



National Association of Social Workers

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

LEADERSHIP GUIDE

Amended June 2020

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THE NINE:

REGIONS The state is divided into nine regions for governance, program and administrative purposes. In some regions, regional leadership organize and conduct NASW activities for the whole region. In other regions, such as larger geographic regions, “local units” conduct NASW activities.

UNITS Local units are members who are locally elected to conduct NASW activities on a city, county and/or metropolitan area basis. Units become active and inactive depending on the interests of local members.

REGION/UNIT ACTIVITIES

Regions/Units conduct NASW programming including regular meetings, networking events, 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. Regions, local units, and councils can plan CEU events. A CEU application form can be found [here](#).

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, Public Citizen of the Year, and Organization of the Year awards are sometimes presented at these events. Nomination submission form can be found [here](#).

Regions/units can also support the Chapter’s Annual Legislative Lobby Days by providing funds to students and universities in their region and can support local causes, universities and agencies/charities.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- There are 9 regions named A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I
- The regions are typically defined by zip code and can be defined by counties.
- However, the Los Angeles area is divided into three regions.
- Region D is the largest geographically ranging from the Oregon border to Bakersfield and has the most members
- CA Delegation to Delegate Assembly is the largest at 15 delegates
- NASW California is the largest state chapter with nearly 9,000 members
- NASW was established in 1955

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Serving on the Board of Directors:

- The California Chapter is governed by an elected Board of Directors. The Board has the responsibility of overseeing the Chapter's mission and purpose. This includes policy and budget. Each region's members elect a regional director to serve on the Chapter Board of Directors. 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 advisement.
- Regional Directors have their own "caucus" within the Board of Directors 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 nine regional directors, other Board members include the President, First Vice President, Vice President for Finance, Secretary, Member-At-Large Membership, Member-At-Large for Legislative and Political Affairs, Member-At-Large for Professional Development and two 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.

Schools of Social Work:

- **Fall Student Orientations:** NASW-CA provides speakers on NASW and membership
- **Lobby Days:** Regions/units help student organizations and faculty plan for attending Lobby Days including fundraising, arranging 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.
- **Post-Graduation:** Students receive a discounted membership rate (\$60 a year) as a student and a graduated discounted rate upon graduation (\$116 years one and two; \$179 year three). Keeping new graduates in NASW provides them with access to region/unit activities, helps them with job and career opportunities, mentors and potential supervisors for licensing.



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Facilitating Communications

NASW-CA NEWS

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. Deadline is the first and third week of each month, a week prior to each target issue. To submit an article email naswnews@naswca.org

An email version is sent to all members twice a month, the deadline to submit a classified advertisement is the 1st and 3rd Friday for 2nd and 4th Wednesday issues of the month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Click here for list of upcoming events:
<https://www.naswca.org/events/>

DIRECT MAIL

For Addresses and mail services please email membership@naswca.org for communication questions.

ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR:

- June – Annual Leadership Retreat, Board meeting
- October/November – Annual State Conference and Board Meeting
- January – Virtual Board Meeting
- March/April – Annual Legislative Lobby Days and Board meeting in Sacramento.



VIRTUAL MEETINGS

If you need to schedule a virtual meeting please contact us at membership@naswca.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES:

CA CHAPTER:

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/naswca

TWITTER: twitter.com/naswca
twitter.com/naswca_advocacy

INSTAGRAM: instagram.com/nasw_california

NATIONAL:

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/naswsocialworkers

TWITTER:

NASW: twitter.com/nasw

NASW Foundation:

<https://twitter.com/naswfoundation>

INSTAGRAM:

instagram.com/naswsocialworkers

SOCIAL MEDIA – ADD’L INFO:

Email membership@naswca.org for Chapter social media. Many regions and units have their own websites, Facebook pages, Instagram profiles, email listservs, etc.

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Regional Activities

- 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 require two regional/unit approvals.
- The Chapter Director of Events can help regions/units plan activities and review contracts.
- The Chapter Director of Membership can help regions/units plan activities - including publicity and marketing.

Nominations & Elections

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. Those elected attend the annual June leadership retreat.

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 are elected in years other than the Regional Director. Unit Officers represent counties or metropolitan areas and can include a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer. Regional and Assistant Director terms are 3 years and begin on July 1 of each year.

Board members service three-year terms for a maximum of six years except for student directors who serve one-year terms. Unit officers are elected locally by local unit membership usually at a unit meeting. All NASW elected positions can be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Committees & Councils

The Chapter has the following Committees:

Awards, CALPACE, Diversity, Ethics, Executive, Finance, Legislative, Membership, Professional Development, and Program.

Regional Directors can join any committee but have standing assignments on 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 funding from the Chapter.

Chapter councils include: Asian Pacific, Bay Area Social Workers in Healthcare, Disabilities, Pilipino American, Native American, Red Cross, Rehabilitation & Inclusion, Social Action Social Justice, Technology, Occupational, and Women's.



CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



HELP STARTS HERE

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Tue, 7am-11am, Thu, 10am-1pm

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800-638-8799, x 311

Legal Counsel
800-638-8799, x 282

Practice
800-638-8799, x265 NASW Foundation
800-638-8799, x 211 Communications
800-638-8799, 468

SPEAKERS BUREAU

California Chapter staff members and volunteer leaders are available to do presentations throughout the state. While the chapter doesn't charge for this service, assistance with travel expenses is very helpful.

Request a speaker on our website [HERE](#).

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 some 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 statement’s guide the profession’s position on legislation and practice. Each state’s chapter elects delegates based on the number of chapter members and the delegation is led by the Chapter President. Delegate Assembly terms are 3 years.

The Delegate Assembly process of editing and revising policy statements is conducted online through panels every year with about one third of the statements being reviewed each year. Delegates are asked to volunteer to serve on policy statement panels and work online with National staff and consultants. Delegates are asked to vote online to ratify the revised policy statements. Every 3 years (e.g. 2020, 2023, 2026) a National Delegate Assembly meeting is convened virtually to approve policy statements, amendments to the Code of Ethics, amendments to the National Bylaws and dues rate policy changes.

The next Delegate Assembly is in 2020 and could bring additional changes to the Delegate Assembly process. For more information, [click here](#).

NASW

National office services include professional liability insurance, professional development and education, practice standards, federal advocacy, ethics consultation, public image management and communications.

Join/Renew - www.socialworkers.org/nasw/join

Membership benefits - www.socialworkers.org/Membership/Membership-Benefits

Code of Ethics - www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics

Insurance - www.naswassurance.org

Practice Standards - www.socialworkers.org/Practice/Practice-Standards-Guidelines

NASW Press – www.naswpress.org