Well-deserved recognition

Anwar Najor-Durack, Barb Whitenect, and Lisa Crockwell receive awards for outstanding service

ASWB recognizes outstanding commitment to social work regulatory board service with two awards, one given to a member of a member board or college and the other given to a staff member or administrator. Up to two awards may be presented in each category.

This year, Anwar Najor-Durack, chair of the Michigan Board of Social Work, and Barbara Whitenect of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers (NBASW), were both honored with the 2015 Sunny Andrews Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service. Lisa Crockwell, executive director and registrar of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers (NLASW), was awarded the 2015 Board Administrator Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service.

At the awards luncheon held during the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly, attendees celebrated the winners and their accomplishments. “Whether Anwar is addressing an individual, conducting a conference meeting, addressing the due process in a board meeting, or simply conducting day to day business, she has consistently done so with a level of integrity and compassion that is exemplary,” said Brian Philson, a member of the Michigan Board of Social Work who nominated Najor-Durack for the award.

Philson cited a public comment period at a board meeting when a commenter became “very demanding and emotional” about the subject at hand. Najor-Durack defused the situation, he said, while upholding the integrity of the meeting. In addition to nominating Najor-Durack, Philson attended the 2015 Delegate Assembly and presented the award.

Barb Whitenect “has been extraordinarily committed to the regulation of social work practice in New Brunswick,” said Claudette Landry,
who nominated Whitenect for the award. “She has actively engaged with members from all across the province to ensure the [New Brunswick College of Social Workers] was meeting the needs of not only members but also the population which social work impacts.”

In her nomination, Landry also pointed out that Whitenect was involved in leading the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers to adopt its first scope of practice and has “given countless hours to ensuring the Board functions ethically, in a responsible manner, and manages the dual role of regulation and promotion of the profession.”

Merri-Lee Hanson of the NBASW attended the 2015 Delegate Assembly and presented the award to Whitenect during the awards luncheon.

Lisa Crockwell was nominated by Mona Romaine Elliott, who said, “Under [Crockwell’s] leadership, the NLASW has celebrated many successes, including the transition to new social work legislation with the proclamation of the Social Workers Act in 2010.” This transition, Elliott said, “required extensive training for board members as they assumed responsibilities for complaints authorization.” Crockwell ensured that all the board members had the information and resources they needed to take on the regulatory functions required by the act.

Elliott also presented the award to Crockwell at the 2015 Delegate Assembly.

Both awards are given annually by ASWB. At the awards ceremony in Ft. Lauderdale, the association announced that beginning in 2016, the Board Administrator Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service would be named the Glenda McDonald Administrator Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service, in memory of Glenda McDonald, who served as registrar and CEO of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers and was active on many ASWB committees.