



## Under construction: ASWB bylaws

*“This is exciting work we are going to be doing.” – Kristi Plotner, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee chair*

Guess who...raises and hybridizes orchids and has about 3,000 in his greenhouse? Learned to play the tuba in the last two years and is part of a seniors band (although he is younger than the band's minimum age of 60)? Is part of an annual “camp meeting” that dates from the 1840s and includes “500 of her closest relatives from around the world”?

time getting to know each other helped the group coalesce.

During the next two years, Plotner explained, the committee is charged with completing a thorough review of ASWB's bylaws as part of the larger governance review begun last year by the Board of Directors. The last time the Bylaws were reviewed was 1996, when the Board of Directors was established.



2014 ASWB Bylaws Committee, left to right: Steve Polovick (OH); Chair Kristi Plotner (MS); Mark Scales (NS); Carla Moore (LA); Tim Brown (TX); Richard Silver (QC), Board liaison; Winifred Anthony-Todman (VI). Not pictured, Mary Macomber (FL).

All the volunteers described above are members of the 2014 Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. These little-known nuggets of personal history were part of the information members shared at the beginning of the committee's meeting in July in Arlington, Va. Bylaws Chair Kristi Plotner of Mississippi requested that members tell about their backgrounds because the committee will be working closely together over a two-year period. Spending

“Your bylaws empower your membership,” said Dale Atkinson, ASWB legal counsel, as he provided an overview of the purpose of an organization's bylaws to the committee. “Bylaws provide appropriate power to the membership to allow them to be participants but also allow the organization to evolve.” Dwight Hymans, ASWB executive vice president, and Richard Silver, ASWB director at large and Board liaison to the Bylaws Committee, provided an overview of the governance review process now under way and the roles of the Governance Task Force, appointed this year to look at ASWB's governance structure, and the Bylaws Committee.

During the meeting, members looked at each section of the bylaws to identify areas that warrant review in terms of allowing the organization to work more

effectively. Their comments and notes were recorded in a working document that will be shared with the Governance Task Force. The Bylaws Committee will also assist the task force in its work and bring any proposed revisions of the bylaws to the 2015 Annual Meeting for the consideration of the Delegate Assembly. Because the work is just beginning, there were no recommendations provided to the Board of Directors for consideration by the Delegate Assembly in 2014.

In addition to Plotner, Bylaws Committee members include Winifred Anthony-Todman of the Virgin Islands, Tim Brown of Texas, Mary Macomber of Florida, Carla Moore of Louisiana, Steve Polovick of Ohio, and Mark Scales of Nova Scotia.

Oh, and in case you were playing: Tim Brown raises orchids, Mark Scales plays the tuba, and Kristi Plotner has more than 500 family members who join her each year at camp.