

PA Guild of Professional Chimney Sweeps

Meeting Minutes 1/27/24 Marzonnì's Restaurant Duncansville, PA

Zoom video/audio connection is made and joined by Lou Curley

The meeting of the PA Guild of Professional Chimney Sweeps is called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance is said.

Roll Call is taken. Present: Pres. - Bill Thorton, Vice Pres. – Nate Antrim, Sec. - John Schofield; Regional Director,#1 – Catlin Bowser, #2 – Kyle Fisher, #4 – Roy Johnston, #5 – Ray Johnston

Absent - Tres. - Will Omlar, Directors, #3 - OPEN, #6 – Jon Cross

Meeting Agenda presented and a motion to approve passed

Minutes from previous meeting read and accepted.

Quorum met

Communications & Bills – Bill T. has bills to be paid including Marzonnì's, Staples(supplies), Zoom meeting

Reimbursement to Bob Ferrari for expenses related to class seminar 'Under Pressure' folders, pens, etc. NCSG presented the first class for air pressure understanding. Final cost has not been decided by NCSG but with input from Bill T. it should be favorable to the PA Guild. Education cost to be help supported by fees. Bill T. and Randy Sabo expressed their approval of class cost being reasonable. Class was well presented. NCSG may use monies from Convention auction for seminar fee, and if not, Bill T. will request grant to pay seminar fee.

Nate A. said there will be some additional bills forthcoming from accountant services and fees related to submitting forms for on-going tax status work.

Tres. Report – Will O. is resigning position effective this date. He is leaving the industry and we wish him well. Nate A. collected all paperwork from Will O. Executive committee of Bill T., Nate A., and John S. will handle banking needs temporarily. Current Balance is \$ 32,123.78 which includes income from Eventbrite for meeting registration, annual membership dues, etc., and will be adjusted as outstanding bills are paid.

A Quik Books account will be set up to help streamline the position.

Nate A. will engage his accountant to help set up and ensure things will be filed

promptly.

Once EIN is restored as a non-profit, it should be simple and straight-forward. Non-profit status has been defunct due to inactivity related to non-filing. New form has been filed and waiting for enactment(approx. 3 months?). Currently we are using old EIN and will then be transitioned.

Ultimate goal is to have Guild finances set up on Quik Books.

Liability insurance paid(approx. \$ 735.00, inaccurate information on policy corrected.

EIN re-filing fee \$ 600.00 to the IRS, with yearly non-profit filing using simple form.

Discussed liability concerns related to Camp 93 and how to find out exposure. Marshal Peters suggested Brady Anderson(ins. agent) could help answer any questions.

PA Guild is currently on solid financial footing.

Additional treasurer discussion. Bill T. suggested putting ½ of Guild funds(~ \$15K) in MT Bank CD for 8 month term at 4.75% Nate A. made motion, 2nd by John Baker. Motion passed. Bill T. will check into moving monies and do it if possible(not sure if active EIN is needed?) within 30 days.

VP Report – Nate A. explained that he has been experiencing some personal health issues which slowed things down for him. He has been able to move Eventbrite setup which helps with accounting distribution.

He will re-visit and address getting a virtual mailbox set up.

The Charity workshop was well accomplished.

He said he feels strongly we are getting communications advanced so all directors can stay in-sync. Alphapenn email should be used for all communications so all can stay up-to-date and be able to follow-up.

Discussed how eventbrite will help re-establish a current membership list showing who has paid annual dues.

Education Committee – Mike E. was not present or available

Discussed having an event at Camp 93 on 6/24/23. Nate A. suggested calling events to be held at 'The Sandbox', or a work playground. Bill T. talked to Dean Fletcher about instructing a basic masonry workshop. Plans are not confirmed or set. Dean F. closed his business and auctioned his equipment and started working with Firetec in Prospect, PA. Bill T. will re-contact Dean by the end of the week to check his availability. Mike E. is not interested in doing a class for the Guild. There followed a general discussion about what the workshop might look like. Joe Will, Kyle F. and Brent indicated they would likely send employees. Also possibly a company from Cincinnati. John Baker volunteered to assist Dean F. at no charge. Bill T. also volunteered at no charge. Est cost to be \$ 60.00 per attendee which will include lunch.

Old Business – masonry class held at Camp 93 during Summer discussed. Bill T. thanked John B., Dean Fletcher, and Randy S. for their efforts and successful class.

John B. gave additional input about class indicating approx. 25 attended and was well received and things went well.

Bill T. thanked Roy J. for setting up last year's Charity Workshop and indicated it went well.

John B. asked about Brent Johnson not being added to the members list of the website. It was an oversight and he was added in late October. It was agreed to renew his membership for 2024 at no cost to him.

Bill T. said we need to address non-member companies using the PA Guild logo.

Website will be updated.

New Business – Region 6 will have Chimney Expo at Valley Forge in mid-August. We plan to have a booth which is donated to nonprofits. Dates will be announced when they are confirmed.

2024 Charity Workshop will be May 2-4 to be held at 7 Mts. Scout Camp. We were there previously approx. 10 years ago. Kyle F. will head up organizing what opportunities are available such as addressing the stove in a garage, along with other buildings needs. He had brief contact and will follow up and re-visit to put a list together.

Cat B. said he will contact Camp Redwing to discuss options for 2025. John S. will assist.

Nate A. asked about revisiting OSHA 10 class with Rick Anderson or D.J. Cross. Bill T. discussed update status of NCSG/OSHA lawsuit results which favored the sweep industry and he suggested we should have a class for creating supervisors to abide by the settlement which will require both NCSG members as well as non-members to have a qualified compliance person, on-site. Nate A. suggested the new class offering could be piggy-backed with the OSHA 10 class?

BREAK

Raffle collected for Sweep One for Cancer. Additional tickets will be sold at dinner reception.

Dates

May 2-4 Charity Workshop 7 Mts Scout Camp - Region 2

June 28-29 hearth extension rebuild workshop Camp 93 - Region 5

Mar 19-23 Possible get together with those attending NCSG Convention in Orlando

August dates TBA Possible get together w/ those attending ChimneyExpo - Valley Forge, PA

Jan 24-25 2025 meeting/seminar/dinner TBA - Reg 6?

Rick A. suggested possible metal firebox removal class. He also reminded us his facility is available for meetings and/or workshops for groups up to 50. Nearby hotels available. Easy travel access.

Rick A. indicated he would take the treasurer position once the non-profit issue is resolved.

Barb Peters offered to assist entering data into Quik Books, if needed.

Health & Welfare – Roy J. had a card for everyone to sign to give to PA Guild co-founder and Life Member John Chuha who is in poor health.

Dinner with gift exchange scheduled for 6pm.

Meeting adjourned

Footnote - monies collected from the raffle(approx. \$ 1,000.00) was given to Kyle F. and his wife Emilee who has been undergoing cancer treatments.