Shining a light on the invisible work of regulators

“There’s a limited awareness of the work being done” by social work regulators, says ASWB Chief Operating Officer Dwight Hymans. “If one were to ask a social worker or a member of the public to explain the regulatory process or who does that work, most would not be able to do so accurately, if at all.”

To bring the important work of social work regulation to the fore, ASWB instituted an awards program for volunteer regulators and for staff members of regulatory agencies. “Offering awards is one way of recognizing the contributions made by these relatively unknown defenders of the public,” Hymans says. “With so many volunteers and staff involved in public protection, these awards are one small way of saying ‘thank you’ to some of these folks.”

The ASWB Board of Directors looks forward to receiving nominations for two board service awards that will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in Atlanta, Georgia, in November. Anyone who is a member or staff member of an ASWB member board may put forth a name for consideration.

By nominating a regulatory volunteer or administrator, you can draw attention to that individual’s great work, and you will help ASWB shine a light on the often invisible work done by social work regulators. “It may encourage others to get involved in the regulatory process,” says Hymans, “and it’s the right thing to do for those who give time, energy, and their knowledge for the greater good.”

The Sunny Andrews Award

This annual award recognizes an individual board member’s outstanding commitment to his or her individual social work regulatory board. Named for past ASWB President Sunny Andrews, the recipient of this award will be someone who demonstrates support of the member board. The nominee may have shown suitability for this achievement by giving selflessly of personal time and effort, by enforcing ethical performance, or by upholding the integrity of that board’s functioning and processes.

The Glenda McDonald Board Administrator Award

Since last year, the Board Administrator Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service has been called the Glenda McDonald Board Administrator Award in memory of McDonald, who served as registrar for the Ontario College of
Social Workers and Social Service Workers and was active on many ASWB committees.

The recipient will be a staff member, administrator, or registrar who has shown exceptional commitment to social work board service in his or her jurisdiction. This person is someone who has educated the public and the profession on legal regulation; facilitated a fair, efficient, and responsible process for legal regulation in a member jurisdiction on behalf of a member board; or promoted the ethical, responsible, and effective functioning of a member board.

The deadline for both award nominations is July 21, 2017. If you have questions you may call Melissa Ryder, the volunteer engagement and outreach senior manager, at 800.225.6880, Ext. 3060.

You may complete a nomination form on the ASWB members website, members.aswb.org, or request one by sending an email to mryder@aswb.org.