. They say business is doing very well. Many in the upper Midwest tell me they are not as busy as they would like to be by now.

Many of them are worried about an increase in scam operations taking advantage of people with unnecessary or overpriced chimney work in the aftermath of the recent storms and hurricanes. Several have asked if NCSG plans on any advertising efforts to combat this.

The state guilds have been increasing efforts to promote themselves with the additions of charity workshops and offering CEU's for these workshops as well as for Guild meetings by including speakers on a variety of subjects and classes.

Submitted by: Edmund Poplawski

At-Large Director Report

The last few months here in the South the weather has been pretty harsh with extreme heat, but we have fared far better than our friends in the Midwestern states that averaged one hundred degrees or more for a period of over forty days. I have talked with sweeps in different parts of the country and it seems like everyone in the Southern part of the U.S. has struggled due to high temperatures, where other areas within California have flourished because of below average temperatures and near to no humidity.

I encourage all members of the National Chimney Sweep Guild to invite their fellow sweeps to join our organization. There are many reasons to join and take advantage of all of what the Guild has to offer. The NCSG Convention continues to promote education through many technical and business building classes as well as camaraderie with like-minded entrepreneurs with sweeps helping sweeps. Convention locations such as the one coming up in Orlando are great for bringing the whole family.

Dennis Dobbs
At-Large Director

At-Large Director Report

Hello members

Hope all is well. Things appear to be picking up early this year. Kids are back in school and people are getting down to business. Take advantage of this and find a good balance.

Not much more to report on this time around. If you have any events or things to report, please drop me and email or give me a call. I can typically get back to you within one business day.

Start saving your money now, it was exciting to hear that the next two conventions are in two of my favorite places, Disneyworld and Branson, Mo. If you haven't visited either of these destinations, you are in for a real treat!

Thanks to all of the members supporting the industry.

If you have questions, concerns, comments, or just want to “vent” feel free to contact me:

Jeremy Biswell, At-Large director
Office: 913-236-7141
fluesbrothers@yahoo.com

Jeremy Biswell
At-Large Director

Committee and Task Force Reports

- Technical Advisory Council *submitted by D. Dobbs*
 - Discussion List Committee *submitted by M. Padgitt*
 - PSA Task Force *submitted by M. Maynard*
 - Governance Committee *to be submitted by R. Brooks*
 - Long Range Planning Report *to be submitted by D. Pilger*
-

Technical Advisory Council

From 4-18-11 to present there has been 106 phone calls through the new phone system, 126.18 total minutes.

I encourage all the TAC members to take the time to submit a technical article for the Sweeping magazine.

Dennis Dobbs
TAC Chairman

Discussion List Committee

I am pleased to report that the changes made to the discussion list rules on a trial basis have worked out so far and that the general consensus from the list members is that it was a good change. The DSL committee will continue to monitor the activities on the list and make a final report to the executive Board of Directors prior to the end of the trial period on December 31, regarding our recommendations as to whether the new rules regarding posting of events should remain in effect or not.

Following are the changes that were made:

NCSG members may post information about an upcoming event with the following stipulations:

- a. The event must be sponsored by a non-profit organization that is chimney-industry related.

- b. The event must offer CEU credits in the chimney industry.
- c. Only one post is allowed per month for a maximum of four months prior to the event, and one post after the event is allowed to thank sponsors.
- d. Only ONE person, designated by the sponsoring organization, may post information about the event.
- e. Keep in mind that the purpose is not to encourage chatter on the NCSG list, but to announce educational events that NCSG members may be interested in. Contact information must be provided as well as a suggestion to contact the poster privately rather than replying to the NCSG chat list.
- f. Non-compliance with the above rules may result in barring of posts about your organization's events in the future. All other rules of the list apply.

The DSL, which now has six members, will watch the list for non-compliance.

Respectfully Submitted
Discussion List Committee
Marge Padgitt, Chair
Janie Rickord
Steve Hoover
Sally Scott
Jeff Gitlin
Melissa Heeke

PSA Task Force

Our PSA distribution plan is only partially completed. We have decided to possibly hold a round table discussion at the convention describing how to approach your local radio stations. It will cover how to convince them to play our PSA. The complete PSA jingle and all recordings will be included on the flash drives for all convention attendees. Thursday, September 8th we are shooting our first video for you tube release. Our intention is to shoot a series of short segments to put on you tube to possibly cause it to go viral which will bring huge awareness to the NCSG. I will have more on story scripts at the board meeting.

Respectfully submitted –

Mark Maynard
PSA Committee Chair

Long Range Planning Report – see attached