From virtual to reality

DAVID HAMILTON, executive secretary of the New York State Board for Social Work, appeared via Skype at ASWB’s 2017 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly to accept the Glenda McDonald Board Administrator Award in November. CARMEN COLLADO, board chair, took the award back to New York and presented it to DAVID in January. DAVID writes: “CARMEN shared with me some of the conversations she had with our colleagues at the meeting and reiterated the State Board’s appreciation of my work. This is truly a one-of-a-kind honor and I am humbled and honored by the ASWB Board’s selection.”

Award of excellence

MARK HILLENBRAND of Iowa was awarded the 2016 Social Worker of Excellence Award by the National Association of Social Workers Iowa Chapter, a part of the NASW-Heartland association, for his work to raise awareness of the resilience and strength of people living with chronic illness. The project, including a research component, used a theater group to tell the stories of members of a support group led by MARK. “This award means a lot to me,” said MARK, “and more importantly it authenticates the voice of the people that I helped tell their stories.”

Meeting of the (CEO) minds

MARY JO MONAHAN represented ASWB at the February meeting of the health care regulatory CEOs, who have been meeting regularly since 2014 to explore issues of common interest. Also attending were CEOs from the Federation of State Medical Boards, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, the Association of State and Provincial Boards of Psychology, and the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. Topics included ways to collaborate and share information among the different health care regulatory boards and with the national organizations representing these professions, practice mobility models and the potential impact of federal and state legislation on their implementation, and ways to advance the public protection mission of state regulators for the health care professions.

Tribute to service

In December, the Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et des thérapeutes conjugaux et familiaux du Québec recognized CLAUDE LEBLOND on 16 years as president of the Order. CLAUDE’s daughter ÉMILIE, also a social worker, gave a personal tribute, and a letter from ASWB recognizing CLAUDE’s service to this association was read during the ceremony. Deputy Prime Minister Lise Thériault presented CLAUDE with the medal of the National Assembly. See photos.
DONNA DeANGELIS recently returned from a tour of Iran that included Yazd, a desert city built on underground wells, where she and DENNIS visited the Towers of Silence, “the burial ground for Zoroastrians, which was the religion of Persia before the invasion of the Arabs in the 700s AD.” (top picture) DONNA writes: “My greatest takeaway is the friendliness and hospitality of the people. Everywhere we went people were warm and welcoming and excited to hear we were from America. As we entered the carpet museum warm, fresh bread was delivered to the two men working there. First thing they did was offer some to us before taking it themselves. Then they offered us more because we liked it! Almost everyone speaks good English. It is taught in school. We saw young people holding hands in public and using selfie sticks. There was no overt evidence of repression. We moved around freely with our guide and driver.” She noted that the rug merchant, pictured with them at bottom, is “smiling because we bought four rugs!”

DORINDA NOBLE of Texas recently returned from a tour of Egypt, which she writes, “was phenomenal! One of the most breathtaking events I experienced was going to Khan el-Khalili Market, a sprawling outdoor marketplace in Old Cairo with tiny warrens of streets. … The market was exceptionally vibrant and alive with people, all bargaining enthusiastically for their wares, in all sorts of native dress.” DORINDA’s travels included visiting Cairo, a city that made “driving in NYC look like a cakewalk”; and Luxor, “home of 70 percent of the world’s antiquities”; Aswan, Abu Simbel, and Lake Nasser. “I would love to learn more about this fascinating culture,” DORINDA wrote. “As the Egyptians say: ‘Insha’allah,’” which means ‘God willing’ or ‘In God’s Time’, I shall return.”

Ancient clothing style accessorized with modern cell phones in Khan el-Khalili Market.

DORINDA with her Egyptian boyfriend (a short romance—about 5 minutes at the Saqqara Step Pyramid, the oldest pyramid in Egypt).

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