



Building leadership capacity critical to election process

Member engagement is a key element of the strategic plan. With 11 leadership positions to be filled in the 2016 election cycle, there is ample opportunity for member involvement

Barb Whitenect, chair of the Nominating Committee, has a message for ASWB members: “Step up and step in.” What she means, she says, is that “it’s time for members to come out of the shadows” and be willing to become involved with ASWB.

“ASWB is a well-designed organization with a solid foundation and there is opportunity to build an even better organization through the expansion of representation on the Board,” says Whitenect. “The profession of social work is evolving, and it’s important for ASWB to continue to be strong because the profession is moving so rapidly.”

The recent changes in the bylaws to increase the size of the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee were approved by the Delegate Assembly in November. Those changes now need to be implemented. The first step in the election process is gathering recommendations from membership.

The Nominating Committee is doing its part. Committee members have sent letters to the jurisdictional boards asking for suggestions. Information about the [nominating process](#) is available

on the members website, as is a recommendation form. The committee is looking for multiple ways to get the message out that “ASWB Wants You!”

The next planned outreach is face to face, at the 2016 Education Conference. This year the committee is hosting the Welcome Reception on Thursday evening, starting at 6 p.m. Announcements about the leadership opportunities will be made and handouts that outline the qualifications and responsibilities of the various positions will be available. “We wanted to host the reception to generate interest in people who know the organization but perhaps have not been formally involved,” says Whitenect. “We want to get people thinking about how they would answer the question, ‘What would it look like if I was to get involved in ASWB?’”

Committee members will be ready to answer questions or talk with anyone interested in learning more throughout the conference. During breaks, some or all committee members will be at the ASWB exhibit booth, ready to engage with membership. There will be information at the booth, including a paper recommendation form. Alternatively, Whitenect said, “you

can fill out the online form using the iPad at the booth.

“Building leadership capacity and increasing engagement and involvement in ASWB are all part of ASWB’s strategic plan,” says Whitenect. “They also are in keeping with the association’s governance as leadership model.” Adding positions to the Board of Directors, as recommended by the Governance Task Force and embraced by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, increases the representation of membership and adds to the diversity of leadership at the table.

“We plan to be more visible at the Education Conference,” said Whitenect. “Whether you’re interested now or not, we want people to talk to one of us. Part of building leadership capacity is thinking ahead—three and five years out. We hope you will come talk to us about getting involved.”



Nominating Committee members will be available during the 2016 Education Conference. Left to right: Sandy Barlow (FL), Anwar Najor-Durack (MI), and Barb Whitenect (NB), chair.

Nomination recommendations sought for:

Board of Directors

Two-year positions

President-elect

Secretary

Director at large, licensed social worker (two positions)

Director at large, public member

Director at large, board staff

One-year position (transitional)

Director at large, open (can be a licensed social worker, a public member, or member board staff member)

2017 Nominating Committee

Two-year seat (three positions)

One-year seat (one position for transition year)

Fill out the [online form](#)