



An unprecedented slate

Delegates will elect 11 at 2016 Annual Meeting for seven positions on the Board of Directors and four positions on the Nominating Committee

Many thought it couldn't be done, but the 2016 Nominating Committee was successful in bringing to the membership an [election slate](#) of 23 candidates to run for seven positions on the Board of Directors and four positions on the 2017 Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee chair Barb Whitenect of New Brunswick credits the rest of the committee, Sandy Barlow of Florida, Anwar Najor-Durack of Michigan, and Dorinda Noble of Texas, with being "committed to doing the work and getting it done." In addition, she said: "The response from membership was fantastic at every level" to outreach from the committee.

The committee started earlier this year, with conference calls prior to its first in-person meeting at the Education Conference in Jersey City. There, committee members made their first appeal for suggestions for potential nominees, wearing six-inch buttons that Whitenect said "were a total success." To develop the slate, committee members used a three-phase process, which included reviewing qualifications of those who had previously expressed interest in leadership roles; receiving suggestions from jurisdictions in response to the face-to-face meetings and

other outreach from the committee; and getting submissions from members.

When analyzing these recommendations, Whitenect said, the committee considered many criteria, such as diversity, geography, and experience, for every position being slated. Vetting recommendations involved background checks and ensuring that potential candidates met criteria established in ASWB bylaws. The resulting slate offers a broad representation of membership, with candidates from 19 jurisdictions. Care was taken to ensure that every position being slated had candidates from different jurisdictions. "There was more rigor in the vetting process," said Whitenect. "It was time consuming but yielded a better product that provided a level of comfort with potential leaders on the slate."

While this is the largest slate developed by any ASWB Nominating Committee, Whitenect noted that not everyone whose name was put forward was selected. She advised: "Don't get discouraged." Those names will be added to lists for consideration in 2017 and 2018, so that the committee does not have to start from scratch in the future.

Whitenect is proud of the work the committee did this year, not

only in developing the slate but also in creating a process for future committees to work with. “This was a big task, and I am super pleased with the process and the fact that we left something behind in a positive way,” she said of creating the lists of potential future leaders. She also is pleased that ASWB decided to expand the size of the Board of Directors. “As operations has grown and the strategic plan has grown, the organizational leadership needs to grow with it,” she said. “The Nominating Committee really assisted with the strategic direction and increasing the leadership and participation footprint.”

2016 Elections

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly November 17–19 in San Diego. On Friday, November 18, the Nominating Committee will introduce the candidates and delegates may make nominations from the floor. Candidates will make their speeches Friday afternoon and be available to talk in more depth with membership at a reception immediately following the meeting’s recess for the day. Delegates will vote Saturday morning, November 19.