



PRESS RELEASE

YoungPFDJ Western Region (U.S.A.) Organizes and Hosts Very Successful Training of Trainers Retreat

Running Springs, CA February 25, 2011 - - The retreat Planning Committee reported the success of their 3rd annual Western Region Retreat, held February 18th-21st. Members from the following chapters participated in full force: Las Vegas, Oakland, Orange County/Los Angeles (OCLA), San Bernardino, San Diego, San Jose, Santa Rosa and Seattle.

The focus of this year's retreat was on the consolidation of the organization and the training of trainers (or TOT), which in fact will be the focus for all other retreats this year. The goal of TOT is for every member to be trained and prepared to lead. In an effort to ensure that all chapters nationally reflect one another and are united, two vital documents were reviewed: the YPF DJ NA Handbook and the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan (which has been revised on an as needed basis).

The program also covered an array of discussions and presentations, ranging from the History & Values of Hisbawi Ginbar, Effective Leadership, The Art of Networking, *Eritrea's Struggle to Survive* discussion, How to Strengthen Your YPF DJ Chapter Financially, 2011 Strategic Lobbying Plan, Conflict Resolution, as well as a discussion on the purposes and effects of media bias/propaganda within the context of Eritrea's current image. It is also important to mention that the program was balanced with activities and free time, where many members enjoyed the outdoor scenery and snow!

San Diego YPF DJ had this to say: "Our mission as YPF DJ is to create a conscious Eritrean Diaspora youth and to strengthen our communities in general. In order to carry out these goals, one must first be trained to do so. The Western Region Retreat was designed for this specific purpose. As part of the benefit of attending, members witnessed, learned and became part of the sisterhood and brotherhood of *btsai'inet* (a Hisbawi Ginbar value)."

For more information on YPF DJ, please visit [Our Main Webpage](#).

