



# California State Chapter

## NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY WORKERS ASSOCIATION

### PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATED THROUGH HUMAN SERVICES

#### History

- The California State Chapter of NEW: PATHS was established in Fresno on June 10, 1989 by twenty-one National members from nine California counties.
- The Chapter was founded on the belief that eligibility professionals in the State of California needed an association through which they could express their positions on policy issues and promote professionalism in their field.
- The Chapter was founded for the improvement of knowledge, skills, and overall professionalism of the Eligibility Professional.
- The Chapter was chartered in August 1989 by the National Association in St. Louis, Missouri.

#### Mission Statement

*The mission of the CA State Chapter of NEW: PATHS is to foster and promote integrity and professionalism in the field of human services*

#### Purpose

- To focus on California specific concerns for Eligibility Professionals
- To promote professional identity and integrity
- To set, maintain and exemplify professional standards and ethics
- To provide a professional networking arena for Eligibility Professionals
- To encourage and sponsor professional education
- To encourage and support local Chapters in California
- To support the National Association.

#### Chapter Governance

- The Chapter is incorporated in the State of California.
- The Chapter is a non-Profit 501(c)(6) Membership Association.
- The Chapter operates under published by-laws and a manual of policies and procedures.
- The Board of Directors of the California State Chapter is the governing body. The Board is composed of a maximum of twenty elected members, plus the immediate past president. Members of the Board are elected to serve by a yearly ballot of the general membership of the State Chapter. The Board elects the officers of the Board. The Board of Directors serves as volunteers at the pleasure of the general membership.

#### ***The Chapter is NOT:***

- *A Labor Union nor affiliated with any Labor Union.*
- *Involved in labor contract negotiations*
- *A participant in personnel disputes*



## Major Chapter Accomplishments

**October 1989:** Established a Chapter Newsletter.

**November 1989:** Provided Testimony at the California State Assembly Human Services Committee Hearing on EW caseload.

**January 1990:** Established an annual California Statewide Training Conference.

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1990 – Sacramento     | 2001 – San Diego     |
| 1991 – Fresno         | 2002 – San Francisco |
| 1992 – San Diego      | 2003 – Palm Springs  |
| 1993 – Sacramento     | 2004 – Stockton      |
| 1994 – Anaheim        | 2005 – Long Beach    |
| 1995 – San Francisco  | 2006 – Concord       |
| 1996 – San Bernardino | 2007 – Bakersfield   |
| 1997 – Modesto        | 2008 – Sacramento    |
| 1998 – Anaheim        | 2009 – San Diego     |
| 1999 – Bakersfield    | 2010 – Sonoma        |
| 2000 – Sacramento     | 2011 – Riverside     |

**Coming in: 2012 – Monterey**

**January 1990:** Established the practice of requesting that the Governor issue an annual Proclamation in observance of Eligibility Professionals' week in the State of California.

**August 1990:** Hosted the National NEW Conference in Los Angeles.

**January 1993:** Presented results of a Survey on Professional Concerns from 1700 Eligibility Professionals representing 32 counties to State Assemblyman Tom Umberg.

**January 1993:** Made an initial visit to the Sacramento Offices of the Chairs of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the Assembly Human Services Committee.

**July 1994:** Passed a resolution supporting prompt procurement and implementation of a statewide automated public assistance eligibility determination system for California.

**May 1995:** Co-sponsored the Welfare Reform Public Policy Conference in Sacramento in conjunction with the UC Davis Extension, Center for Human Services Training and Development.

**September 1995:** Attended a hearing on the Impact of Federal Welfare Block Grants on Children and Families in California in Los Angeles County.

**October 1995:** Published "A Code of Ethics for Eligibility Professionals in California." As a professional and educational organization, the Chapter assumed the role of establishing standards of ethical conduct for Eligibility Professionals in California. The code is intended as a guide for making professional ethical decisions and defining professional ethical behavior.

**1994 – 1997:** Monitored California legislation on Welfare Reform; updated members via the State Chapter newsletter, and reported status to the National NEW Legislative Committee.

**February 1997:** Established a Chapter Home Page on the internet. <http://calnew.com>

**July 1998:** Established a Mission Statement – Page one of this document.

**January 1999:** Celebrated the Chapter's Tenth Anniversary.

**November 2000:** A Professional Training Guide on *How to Start a N.E.W. Chapter* was developed and made available.

**December 2000:** Expanded the Newsletter to four issues a year. The new December issue is to focus completely on the upcoming January Conference.

**January 2003:** Established the practice of holding a General Session Forum with officials from Washington D.C. at State Conferences.

**April 2003:** Offered our first Professional Development Workshop to Members.

**January 2004:** Began a partnership with FNS – Region 9 on Nutrition in the United States.

**January 2005:** Held the Conference for the first time ever on the historic Queen Mary. The history of the ship was tied in with the history of Eligibility.

**January 2009:** Celebrated the Chapter's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in San Diego.

**August 2009:** Held a one day Eligibility Worker Symposium sponsored by the Center for Human Services at the University of California, Davis.

**January 2010:** Presented the first "Professional of the Year" Award.

**July 2010:** Held a second one day Eligibility Worker Symposium sponsored by the Center for Human Services at UC Davis.

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## Chapter Membership

Membership in NEW: PATHS is inclusive of all individuals employed in the field of eligibility determination and related fields, who are members in good standing of the National Eligibility Workers Association residing in the State of California.

This has been broadened to include Social/Human Services related employment/supportive services, child support enforcement, or any case management services.

**Website** <http://calnew.com>