



A satchel of seeds promises a rich regulatory harvest



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ASWB President

American writer and humorist Mark Twain told of waiting to board a train in Washington. Twain asked the baggage handler if his satchel was strong enough to go in the train's baggage car. The handler lifted the satchel high above his head and smashed it to the ground. "That is what it will get in Philadelphia," the handler said. Then he picked up the satchel and banged it against the car several times. "That is what it will get in Chicago," he continued. Next, the handler threw the satchel high in the air and stomped on it vigorously when it came down. The bag split, strewing contents across the platform. "And that is what it will get in Boise," he said. "So if you are going all the way to Boise, I suggest you take the satchel to your Pullman car with you."

I suggest we all take our satchels to Boise for the ASWB Annual Meeting November 13-15! It will be instructive and fun to catch up on your regulatory stories and to recap what your Board of Directors has been doing to meet our strategic plan. Like Idaho farmers, the Board and staff have been busy planting seeds in 2014 that we hope will bring a bountiful harvest of regulatory knowledge and widespread professional awareness of the benefits of licensure.

President's message

Let's open our satchel and look into those seed packets tucked inside.

Seeds of Governance: Your Board of Directors has been reading, studying, and examining our procedures the last year to help build good governance. We had a terrific full-day *Advance!* in Philadelphia in August with a noted authority on board governance and with members of the Board's Governance Task Force. This study has helped us more clearly delineate the boundaries between management (which belongs to staff) and governance (which belongs to the Board). These principles of efficacy and effectiveness certainly apply to our jurisdictional boards as well. Meanwhile, the Bylaws Committee is carefully reviewing all the bylaws to determine what changes may assist ASWB to be more effective.

Seeds of the Future: This year we celebrate the 35th Anniversary of ASWB! It is a time to review our past as we build for our future. This association is vibrant, forward-thinking, and becoming a leader, not only in regulatory work, but in the social work profession. Our

anniversary is a wonderful time to build upon our venerable past and rededicate ourselves to our mission of protecting the public in the future! We are excited to welcome our newest member jurisdictions, the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as they begin regulating the social work profession for the first time.

Seeds of License Mobility: Mobility is the talk of professional regulatory associations across North America: How can we achieve greater licensure mobility so that professionals can practice safely in emergency situations, and can relocate more smoothly to pursue their careers? While this is a daunting task, it is one that many professions are pursuing. Mobility will be the topic of our upcoming Education Meeting in Seattle in April 2015. Make your plans to join us for this thought-provoking event!

Seeds of Connection: I have always thought that ASWB was one of the best-kept secrets in social work, but it is clearly moving into the sunlight. Mary Jo Monahan and I spoke about professional regulation at the International Federation of Social Workers in Australia in the summer. This fall, members of the Board and staff will present three educational sessions at Council on Social Work Education (one on license mobility, one on Path to Licensure, and one on licensing in general). The Path to Licensure project, aimed at helping students prepare for licensure and prudent careers, has gotten a good deal of press time in social work educational groups. And ASWB continues to make international connections,

as you will learn in Boise. The International Technology Task Force has completed its work on regulatory standards for e-practice, and members will hear more about that in Boise and Seattle. Board and staff leadership continue to talk regularly with regulators in Wales, England, Scotland, New Zealand, and other countries, learning from their experiences.

Our satchel is full of seeds that can bear great results in the future with the support of our members!