



Winners announced

*Electronic elections
add a high-tech
element to the race for
ASWB governance*

At this year's Delegate Assembly, the elections had the usual excitement and enthusiasm, but with one added twist. It was the first time ASWB delegates voted electronically.

Once the votes were cast, the winners were announced soon after because of the quick electronic tallying. Voting was overseen by Dale Atkinson, ASWB legal counsel, and tellers Carol Tellinghuisen of Colorado and Greg Winkler of Wisconsin, and monitored by electronic voting systems consultant Trina Lenders of Padgett Communications. Delegates elected the following six candidates:

Board of Directors

M. Jenise Comer (MO), president-elect. Comer has served as secretary of the ASWB Board of Directors since 2011. She received her MSW from the University of Kansas. She is a full professor and has been director of the BSW social work program for five years at the University of Central Missouri, where she has taught since 1985. Comer is chair of the Missouri Committee for Social Workers. In her new role at ASWB, she will serve one year as president-elect, followed by two years as president, and one year as past president.

Fran Franklin (DE), secretary. Franklin has served on the board as director at large, professional member, since 2011. Her election as secretary created a vacancy on the Board, which will be filled by appointment of the president. (See sidebar.) Franklin holds an MSW and a Ph.D. in social work and is licensed to practice clinical



Elected to the 2015 Board of Directors (left to right): Steven Pharris (TN), director at large, professional member; M. Jenise Comer (MO), president-elect; Fran Franklin (DE), secretary; and Richard Silver (QC), director at large, member board staff.

After some instruction from Member Services Senior Manager Jennifer Henkel, and a practice round with the voting keypads, the delegates were ready to vote for real.

The decisions were challenging, since the prior evening, all of the candidates gave compelling speeches as to why each was the right person to fulfill a certain role in ASWB governance. Voters even had the chance to talk one-on-one with candidates during the Candidate Reception that followed the speeches.



Barb Whitenect (NB) and Sandra Barlow (FL) were elected to the Nominating Committee for two-year terms.

social work in four jurisdictions. She is BSW program director for Delaware State University. Franklin was appointed twice to the Delaware Board of Clinical Social Work Examiners. Her second term on the Delaware board expired earlier this year.

Steven W. Pharris (TN), director at large, professional member. Pharris is the senior social worker and contracting officer representative with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Pharris obtained a BSW from Middle Tennessee State, an MSW from Spalding University, and a J.D. from the Nashville School of Law. Pharris served on the Tennessee Board of Social Workers from 2008 until July 2014.

Richard Silver (QC), director at large, member board staff. Silver has been a member of the

ASWB Board of Directors since November 2012; he is serving his second term in this position. A social worker and lawyer, Silver is legal counsel to the Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et des thérapeutes conjugaux et familiaux du Québec and has been on staff at the order since 2001. He obtained his BSW as well as civil law and common law degrees from McGill University. He also received a master's degree in law (LL.M.) from the Université de Sherbrooke.

2015 Nominating Committee

Sandra Barlow (FL) is the current chair of the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling. She received an MSW and a Ph.D. from Florida State University and currently works in independent practice with children, adolescents, and families.

Barb Whitenect (NB) has been a board member, vice president, and president of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers. She received a BSW from St. Thomas University and an MSW from Carleton University and currently works as executive director of corporate services dealing with the Department of Public Safety for the provincial government of New Brunswick.

Board of Directors complete

Director Fran Franklin's election as secretary created a one-year vacancy on the Board for a director at large. According to the ASWB bylaws, the president makes the appointment, after receiving input and approval from the Board of Directors, until an election can be held at the next Delegate Assembly. The person who has been approved and appointed to serve until the 2015 Delegate Assembly is Melinda Pilkinton of Mississippi.

Pilkinton received her Ph.D. in social work from Jackson State University. She is director of the social work program at Mississippi State University, where she has taught for the last 15 years.

She completed her second term on the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists in July. Pilkinton has been active with ASWB for many years. She served on the 2008-09 Practice Analysis Task Force, was on the Nominating and Regulation and Standards (RAS) committees, and is a recipient of one of the 2014 Foundation grants for a research project to study licensure examination pass rates and effective educational preparation factors.

