Delegate Assembly & National

Delegate Assembly is the “Congress of Social Work” and meets every three years to decide professional and public policies, program priorities and amendments and the Code of Ethics.

The National Board of Directors amends the Bylaws with the same exceptions. Only the Delegate Assembly can make amendments to the Bylaws affecting the Delegate Assembly structure and the dues allocation between Chapters and National.

One of the definitive products from Delegate Assembly is “Social Work Speaks,” a compendium of over 60 professional and public policy statements on a variety of topics of concern to social work. This statements guide the profession’s position on legislation and practice.

Each chapter elects delegates based on the number of chapter members and the delegate is led by the Chapter President. Delegate Assembly terms are 3 years.

In 2008, the Delegate Assembly went “virtual” for the first time in its history. The entire Assembly is conducted virtually using a mixed media platform (webinar, video).

Prior to the Delegate Assembly meeting (August in year two of the delegates’ 3 year term), delegates vote on priorities selected by the National Board of Directors to help guide the National and chapter programs for the next 3-5 years.

Delegates help draft/review professional and public policy statements, serve on professional and public policy hearing panels (virtually annually).

The virtual Delegate Assembly is conducted in one day via computer. Delegates may participate at home, work or in a specially arranged regional meetings.

After the Delegate Assembly, delegates may attend Chapter, regional and unit meetings to discuss the work and outcomes of the Delegate Assembly.

The next Delegate Assembly is 2012 and could bring additional changes to the Delegate Assembly process.

Delegate Assembly & National

Delegate Assembly is a national organization with a national staff and governance. State chapters are state level organizational units of the national organization.

The National Board of Directors is composed of officers elected nationally and regional representatives elected locally. California has its own regional representative (Region XIII).

The National Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification (NCNLI) nominates candidates for national office and California has its own NCNLI representative.

NASW is headquartered in Washington, DC, with nearly 100 national staff. It has 56 chapters nationally and around the world.

NASW was established in 1955

Leadership Guide

NASW California Chapter

GOVERNANCE SPECIAL

THE NINE

Regions/Units conduct NASW programming including regular meetings, CE workshops, March Social Work month activities. Regular meetings range from monthly to quarterly and can be in person or by teleconference. These meetings are usually for planning the year’s activities including budgeting, CE workshops allow members to gain CEUs at low cost and locally. The Chapter has a regional guide on planning these events and providing approved CEUs.

March Social Work activities are celebratory and can involve received resolutions from local elected officials, special lunches and dinners. Regional and unit Social Worker of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and Public Citizen of the Year awards are presented at these events.

Regions/Units support the Chapter’s Annual Legislative Lobby Days by providing funds to students and universities in their region.

Regions/Units can support local causes, universities and agencies/charities.
Serving on the Board of Directors

The California Chapter is governed by an elected Board of Directors. The Board has responsibility overseeing for Chapter’s mission and purpose. This includes policy, budget and selecting the Executive Director.

Regional Directors are members of the Board of Directors and have oversight responsibility for association activities in their geographic area including program and fiscal oversight, communications and local unit advising.

Regional directors have their own “caucus” and elect a chair annually.

Regional directors assign one of their members to key Board committees including Executive, Program and Finance.

In addition to the 9 regional directors, other Board members include the President, First Vice President, Vice President for Finance, Secretary, Member At Large, Member At Large for Legislative and Political Affairs, Member At Large for Professional Development and 2 student directors (BSW and MSW, North and South).

The sole legal governing authority for NASW is the National Board of Directors. The California Chapter has a regional representative on the National Board and a representative on the National Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification.

Budgeting Regional Activities

Regions have their own annual budget which is used to fund and promote regional and unit activities. The Chapter allocates $5 a member to regions and regions in turn may allocate $1 a member to units. Regions and units may generate their own funds and carry over those funds from year to year. The Chapter allocation is subject to recovery if a region doesn’t spend it in a year.

The Chapter provides regions/units with a draft budget at the beginning of the fiscal year. The draft budget may be developed based on the previous years’ activities. Regions/units then revise their budgets based on which activities, and events it wishes to conduct or sponsor. Some regions set aside funds for a student intern to help with regional administration. Regions may contribute to local conferences and organizations and may do so if funds are available.

Funds are requested through an electronic check request system. Requests requires two regional/unit approvals. Checks are mailed in weekly batches or upon request.

The Chapter Conference Director can help regions/units plan activities, review contracts. The Membership Director can help with publicity and marketing.

(Regional Financing changes are currently under discussion)*

Nominations & Elections

Regional Directors are elected representatives of designated geographic areas established by the Chapter Board of Directors. The Chapter Board of Directors is composed of the Chapter President, elected in years other than the Regional Director.

Regional and Assistant Director terms are 3 years and begin on July 1 of each year.

The Chapter Committee on Nominations & Leadership Identification (CNLI) nominates candidates for the statewide and regional positions.

Nominations are accepted from fall to January, the election is held via e-ballot in April in conjunction with National NASW elections. Those elected attend the annual June Chapter Leadership Retreat. Board officers serve one term in their position and a maximum of two consecutive terms in 2 different positions. Regional officers may serve two consecutive terms in the same office.

Unit officers are elected locally at a local unit meeting.

Committees & Councils

The Chapter has the following Committees:

- Awards, CAPLACE, Diversity, Ethics, Executive, Finance, Legislative, Membership, Professional Development, and Program.
- Regional Directors can join any committee but have standing assignments on the Executive, Finance, and Program. These assignments are made at the June meeting.
- Names should be forwarded to the Chapter President who appoints committee members.
- Councils are special interest entities of the Chapter. Formation requires a petition from at least 35 members from more than one region. Councils elect their own officers and receive a grant of $1,000 a year from the Chapter.

Board of Directors

President

President Elect

Vice President

Secretary

VP for Finance

Position Representative

MEM At Large Legislative Member at Large Prof. Dev.

MEM At Large Membership Regional Directors (5)

STUDENT DIRECTORS (2)

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CA REPRESENTATIVE

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP

CA REPRESENTATIVE

TELECONFERENCE NUMBER

The Chapter provides an 800 teleconference number and teleconferences can be scheduled through membership@naswca.org or 800 538-6799 x 118

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

LinkedIn

Contact louis@naswca.org for customized region and unit email.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Membership @naswca.org for Chapter social media.

Many regions and units have their own websites, Facebook pages, email listservs, etc.

CUSTOM EMAIL

Facilitating Communications

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Chapter can place regional/unit events on its website “Calendar of Events” for reservations and registration. The Chapter can take credit card payments on this site for registration fees for region/unit events.

DIRECT MAIL

Addresses and mail services.

GOVERNANCE SPECIAL

SAMPLE REGION UNIT BUDGET

INCOME

Chapter allocation $4,000

Fees (internet, CEU events, sales of books and refunds) $2,500

Total Income $6,500

EXPENSES

Food, travel, phone, office supplies, purchases, etc. $5,000

Lobby Days stipends to students $1,000

Donations to conferences, outside organizations $500

$6,500

REGION UNIT CALENDAR

Late Summer: Budget and program planning for the year. Input on chapter committee assignments.

Fall/Winter: Nominations for the following year elections. Budget input for the next fiscal year.

Spring: Social Work month activities such as as Awards Dinner or Luncheon. Lobby Days participation.

Late Spring: Planning for sending regional and unit leaders to the annual June Chapter Leadership Retreat.

Fall Student Orientations

Regions/units provide speakers on NASW and membership, funding for pizza parties and guest lecturers.

Lobby Days

Regions/units help student organizations and faculty plan for attending Lobby Days including fundraising, encouraging guest speakers, providing silent auction items to raise funds for NASW’s political action committee CALPACE.

Recognizing Faculty and Students:

Regions/units can join with the school in honoring faculty (achievements, retirement, etc.) and students (service, research awards, etc.).

Commencement Graduation:

Regions/units support these activities by providing speakers, and funding for graduation festivities. The Chapter can provide honorary “out of ethics” certificates pledging graduate to professional ethical practice.

Post Graduation:

Keeping new graduates in the fold through region/unit activities helps them with job and career opportunities, mentors and potential supervisors and/or benefits.

Regional Directors:

Regional Directors are elected representatives of designated geographic areas established by the Board of Directors. Regional Directors are members of the state Chapter Board of Directors.

Assistant Regional Directors:

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- Councils include: Asian Pacific, Bay Area Social Workers in Healthcare, Disabilities, Filipino American, Native American, Red Cross, Rehab & Inclusion, Social Action, Technology and Women’s.