Over the last three years, delegates attending the association’s annual business meeting were kept up to date on ASWB’s activities, recognized the most outstanding of their peers with annual awards, and elected members to the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. What they didn’t do was vote on changes to the association’s two documents that, in different ways, provide guidance to the organization. That will change in 2015, when delegates will be asked to vote on recommendations for changes to the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act (or model law, as it is called) and the ASWB Bylaws.

In 2013, the Regulation and Standards (RAS) Committee established a schedule for review of the model law that subsequent committees have followed in their turn. During this review cycle, different members of the association have served on the RAS Committee to provide a broad representation of member jurisdictions. Additional member input was sought through surveys to ensure that the model act represents the best practices of social work regulation in current use.

RAS and Bylaws Committees send recommendations to 2015 Delegate Assembly

RAS Committee members serving in 2015: (front row) Spencer Blalock (MS) and Renée Cardone (PA); (back row) Lisa Crockwell (NL), chair; Robert Showers (LA); Laura Thiesen (AK); and Steven Pharris (TN), Board liaison. Not shown: Brock Green (WY).
Similarly, in 2014 the Bylaws Committee was charged with undertaking a thorough review of ASWB’s bylaws, the set of rules that control the actions of the membership and establish the governing aspects of the organization and its board of directors. The last time that the bylaws were subject to such a comprehensive review was in 1996, when the Board of Directors was established. To complete its work, the committee divided into smaller groups that worked independently on different bylaws articles and came together as a whole to review their work. The committee also worked collaboratively with the Governance Task Force on articles related to governance and purpose.

Each committee submitted reports to the Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly as work progressed, but they have waited to present their recommendations for adoption until the reviews were finished. In July, both committees wrapped up their work. Recommendations from both committees were presented to the Board of Directors at the August 8 meeting. Reports from the committees including the Board’s position on the proposed amendments will be sent to membership in September.