



Professional/Regulator

2014 Spring Education Meeting focuses on the transition from passionate professional to dispassionate regulator

The 2014 Spring Education Meeting's theme, "Gateway to Effective Regulation," comes from St. Louis' most famous landmark, the Gateway Arch. The meeting will focus on the gateway that marks the transition from social work professional to social work regulator, with an emphasis on understanding the disciplinary process, from complaint through action.

The meeting will open with a session titled "The Passion of the Profession Meets the Paradigm of Regulation," held Thursday afternoon at 5 p.m. This panel discussion will explore the positives and negatives of separating the role of passionate social worker and dispassionate regulator.

ASWB will host a welcome reception and dinner with live jazz music on Thursday evening. There will be a celebration for ASWB's 35th anniversary year as part of the festivities. Attendees are welcome to dress up or come comfortable for an evening of good food and connecting/reconnecting with social work colleagues.

Friday

ASWB legal counsel Dale Atkinson will present Friday morning's first session, with a short refresher course on board member training,

emphasizing the role of social workers who become regulators.

Cultural competency takes center stage later Friday morning, with a panel discussion moderated by ASWB CEO Mary Jo Monahan. Panelists will discuss standards for cultural competence in social work education and practice in the U.S. and Canada. Panelists will include Darla Spence Coffey, president and CEO of the Council on Social Work Education; Angelo McClain, CEO of the National Association of Social Workers; and Alison MacDonald, executive director and registrar of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers.

Participants have two options for Friday afternoon. The first is a session on the ASWB Path to Licensure Campaign. The campaign is being developed to enable educators to incorporate social work licensing throughout the social work program. Already two social work schools, at Texas State University and New York's Adelphia University, are participating in Path to Licensure as a pilot program. Dorinda Noble, president of ASWB and director of the social work program at Texas State University, will offer an overview of the campaign. The ASWB Board of Directors will host a discussion of Path to Licensure over lunch Friday.

For those eager for fresh air and a taste of some of St. Louis' famous brews, attendees can grab a box lunch provided by ASWB and head out for a guided tour of the city. The tour will trace the history of St. Louis, beginning at the site of the original settlement and finishing up with a "King of Beers" tour and tasting at the famous Anheuser-Busch Brewery.

Saturday

The ASWB Program and Education Committee has assembled presenters and moderators for sessions on Saturday focusing on disciplinary actions—"Disaster Preparedness" is the theme. Attendees will cover all aspects of disciplinary cases, starting with "Weathering the Disciplinary Storm."

The two morning sessions will use scenarios to explore the legal and practical issues facing social work regulators as they respond to complaints and carry through with disciplinary actions.

Presenters will include Dale Atkinson; Richard Steinecke, senior partner at the Toronto law firm Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc; Richard Ferriss of the North Carolina Social Work Certification

and Licensure Board; Margaret Hazlette of the Kentucky Board of Social Work; and Robert Payne of the Idaho Board of Social Work Examiners. Richard Silver of l'Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et des thérapeutes conjugaux et familiaux du Québec and Tom Reichard of the Missouri State Committee for Social Workers will moderate these sessions.

Joel A. Poole, chief counsel in the Missouri attorney general's office, will also be on hand to discuss a civil judgment in excess of \$6 million awarded to the plaintiff/chiropractor in the matter of *Edwards v. Gerstein, et al.* (members of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners). Dr. Edwards was the subject of a multi-count disciplinary proceeding brought by the board. The board's decision was later overturned on appeal. Edwards then pursued his own claim against the members of the board, alleging breach of duties by the board members in their investigation of him.

"Storm Clean Up" is the title of the afternoon session. Attendees will learn about alternatives to disciplinary hearings as well as the steps leading to a successful final order. Afterward,

participants will have a chance to continue the conversation with one another at "table talks" drawn from the topics covered at the conference, from cultural competency to disciplinary cases.

Sunday

Dale Atkinson will offer the closing presentation, "Rebuilding: Post-Disciplinary Consequences." The session will answer the question, "After a disciplinary order is implemented, what happens next?" Attendees will gain insight into another part of their role as regulators: making decisions about license reinstatement, record expungement, and more.

The 2014 Spring Education Meeting is the work of the current Program and Education Committee: Chair Janice James of Kentucky, Sandra Barlow of Florida, Lynnet Kase of Idaho, Glenda McDonald of Ontario, Tom Reichard of Missouri, Valerie Sims Rucker of Illinois, Anna Lyn Whitt of Mississippi, and board liaison Richard Silver of Québec. M. Jenise Comer, ASWB secretary and Missouri board member, also participated and will provide the welcome address from the Missouri board.