



## Reflections



By **Dorinda Noble, LCSW**  
**ASWB President**

Change permeates life. The absence of change is worse than inaction; it is atrophy. A philosopher whose name I no longer recall once said: *“Continuity gives us roots, but change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.”* The last three years have been a time of much change in ASWB. Despite change, we have continuity of mission: We want to help member boards protect the public they serve. Those roots grow deep and anchor ASWB.

We have added many branches of change over the last years, however, beginning with a new CEO. Mary Jo Monahan has brought energy and fresh ideas to our organization. It has been my pleasure to partner with her, as she oversees organizational and operational issues, and I, along with the Board of Directors, tackle governance matters. At times, it can be a juggling act, but we have learned a great deal about how to create a workable marriage of these different spheres.

And have the branches grown! The 2014-2018 Strategic Plan has been highly instructive in nurturing our organization. The Path to Licensure initiative is flowering across social work education. The International Technology Task

### President's message

Force has produced excellent guides in regulating technology in social work. ASWB

has been aggressively pursuing ideas to foster license mobility and now has a task force in place to shape those ideas into a workable plan. Meanwhile, our exam programs continue to be robust and are growing remarkably.

One branch that is springing forth is the addition of the great state of California to ASWB. This beautiful branch will bring us not only new faces, but new ideas and perspectives. Another branch that grows out of the continuity of our roots involves the excellent work of our Bylaws Committee in thoroughly reviewing the organization's bylaws and bringing back suggestions for alterations that help us change as our context changes. I encourage all of you to consider these suggestions, which are the product of much thought and study, with an open mind. Sometimes it is difficult to embrace changes, because the change seems to imply that we haven't been doing things correctly in the past. Not so! The reality is that we live in a fast-changing professional world, and we need to respond to those changes so that we have contemporary, workable ways to assist member boards

to do their important tasks.

Together, we are growing a beautiful tree: It is held in place by our important mission, while it grows handsome branches that respond to the environment and reach into the future. I am so pleased to be part of growing this tree! Hopefully many of you will join me in Ft. Lauderdale for our Delegate Assembly, where we can learn from each other, relax on the beach sipping libations crowned with little paper umbrellas, and admire the growing and changing tree we are nurturing.