



This Board IS Ready



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ASWB President

In November 2015, ASWB's Delegate Assembly approved a bylaws change increasing the size of the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. One year later, the first 11-member Board was elected and sworn in at the end of the 2016 annual meeting in San Diego, California. To prepare for and ease the adjustment, the 2016 Board spent time during a retreat last August to identify and articulate Board culture. At its first meeting, the 2017 Board engaged in team-building exercises, including a "speed-dating" dinner, which allowed members to get to know one another.

From January 27 to 29, all Board members attended the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Forum for training and development, followed by a half-day ASWB Board orientation. Discussions focused on our collective views of leadership and governance, our legal roles and responsibilities to the association, a review of finances, and discussion about ASWB's Foundation. ASWB CEO Mary Jo Monahan effectively led the group in an activity to clarify the fiduciary, strategic, and governance perspectives Board members will employ to conduct Board business.

Our most difficult task was scheduled at the end of two long days. The new Board was challenged to work collaboratively to plan goals and objectives for this year, which will serve as the basis for the Board's self-evaluation in November. The process was intended to engage everyone and share ownership in the product. To remind Board members that our work will provide the foundation for progress we will realize in November, I presented a packet of seeds and a watering can magnet to each Board member. All were encouraged to use their tools and the KEY mnemonic (Keep Educating Yourself) learned during the FARB Forum in their role as leaders of the association.

One goal for the Board is to approve presidential appointments to committees and task forces, which took place at the January Board meeting. Board members provide support by serving as liaisons, offering a governance perspective to assist committees and task forces accomplish their charges. Board members are also serving in leadership roles on a number of task forces this year, including the Mobility Task Force and the Membership Structure Task Force, which are discussed here because of their importance to membership.

Mobility Task Force

The Mobility Task Force tops the priority list, as the Board, operations staff, and our members are being asked to view every effort through the lens of mobility. The task force's agenda this year is to formulate a plan that will be voted on at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly for implementation in 2018. Dorinda Noble and I will continue as co-chairs. Kim Madsen of California has accepted an appointment to join the task force. Other members who were appointed in previous years continue to serve. ASWB staff include CEO Mary Jo Monahan; Jennifer Henkel, director of member services; Dave Ryczko, member services senior manager; and Jill Armm, executive services coordinator. Dale Atkinson, ASWB's legal counsel, serves as a consultant to the task force.

Membership Structure Task Force

Another very important task force established this year is the Membership Structure Task Force, which is charged with the following:

- Review past reports on this topic
- Survey other organizations for their best practices
- Survey current member board members

Director at Large Richard Silver of Québec was appointed chair. Task force members include Janice James of Kentucky, President-Elect Tim Brown of Texas, Director at Large Robert Payne of Idaho, and Treasurer Mel Harrington of South Dakota. Chief Operating Officer Dwight Hymans will serve as staff to the task force. Their purpose is to review the current ASWB membership structure, including dues/fees, levels of membership, and benefits to members. Members will work collaboratively using electronic meetings and face to face meetings when possible. They will bring a progress report to the November 16, 2017, meeting of the Board of Directors. It was reported at the Delegate Assembly that a Board decision to reduce membership dues was postponed until the work of this task force is completed.

A busy year ahead

This is going to be a very busy year for the association, and all are encouraged to Be Ready. I can confirm, after working with the members, that the new Board IS Ready!