

## CONSENT AGENDA

### **DIRECTORS' REPORTS:**

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Governance Task Force Report *to be submitted by R. Huta*
- By Laws Report *submitted by R. Priesing*
- Annual Planning Report *to be submitted by R. Priesing*
- Government Affairs Committee Report *submitted by D. Pilger*
- NFPA 211 Report *submitted by R. Edwards*
- NFPA 31 Report *submitted by J. Pilger*
- International Relations Report *submitted by V. Imgarten*
- Discussion List Moderator Report *submitted by J. Walker*
- Ethics Committee Report *submitted by J. Biswell*
- Site Selection Committee Report *submitted by J. Walker*

## **Region 1 Report**

**May 2009**

Business owners in attendance at NCSG 2009 Innovation in Winston-Salem, NC shared reports of a slowing business climate coming into the first two months of the year and kindly reported returning to their businesses with renewed, fresh focus after convention. New convention goers discovered the indescribable camaraderie shared at NCSG conventions and vowed to become regulars. And this year's trade show was the best yet for at least one of our supplier members!

NCSG Board of Directors' recent election results left two unseated positions; Region 7 representing Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Alberta CN, British Columbia CN, and Saskatchewan CN; and an At-Large Director position. Members are encouraged to contact the Nomination Committee Chair if interested in serving the Guild.

Congratulations to returning President, Randy Brooks (Region 8 Director); Vice-President, Bob Priesing (At-Large Director); Treasurer, Jay Walker (Region 2 Director); and Secretary, Jeremy Biswell (Region 6 Director) and congrats to the remaining members of the Board of Directors - representing Region 3, Jim Baynes; Region 4, Dennis Dobbs; Region 5, Mark Maynard; Supplier Representative, Russ Dimmitt; At-Large Directors: Diane Pilger and Stephen Kuber.

### **Membership Outlook**

NCSG membership tallies in Region 1 appear to have declined by about 3 ½ % over the past year; we have lost 10 + member companies from the state of New Jersey; another 10 companies from Maine and New Hampshire collectively. NCSG membership has grown in the state of Massachusetts.

April 2009 NCSG membership at 475 in Region 1: CT 38; DE 4; ME 21; MD 41; MA 67; NH 22; NJ 70; NY 105; PA 78; RI 12 and VT 17

April 2008 NCSG membership at 489 in Region 1: CT 39; DE 5; ME 26; MD 43; MA 56; NH 27; NJ 83; NY 105; PA 78; RI 11 and VT 15.

April 2007 NCSG membership at 488 in Region 1: CT 38; DE 4; ME 27; MD 42; MA 57; NH 27; NJ 73; NY 105; PA 85; RI 11 and VT 19.

### **Regional Updates**

Regional updates highlighted here are neither exclusive nor inclusive; members are encouraged to visit state guild websites for regional educational venues (state guild listings available on [ncsg.org](http://ncsg.org)).

Massachusetts Chimney Sweep Guild - June 20th Annual Meeting and Summer Picnic in Kingston, MA.

New Hampshire Association of Chimney Professionals - June 27th -28th Annual SweepFest (two days of educational seminars and vendor showcases with Saturday evening entertainment by our industry's best, The Sootprints) in Newmarket, NH.

New York State Chimney Sweep Guild- July 24th - 26th Annual New York Summer Workshop ( weekend filled with great seminars, great food, great entertainment, great camaraderie) in Middle Grove, NY

Pennsylvania Guild of Professional Chimney Sweeps – June 1st Basic Masonry Class in Williamsport, PA

Respectfully submitted,  
George Stroup  
Region 1 NCSG Director

## **NCSG Region 2 report**

May 2009

It was nice to have the past convention in Winston Salem, NC. This gave me an opportunity to meet some sweeps in Region 2 in person.

Educational events are active within Florida, South & North Carolina, and Virginia.

Business through out the region seems to be steady or down a bit. Most everyone I've communicated with is worried about the economy status and future gas prices.

Recently, I have had communication with a sweep possibly interested in becoming an at large Director. I have passed on that communication to our President and Nomination Chairman.

Sincerely,

Jay Walker  
NCSG Region 2 Director

## **Region 3 Report**

Region 3 attendance was much better at Winston-Salem than last year in Reno, however it was not banner. I spoke with those that attended and the story was pretty much that they couldn't really afford to be at convention but they knew they couldn't pass up the education. Next year in Indy I expect R3 to dominate the attendance because I think the trend the last several years has been to wait for convention to come to you. I think that was clearly the case this year in Winston-Salem because I saw a lot of folks from the Southeast that I hadn't seen in quite a while. This may be something NCSG will have to address in the future planning of conventions.

Here in Indiana I've personally noticed a sudden surge in real estate related business. We hadn't received a realty call in 8 months and in the past few weeks that has been most of our business. I see this as a positive indicator for most of the region but certainly not all of it, especially considering Michigan's current circumstance in areas dominated by auto manufacturing.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Baynes

## **Region 4 Report**

4-20-09

After returning from the recent convention, I as well as many other sweeps in Region 4 came back with a new excitement and with high hopes of making the best of the spring and summer seasons. But with the unusual weather changes we have had in our region as well as the economic downturn this has been more of a challenge than we had previously anticipated. Many, my business included, are having a difficult time keeping our heads above water, so to speak. With this in mind, it causes me to take a second look at my priorities. With everyday I have the goal of bettering my business, as well as my self. I have put forth more effort in becoming a better informed director and in understanding the industry as a whole.

When talking with the sweeps in the region I feel like I am a cheerleader for keeping their hopes high and helping steer them in the right direction. I am very much looking forward to some of the educational venues we have in the works, the next one being at Jay's place in FL. All of region 4 has been encouraged to attend. Hopefully this will be one of many opportunities for guilds to work together to educate and promote the NCSG.

I realize that being a director is not only being part of the inner workings of the NCSG but also to help increase the membership. In promoting the NCSG I have tried to show that we are there for the members and future members in good financial times as well as the bad, and to bring to light all the benefits of being a guild member.

Dennis Dobbs  
Region 4 Director

## **Region 5 Report**

Overall communications have revealed the economy is playing havoc with business. And I mean business is not good! Those that are doing well are pursuing leads and past proposals. Networking is critical in getting the phone to ring. I have had companies in the region say they are down almost a 100% and others who are up 200%. Most are on the downward side. The expectation of falling natural gas prices has also attributed to the slow down. Weather has been very normal with a lack of rain creating an early start to masonry repairs. With the break in the weather, all are anticipating a better second quarter.

I will be attending the NCHPBA convention in mid May and the WGCSS summer workshop in June. This will give me a very good perspective for the region coming up in my next report.

Our region has shown concern with the governance task force proposal on creating new regions. They are concerned with the huge geographic and business differentials that are going to be considered for new Region 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Maynard  
Region 5 Director

## **Region 6 report**

There were a few familiar faces at convention this year from region 6. I look forward to seeing people year after year. Hopefully we will see more new faces from the region next year when convention is closer to home.

Members have reported a slow start to this year and most are trying various approaches to stay busy.

The MCSC held an educational seminar that turned out quite a few eager learners. I proctored CSIA exams for at least 6 of them. Hopefully all did well on their test. Thanks to the MCSC for holding that event.

No updates from any state guilds to report.

Jeremy Biswell  
Region 6 director



## **Region Eight Report May 2009**

Currently, member sweeps total 2 in the state of Hawaii, 3 in Arizona, 3 in Nevada, 3 in Utah and 66 in the state of California. That's a total of 78 region eight members. That's a two member decrease since my last report in November 2008, that's represents a 25% lose of members from this region alone over the last 36 months.

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 holding its 27<sup>th</sup> annual convention and trade show in Bakersfield, CA this July. There will be four days of education available to sweeps from all over the country. Member numbers are down significantly in this regional guild as well with only 74 currant individual members listed on the web site representing only 69 companies state wide. The GSCSG dose a great job keeping local sweeps connected and providing workshops and educational opportunities to sweeps in region eight.

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

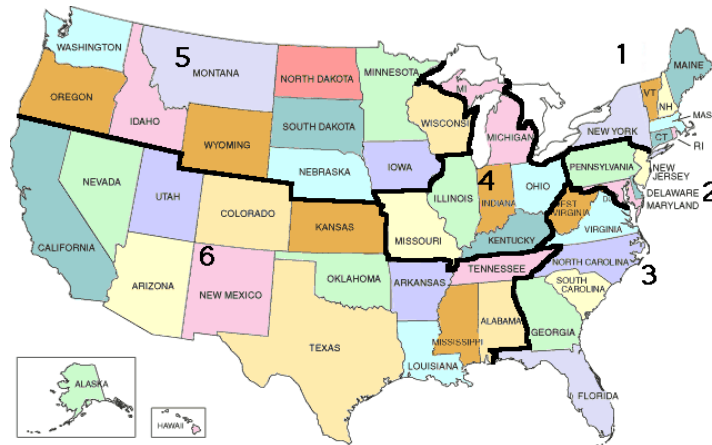
# NCSG Governance Task Force Report

## *“Making a better NCSG”*

*April 24, 2009*

The NCSG Governance Task Force recommends that the NCSG board of directors accept the structural changes laid out in our report presented to you in February via By-Laws changes spelled out in the By-Laws Committee report.

The only exception to our original recommendations is the layout of the regional map, which does not require by-laws changes only a vote of the board. The newly proposed map is below. While no layout could be perfect or please all, this lay out does address some of the concerns expressed since the original report was presented. This map is configuring to group the two western most regions more by average temperature than by time zone.



**Please see the By-Laws Committee Report for our recommended changes.**

Going forward this task for is left with a small amount of house keeping and the task of establishing, with board approval, a stand Governance Committee. The specific duties of this committee have been touched upon, but not detailed. The detailing work is still ahead of us.

***Repeated from previous report.***

*The Next Steps – Phase Two*

*... there are many support documents which need to be drafted, some already in process or completed earlier as this subject has been discussed over the last five years, which help the standing Governance Committee fulfill its role.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert M. Huta  
Governance Task Force Chairman.

## **Government Affairs Report**

Melissa Heeke and I did a seminar at the NCSG Winston -Salem convention. It went very well. I had two sweeps approach me after the seminar who were interested in being part of the Government Affairs committee.

The Government Affairs page has been moved to the public section of the NCSG website to allow easier access for all members. I have gone on the NCSG Discussion list to encourage use of the Government Affairs page. I have also been advising via the NCSG Discussion list when I feel a state has pertinent legislation that they need to be aware of. Melissa and I have discuss the possibility of including important legislation, regardless of it was just introduced, pending, passed or dead in future issues of Sweeping magazine.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Pilger  
NCSG - Government Affairs Chairman

**NFPA 211 Report**  
**NCSG Board of Directors Meeting**

4/15/09

We are in the final stages of the current change cycle and the next edition of NFPA 211 is expected to be published in April of 2010.

Royal Edwards

## NFPA 31 Report

I attended a chimney liner sizing sub-committee meeting at Brookhaven National Laboratory on March 23, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to move the lining sizing charts from the annex to the main body of the code. The current sizing charts are based on a computer program, Oil Heat Vent Analysis Program (OHVAP), have never been validated in field testing. The entire NFPA 31 committee wants the validation to be done before moving the charts to the code body of the document.

The Gas Technology Institute (GTI) TC 610 task force is doing a review for ASHRAE and Dr. Tom Butcher from Brookhaven National Laboratory and Ed Angelore from National Grid will ask GTI for a summery proposal to do the independent testing which will need funding.

The committee will inquire about funding from ASRI, NORA and NFPA.

The next NFPA 31 committee meeting will be June 29 & 30 at NFPA headquarters in Quincy MA.

John Pilger

*John*

NCSG representative to NFPA 31

## **International Relations Report**

*Vic Imgarten*

After landing the ESCHFOE meeting in 2011 the need now becomes, what we do as an association and how to fund the entire project. What to do with for sweeps as well during their week long stay for entertainment.

It has been several years since I attended a Technical meeting and I assume the basic platform has not changed. In the past meetings we discussed several items at school and went into the field to perform a variety of tasks from cleaning boiler tubes, climbing a 100 foot stack and air duct servicing. As a side note I would recommend that this year we expand who will attend the August meeting in Germany to include, Ashley, Randy, who might possibly be the President at that time and me. I have included myself in as committee chair for the first time and plan on this being successful as I know it can with proper guidance. This is the last Tech meeting before the 2011 meeting so now is our last time to get a handle on what we should be striving for. I have visited the school where the meeting is being held and to say we have an uphill battle to one up the facility is the understatement of the year.

I envision us doing something like the song title, A Day in the Life. Since we vary greatly from our European counterparts, a scenario of an average American sweeps day would be very different from what they are accustomed to. Having several foreign guests in the past I can say they all were fascinated by all we did in our typical day. This senero as well as a trip to the field in groups could be a full day.

They have excelled into energy auditing and building science and we have not followed their lead much to my personal disappointment. We can do pressure testing on our building. Work with the smart house and infrared testing on the building to current standards. Blower door testing can be performed for pressure testing. Our standards are quite different and the testing can be performed to either their or our standard for comparisons so I suggest we perform both.

Any class offerings we have such as the gas or installation classes can be modified to fit into a time slot as needed.

The Europeans have always been impressed by how we share information. A round table of our best could present how the different size companies operate. This could get us into our add on services, such as brick work, water sealing and so on, these services most are not allowed to be perform in Europe.

A tent could be erected either on the parking lot or in the field and additional demonstrations could be demonstrated under the big top. In addition a tent could serve as a mini trade show which would be open to our venders who of course we would charge to help offset costs. Manufacturers additionally could give a mini talk of products or application of their product for a fee.

Night life is another challenge. A central hotel with food and a bar is a Must even if it is not up the street. A trip to the race track and the ball game is a half day and an evening.

Assuming us won't be able to equal the history of Europe the challenge will be to find additional venues and tours to fill the free time. The option always is available in the form of a road trip. Most will probably be arriving in Chicago so we could actually start or end with that as part of the USA experience. French Lick is also a possibility as a one or two day road trip.

To make this happen it will take a small group of dedicated volunteers before and during the meeting as well as the staff and the board at the time. I believe that we should be willing to take care of the volunteer's room and board as well as food during that time. This will add to the budget and must be planned out in advance. One single day or an event should be open to all member sweeps, but the rest of the conference is ESCHFOE

No matter the direction this has the possibility to be one of the best PR events we have ever had. Handled right there should be no reason that we can not make money and become overrun with press.

## **NCSG Discussion List Moderator Report**

April 20, 2009

The NCSG Discussion List Committee has found that the recent change with allowing “Social Post” on the list has been more beneficial to its members and supports the change to allowing social post. The past 2 months of “social post” has seemed to work for the most part and helps maintain harmony within the discussion list.

Since this is a new change. There will be needed amendments to the current Terms of Use. The DLC will submit changes for this amendment.

Jay Walker  
NCSG Discussion List Committee Chairman & Moderator



## **Ethics committee Report**

Currently there is 1 NCSG ethics case on the dashboard. There have been a couple of additional claims that have come in, but they have been resolved amicably with the homeowner without having to open them up to the full committee.

It has been pretty quiet since convention. I look forward to working hard on closing the current cases we have. Debbie has done a great job sorting out and updating the cases. The committee members are doing a fine job.

Thanks to all,

Jeremy Biswell  
Ethic committee chair

## **NCSG Site Selection Committee**

May 2009

The committee is presently reviewing contracts in regards to the 2011 NCSG convention.

This particular site has contracts for both the Hotel and the Convention Center.

Sincerely,

Jay Walker  
Site Selection Chair