

PA Guild of Professional Chimney Sweeps

Meeting Minutes 4/29/2021 GSA Camp Conshatawba, Summerhill, PA 15958

The meeting of the PA Guild of Professional Chimney Sweeps, held at GSA Camp Conshatawba is called to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance is said.

Roll Call is taken. Present: Pres. - Bill Thorton, Vice Pres. - Glenn Holler, Sec. - John Schofield; Regional Directors. #1 – Thomas Smail, #2 – Kyle Fisher, #3 - Kevin McArdle, #5 – Ray Johnston, #6 – Mike Ellis

Absent - Tres. – Will Omlor,, Directors #4 – Roy Johnston

Minutes from previous meeting read and accepted.

Communications & Bills – Several bills related to Charity Workshop expenses were submitted for payment.

Tres. Report – Will O. not present, not much account activity. Checking account balance approx. \$ 25,000.00+. Bill T. said Will O. is working on updating tax status. Bill T. said Will O. closed his business and is working with Peter Beardsley and Chimney Cricket.

Pres. Report – Bill T. thanked everyone attending the workshop and meeting. He stated it is exciting to get together after a year+ Covid-19 pandemic pause. Bill T. and Mike E. had visited the camp to get an outline of work to be done. Also happy to have many supplier reps attend or send donations. Bill welcomed Catlin Bowser back after a couple years absence. Bill thanked Copperfield Chimney for their generous \$2000.00 donation for future use.

VP Report – Glenn H. thanked everyone for attending, happy to get together with so many. Glenn H. had hats made with Pa Guild of Professional Chimney Sweeps stitched on which will be sold for \$15 each to be used for future Pa Guild offerings. Glenn H. also had long sleeve t-shirts made for Charity Workshop attendees.

Old Business – Bill T. said we need to re-think our January training meeting due to low attendance resulting in losing money. Likely contributing reason is direct competition from other events or classes at or near the same time. Discussed possible switch to August meeting, and suggested maybe class at Hawk Mt. since it offered as a host site for free. Previously held ropes class presented by Jim Brewer was very well attended. Bryan Blasband suggested hosting another ropes class. Bill T. said he will contact Jim B. to discuss possibility and possible dates.

Committee Report

Education – No report due to Covid-19 pause. Next meeting possibly Sat June 26th at Camp 93 during work to finish outdoor fireplace/hearth.

New Business – Bill T. will try to set a ropes class for Hawk Mt presented by Jim B. for mid-late August. Ray J. suggested we need to try and secure future Charity Workshop sites sooner than later. Ray J. indicated he will be checking on a couple locations. Mike E. said he would like to see one held in southeast PA. Glenn H. questioned if the financial status of the BSA due to lawsuits and general change in scouting support would impact having the camps available. Several councils have closed and properties sold in the past year or more.

John S. spoke to previous Charity Workshop('17?) attendee and recent first-time Dad from New Mexico, Austin Retrum who wanted to be remembered to the Guild. He said he is utilizing things learned at the workshop in his business.

Marshall Peters gave a short presentation about his upcoming CCP Expo in eastern PA. His company has been acquired by the NCSG and said to stay tuned for upcoming announcements about the direction of the NCSG since its split from the CSIA arrangement. Some classes to be held at the Expo are:

Saver Systems offering a class featuring their products

Bill Ryan & Mike Segerstrom presenting a class on chase covers. Class was suggested to the NCSG by Kyle F. previously.

Marshal P. asked for future class suggestions.

Randy S. asked about CCP certifications. Marshal P. stated there are developments coming, also related to the NCSG Sweep School. He suggested one option may be to offer more things by region. Marshal P. said the NCSG has a board meeting on May 9th and there will be a commitment for intense focus on its members and retooling the NCSG after the split with the CSIA, with more cost friendly offerings. Stuart K from SaverSystems re-iterated the NCSG 're-birth' is a good thing and the NCSG will continue to support all certifications to all sweeps. He feels the NCSG will continue to grow and strengthen.

Marshal P. has worked with hiring a fund raiser in Texas towards developing a dryer-vent certification using grant monies.

Bill T. asked for volunteers to man a PA Guild booth at the CCP Expo

Glenn H. asked about 2021 dues. It was agreed by verbal notation that existing members will receive current one-year membership at no charge. It was announced in the President's Letter sent out at the beginning of the year. Membership is per company, limited to one vote per company without regard to how many company members.

Bill T. said the By-laws still need to be updated. To include things like Internet usage and services, etc.

Bill T. discussed the results of sending out board nomination requests resulted in only one response, therefore he used executive privilege to re-instate current board members who were interested. All accepted. Randy Sabo resigned as director of Region #5. Bill T. asked Ray J. to fill vacant position and he accepted. Thanked Randy for his service to the Guild and to Ray for coming out of 'retirement' to help out.

Health & Welfare – Tom S. celebrated his 65th birthday during the workshop. It was noted that Roy J attended founding member John Chuha's wife's funeral earlier this year. John S. mother also passed away during last year.

Four hats were sold at \$15 each

Meeting adjourned