



## It takes a committee

*“Committees are a necessary part of our lives because we need to bring brains together to talk about certain matters and move forward.”*  
—ASWB President  
Dorinda Noble

This year more than 70 volunteers participated on committees that helped the association work toward achieving the objectives outlined on ASWB’s 2014-2018 strategic plan adopted last year. Delegates heard from a number of these committees during the Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho, November 13-15. By intention, no recommendations were brought before the delegates to vote on this year: The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and the Regulation and Standards Committee are engaged in in-depth reviews that will require more than a year to complete. Attendees were brought up to date on the activities of the various committees that did not require a direct action from them.

During a panel discussion, committee chairs shared the highlights from the past year’s programs and services. Members heard from the chairs of the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) Committee, the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, the Regulation and Standards (RAS) Committee, and the Administrators Forum. A strategic discussion forum, a new addition to the business meeting this year, concluded the panel discussion. The focus of the forum was the role and activities of the Governance Task Force, which was appointed this year for a two-year term.

Members also heard from the Finance Committee and the Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee in separate sessions. Following are highlights from the various committees:

### **Administrators Forum**

The Administrators Forum meets twice a year for all-day sessions preceding the Spring Education Meeting and the Annual Meeting. This year, participation increased by one-third at the Annual Meeting, with 30 participants from 27 jurisdictions; 25 participants from 18 jurisdictions attended the spring forum. The forums include reports from ASWB staff on examination services and the Public Protection Database (PPD). Jurisdictional reports comprise large portion of the agenda, allowing administrators to share highlights, challenges, and hot topics. Special discussion topics provide training opportunities, such as the spring session on effective communication strategies and the fall focus on e-therapy. E-therapy and an exploration of variations of e-compacts are action items for the future.

Worthy of special note this year was the successful launch of a new Administrators Workshop training program in September. Forum members had identified a need for the training and developed the core content with assistance from ASWB staff. Feedback

and interest in continuing the training has been positive.

Kate Zacher-Pate of Minnesota is the chair.

### **Approved Continuing Education (ACE) Committee**

The ACE Committee held two in-person meetings and eight telephone conferences in 2014. ACE members critically reviewed application forms and processes for the purpose of restructuring these documents. Planned changes will more effectively use ACE Committee members' expertise to review course content and will assist in making the ACE application process more user-friendly for applicants. The committee also reviewed changes in licensing board continuing education requirements in New Jersey and New York.

An ACE subcommittee reviewed and restructured course evaluation requirements for ACE providers, making the evaluation requirements easier to understand.

The ACE Committee conducted 12 audits of ACE providers, including two resulting from concerns expressed by attendees. As of October 2014, the committee had reviewed 19 applications, with 4 in the approval review process; 46 providers were renewed for a three-year period; 5 individual courses and 149 providers are currently approved. A total of 44 providers were approved to offer social work ethics courses. As of the end of September, 2,461 courses were posted on the ACE Search webpage.

Members in 2014: Chair Anwar Najor-Durack (MI), Donna Ennis (MN), Ellen Costilla (NM), Joan Davis-Whelan (PA), Janice W. Fitts

(NB), Elaine Halsall (BC), Micki Lilly (NC), and Alison MacDonald (SK). John McBride (LA) served as ASWB Board liaison.

### **Bylaws and Resolutions Committee**

The Bylaws Committee is in the process of reviewing the ASWB bylaws in their entirety. The goal of the evaluation is to make sure that the bylaws are continuing to serve the needs of the organization as it moves forward. The committee met in person in July and in two sessions during the Annual Meeting. The Bylaws Committee is working with the Governance Task Force during this evaluation process, and one of the meetings in Boise was a combined meeting with the members of the task force. Conference calls and webinars as well as in person meetings will be held as needed over the next year as the committee continues its work.

Prior to the committee bringing any recommendations to future delegate assemblies, delegates will be provided information explaining the proposed recommendations and the reasons for any proposed bylaws changes.

Bylaws Committee members in 2014: Chair Kristi Plotner (MS), Winifred Anthony-Todman (VI), Tim Brown (TX), Mary Macomber (FL), Carla Moore (LA), Steve Polovick (OH), and Mark Scales (NS). Board liaison: Richard Silver (QC).

### **Regulation and Standards (RAS) Committee**

Committee members completed the second phase of a three-year review of the Model Practice Act. The committee reviewed more than 150 comments received in response to a survey that went to members

requesting input into Articles IV, Discipline, and V, Confidentiality, of the model act as well as incorporated findings from the Analysis of Supervision of Social Work Licensure report. In 2015, phase three will include a review of Articles VI and VII of the model act and incorporate the model regulatory standards for technology produced by the International Technology Task Force this year.

The committee also received a report about the activity of the Public Protection Database, or PPD, which serves members by flagging individuals who have experienced a disciplinary action. Since its inception in 1995-1996, a total of 52 jurisdictions have reported 7,999 actions against social workers. In 2014, the number of reported actions increased by 8.4 percent. ASWB also serves as the reporting agent for 17 jurisdictions to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

RAS Committee members in 2014: Steven Pharris (TN), chair; Spencer Blalock (MS); Renée Cardone (PA); Lisa Crockwell (NL); Brock Greek (WY); Laura Thiesen (AK). Board liaisons were M. Jenise Comer (MO) and Patricia O'Reilly (WV).

### **Governance Task Force**

The two-year charge of the task force is to consider the current governance structure of the Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly and make recommendations for best practices to support a changing and growing organization and a robust Strategic Plan. The Governance Task Force will work collaboratively with the Bylaws Committee to bring recommendations to the delegate assembly.

Governance Task Force members: President Dorinda Noble (TX), chair; Lisa Crockwell (NL); Fran Franklin (DE); Amanda Duffy Randall (NE).

### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee met once in person in the spring and once by conference call in the fall.

Committee members reviewed all financial statements of the organization and reviewed and approved the 2013 audit of the association's operations. The committee met with ASWB's investment advisor and reviewed ASWB's portfolio. It was noted that current allocations include two mutual funds in environmentally and socially responsible companies.

The committee also reviewed the draft 2015 cash flow budget and approved a motion to forward the draft 2015 budget to the Board of Directors for their review and approval. Considering the projected increase in staffing needs as prescribed by the strategic plan, the committee recommended that the Board continue to explore the acquisition of property for a new ASWB office building.

As part of its 2014 charges, the committee recommended the reappointment of the auditor for three years with an annual review. Other recommendations were to make no changes to exam and membership fees, and not to set up a separate strategic growth fund but to fund projects as needed on a case-by-case basis. The committee recommended that no changes were needed to ASWB financial policies.

Finance Committee members in 2014: Treasurer Carole Bryant (SK), chair; Kim Frakes (NV); Mel Harrington (SD); ASWB Past President Patricia Heard (NC); and Dan Wheelan (RI).

### **Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee**

The REAL Committee, formerly called the Program and Education Committee, is charged with facilitating the educational programs for ASWB as identified by the Board of Directors and guided by the strategic plan. The committee is responsible for planning the Spring Education Meeting, which will be held in Seattle in 2015. The topic will be licensure mobility.

In 2014, REAL Committee members met twice in person and held 10 conference calls.

Committee members include: Fran Franklin (DE), chair; Glenda McDonald (ON); Deana Morrow (NC); Nick Smiar (WI); and Anna Lyn Whitt (MS).