



## Volunteers make the difference

*72 members from 40 jurisdictions have been appointed in 2014*

From ASWB's beginnings, volunteers have been the driving force of the association. In 1979, a group of 23 representatives from 12 states voluntarily met to figure out how to form a social work organization dedicated to public protection that would provide a national exam and a forum for regulators. Over the last 35 years, volunteers have been a vital force in ensuring the association continues to fulfill its vision and mission. The association's strategic objectives could not be met without the support and expertise of all the members who over the years have given of their time. This year is no exception.

ASWB President Dorinda N. Noble sent appointment letters to all volunteers following Board of Director approval of the proposed committee list. To date, 72 members from 40 jurisdictions are serving. Nine of them for the first time. (The volunteers of the 2013 Program and Education Committee will complete their service at the conclusion of the 2014 Spring Education Meeting. A new committee will then be appointed following the meeting.)

The work of ASWB's committees and task forces has gotten under way with its usual flurry. Although the weather has been fickle, the committees with the earliest meetings of the year have met despite challenges of snow in March—lots of snow in some cases. The first meetings of the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) Committee and the Examination Committee have taken place. The most recent addition to ASWB's task forces, the Governance Task Force, also met in March. Better—more springlike—weather was in store for the Finance Committee, which met in Culpeper at ASWB's offices in late April.

Members of the Nominating Committee are scheduled to have their first meeting during the Spring Education Meeting in May. They are responsible for filling a slate of



*Finance Committee members enjoyed the spring weather when they met at ASWB's offices in Culpeper, VA, in April: Carole Bryant (SK), ASWB treasurer and committee chair; Mel Harrington (SD); Patricia Heard (NC), ASWB past president and board liaison; and Dan Wheelan (RI). Present by phone, but not shown: Kim Frakes (NV).*

candidates for election to the Board of Directors and to their committee. One of their key charges will gain even more emphasis this year relative to the objectives of the Strategic Plan: Identifying and encouraging potential new leaders among association membership.

Other committees will meet this summer, in July. Those include the Bylaws and Regulations Committee and the Regulation and Standards (RAS) Committee. RAS is entering its second year of a three-year comprehensive review of the Model Social Work Practice Act, or model law. Included in this year's charge is for the committee to consider changes to the model law based on findings of the supervision analysis conducted in recent years by a joint task force of ASWB and National Association of Social Work (NASW) members.

The ACE Committee will hold its second in-person meeting, also in July. In addition to two in-person meetings, the ACE Committee maintains a full schedule year-round to consider applications of continuing education providers for the ACE program. Its work continues via phone conferences at the rate of about every six to eight weeks.

Another committee with a full schedule is the Examination

Committee. The second of four weekend meetings will take place in Washington, D.C., in June. During these meetings, the committee reviews items for use as non-scored pretest questions on the licensing exams. A separate group of former members of the Exam Committee often meets concurrently to perform form reviews of the 170-item tests, or forms. All three committees will meet this year: Bachelors, Masters, and Clinical.

The International Technology Task Force, which got under way in 2013, will continue its work to develop standards for electronic practice and all things Web and Internet based. Chaired by Frederic Reamer, the task force membership includes social workers from Ireland, New Zealand, and Wales, and representatives from ASWB, NASW, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the Canadian Association of Social Workers, and the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators. The anticipated publication date for the standards is 2015, and the findings will be incorporated into the model law during the third and final year of the RAS Committee's comprehensive review of this cornerstone resource.

The Foundation Editorial Review Committee will meet in August

to review applications for grants from ASWB's nonprofit research arm, the American Foundation for Research and Consumer Education in Social Work Regulation (the "Foundation"). The Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization, supports efforts to explore the ways in which professional social work regulation affects the profession and the public it serves. The current cycle of grants is due to close May 1.

Service on ASWB's committees is vital to members gaining greater leadership opportunities within the organization. By serving, volunteers gain insight into how ASWB operates and gain experience in leadership roles. As part of ASWB's Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors has committed to focusing its energies toward the development of a leadership trajectory for members, not only to serve on ASWB's Board but to serve as regulatory leaders in their own jurisdictions.

Toward that goal, the Board has identified the need for a Regulatory Education and Leadership Committee that will help guide these efforts. A leadership academy, which in President Dorinda N. Noble's words "will help shape jurisdictional, national, and international regulatory leaders," is also envisioned.