



Mementos with meaning

Five Exam Committee members are honored for their service

Social workers are a caring community—not only caring of those who seek their services, but also of one another. Each year the Exam Committee shows how much they care at their annual awards ceremony. The awards ceremony is a time for ASWB to thank committee members for their service. It has also become a time when committee members celebrate their shared camaraderie and deep respect for the expertise that each member brings.

This year, ASWB President Dorinda Noble presented service award “tombstones,” so called for their shape, to Bachelors exam committee member Sujata Pai of New York, Masters exam committee member Stephanie Washington of Texas, and Clinical exam committee member Liz Johnston of California. Noble also awarded rosewood boxes to Masters exam committee co-chair Brent Meyer of Georgia and Clinical exam committee co-chair Greg Winkler of Wisconsin.

The Clinical exam committee, led by Bora Sunseri of Louisiana, then gave Winkler gifts that were related to running (he’s a triathlete after all!) or had ties to the jurisdiction where the committee member resides. Some of the mementos included running socks and a water bottle, a head lamp for night

runs, a Louisiana State University baseball cap, and a native art print from British Columbia.

Liz Johnston, who is a professor, received gifts from Clinical exam committee members related to alma maters and/or schools in jurisdictions where the members live. Gifts included T-shirts, a native art print, and a water bottle and a baseball cap with school logos.

Masters exam committee co-chair Brent Meyer described rather than presented a vase that the committee had selected for Stephanie Washington, because he had accidentally left it on his kitchen counter. Meyer explained that the gift had been made by an Atlanta artist who has been a teacher for 30 years. Washington, a school social worker, said that fact made the gift especially meaningful.

Washington, in turn, led her fellow Masters exam committee members as they thanked Meyer for his leadership as co-chair. She presented him with a “postdoctorate repair kit to prevent PDD (postdoctorate dysphoria).”

Gifts included an Atlanta Braves T-shirt, chocolates and coffee from Canada, melatonin for reestablishing normal sleep patterns, a book of brainy quotes for his future publications, and handmade



Exam Committee members recognized during the 2015 awards ceremony: (from left) Greg Winkler (WI), Brent Meyer (GA), Sujata Pai (NY), Stephanie Washington (TX), and Liz Johnston (CA).

pouches for his fishing supplies.

Mary Stebbins, Bachelors exam committee co-chair, presented a book of poetry by Mary Oliver to departing committee member Sujata Pai. Stebbins chose the book, she said, because the poems reminded her of Pai's perceptive and calming presence and her ability to find the extraordinary in everyday life.

The Exam Committee meets four, and sometimes five, weekends each year to review test questions, or items, that are being considered for use on the social work licensing exams. Committee members serve

one-year appointments that may be renewed annually for a total of three years of service. After spending this amount of time together, committee members form close ties with one another—as shown by the thoughtfulness of the gifts that are given each year as members are bid a fond farewell.

No worries though! Committee members who rotate off are considered “emeritus committee members” and can be called again to serve as a substitute on the committee or to review examination forms before they are released online.