



# Recognizing the “Iron Men (and Women)” of exam development

*Mementos both touching and funny made meaningful gifts*

A tote bag and “tool kit” were among the keepsakes given to departing members of the Exam Committee at the awards ceremony held during the Exam Committee meeting in Philadelphia in August. The gift-giving is a tradition of the

committee chairs that accompanies the formal recognition of completion of service by ASWB. Exam Committee members may serve three one-year terms.

The tote bag with ASWB logo was presented by Greg Winkler (WI), co-chair of the Clinical exam committee, to Marlienne Christian (NY). He then



*Marlienne Christian (NY)*

asked the other members of his committee to join him in filling the bag with items representing their home communities. Among the mementos: earrings in the shape of cheese wedges from Winkler to represent Wisconsin, and Mardi Gras beads from committee member Bora Sunseri of Louisiana. Winkler gave Trish Smith (AB), the



*Trish Smith (AB)*

other Clinical committee member whose service ended this year, a cap with an Iron Man insignia. The cap, he said, represented

## A special thank you



*Nancy Sidell and Ann McAllister*

Ann McAllister, an item development consultant with the Bachelors exam committee, began working with ASWB at the very beginning of the exam development program, some 30 years ago. Her service was recognized at the Exam Committee awards ceremony in August as she retired from the program. Over the last 30 years, McAllister had a signature role in helping

ASWB develop the exam, providing continuity as the program evolved. She was part of the administration of the first exams, trained countless item writers, and gave the association the benefit of her wisdom and her expertise to ensure that the exam met the standards for high-stakes testing.

In thanking McAllister for her years of dedicated service, ASWB President Dorinda Noble recalled working with Ann and learning from her. Noble presented McAllister with a Bulova maritime wall clock with thermometer/hygrometer in recognition of her dedicated service to ASWB and to the exam program. Nancy Sidell, another item development consultant and a former item writer trained by McAllister, presented her with a handcrafted wall hanging signed by members of the Exam Committee.

both her contributions and character as a committee member and her training for and competing in triathlons.

The “tool kit” was presented by Stacey Owens (MD), Bachelors exam committee co-chair, to the departing members of her committee, Mary Stebbins (VA), Nikki Barfield (FL), and Miriam Balen (BC). Each item in the kit, whimsical or practical, was given with an explanation for its meaning and use. Sujata Pai (NY), another member of the Bachelors exam committee who remains to serve another term, also had a gift for her committee peers and for Owens, who finished her term as co-chair this year.



*Mary Stebbins (VA), Nikki Barfield (FL), and Miriam Balen (BC)*

Co-chair Brent Meyer (GA) presented Karen Tamminga (OR) with handwritten tributes from himself and the other members of the Masters exam committee.



*Karen Tamminga (OR)*

President and Board liaison Dorinda Noble (TX) opened the awards program by describing the committee members as “iron men (and women)” in recognition of the long hours they serve and the hard work they do to ensure that the exams remain valid, reliable, and defensible. The service awards she presented to each departing committee member are engraved glass plaques, befitting of the nickname of “tombstone” that the awards were given many years ago. Owens, as committee co-chair, received an engraved rosewood box.



*Stacey Owens (MD)*