



Congratulations and welcome!

New leaders join the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

This year's election brings new leaders to both the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. Most have served on ASWB committees or task forces over the years and are familiar names to many. All will serve two-year terms.

In an unexpected turn of events, candidate Denise Pratt of Texas withdrew from the contest for the position of Director at Large Public Member. The vacancy was not filled by nominations from the floor, and so candidate Meenakshi Budhraj, M.D., of Arkansas ran unopposed. Despite being the only candidate for election to the position, Dr. Budhraj had to receive a

majority of the votes for the election to be valid.

Board of Directors

Treasurer

Winning election as treasurer, Mel Harrington of South Dakota campaigned as a returning candidate. He ran for office in 2013 against incumbent Carole Bryant of Saskatchewan. In 2014 and 2015, he served on the Finance Committee. As a direct service practitioner and manager of social service programs, Harrington also brings experience in developing budgets. He is licensed as a Certified Social Worker in Private



Meenakshi Budhraj, M.D., Mel Harrington, CSW-PIP, and Anna Lyn Whitt, DHA, MPH, LMSW, new members of the ASWB Board of Directors. At left, inset, Anwar Najor-Durack, LMSW, elected to the ASWB Nominating Committee.

Independent Practice in the state of South Dakota and recently retired as director of counseling programs at Lutheran Social Services (LSS). He now works part time as director of the fatherhood programs at LSS and part time as a recovery coach for Face It Together Sioux Falls.

Directors at Large

Anna Lyn Whitt of Mississippi and Dr. Meenakshi Budhraja of Arkansas won election to the director at large positions on the Board of Directors.

Whitt, a Licensed Master's Social Worker in Mississippi, works as director of field operations for the Mississippi Division of Family and Children's Services. She served four years on ASWB's Program and Education Committee and was appointed in 2015 to the Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee.

Budhraja is a gastroenterologist in private practice at The Digestive Wellness Clinic in Little Rock. She is adjunct faculty at the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute. She was appointed as public member to the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board in 2013.

Nominating Committee

Anwar Najor-Durack of Michigan was elected to the Nominating Committee. She serves as chair of the Michigan Board of Social Work and was honored with the 2015 Sunny Andrews Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service. (See related [story](#).) Najor-Durack, a Licensed Master Social Worker, clinical and macro designation, is the director of field education at Wayne State University. She has chaired the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) Committee for the last four years.