

P-Essay

What is a PSA Chapter?

The PSA Chapters are local chartered branches of the Society. A Chapter's principle purpose is to further promote the aims, functions, and objectives of the Society and to encourage membership in the Photographic Society of America (PSA). They are to serve the photographic interests of their members. Chapters operate in geographic areas within the United States. There are currently no Chapters outside the United States because of the legal difficulties of having branches of PSA outside of the US. Within each Chapter's authorized geographic area it will encourage membership in the Society and cooperate with the photographic clubs, councils and other organizations in that area. *Members of a Chapter must be members of PSA.* In most cases, new members of PSA are automatically members of the Chapter in their geographic area because most of the Chapters waive the annual dues for first year PSA members. New PSA members can check with other PSA members in their area or the Region Director to find out about the Chapter in their area. There are currently eleven active Chapters that range from very active and successful to struggling to exist, but most are active and successful. Each Chapter has a board of officers consisting of a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, a treasure, or a secretary/treasure for terms of two years. There are also committee chairmen for the many different activities the individual Chapters are involved in. Since Chapters are a branch of the Society, they report to the PSA Board of Directors through the Chapters, Clubs, and Councils Vice President.

The current active Chapters are: Cascade Chapter (all of Oregon and part of Washington state), Central Florida Chapter, Chicago Chapter, Everglades Chapter (Southern Florida), Gem State Chapter (Idaho except the northern part), Gold Rush Chapter (parts of California and Nevada), Inland Empire Chapter (Eastern Washington State and the northern part of Idaho), Mid Atlantic Chapter, Southern California Chapter, and the Yerba Buena Chapter (parts of California). These Chapters range in size from 20 or so members up to hundreds of members. For more detailed information about each Chapter visit the PSA Web site and check under the *Membership tab* for *PSA Chapters*. There can be found more detailed information about the geographic area served by each Chapter and information about the officers, and links to some of their Web sites, and newsletters. Here is a link to that web page

on the PSA Web site, <http://www.psa-photo.org/membershipPageDisplay.asp?DivID=8&menuID=2&pageID=227>.

Chapters will generally have four meetings per year. The meetings will consist of business needs and planning for all sorts of activities. Other meetings or gatherings are of a varied nature. The **Inland Empire Chapter** has an annual Spring Seminar multi-day conference that includes educational programs, travel logs, and field trips. This year it is a two-day seminar by a noted photographer and one day of all day field trips, three different ones to choose from. See their Web site for more details. This is always a fun-filled event. The **Cascade Chapter** sponsors and conducts a small print international exhibition each year. Other chapters have multi-day field trips, day-long conferences with program presentations, forums, and workshops with titles like CS3 vs. CS4, HDR (High Dynamic Range), Creating Digital Slide Shows, and many other current hot topics. The **Chicago Chapter** has even announced that they have booked George Lepp as a speaker for their November 2010 meeting. Many of the Chapters are involved in the *PSA Youth Showcase*, an activity sponsored by the Chapters and Chapters Committee showcasing youth photography. Another activity that creates excitement and competition among the Chapters is the annual *Chapters Showcase*, a photography contest just for the Chapters. A Chapters Showcase digital slide show is created each year of this competition by the Electronic Image Division for all of PSA to enjoy. Another activity that the Chapters look forward to is what was the Headquarters Print Display, which has, just this year, been changed to the PSA Chapters Display. This new digital display is on the PSA Web site under the *Resources Tab, Chapter Images*. This display consists of featured images from members of the Chapters. There are four displays each year. A new one, featuring a Chapter, is exchanged every three months. Take a look at the great images, <http://www.psa-photo.org/resourcePageDisplay.asp?DivID=8&menuID=6&pageID=650>.

For any further information or inquiries about chapters contact **Jim Mahoney, APSA, PPSA**, <jimpmahoney@hotmail.com> Chapters Committee Chairman or **Sharp Todd, APSA, PPSA**, stoddone@aol.com Vice President of Chapters, Clubs, and Councils. ■



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