



## Committee work on fire

*Any committee is only as good as the most knowledgeable, determined and vigorous person on it. There must be somebody who provides the flame.*  
—Lady Bird Johnson

Committees in 2017 again provided energetic support to ASWB's strategic objectives. Next year the organization will begin the planning process to introduce a new set of objectives for adoption at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly...but we're getting ahead of ourselves!

This year more than 60 volunteers participated on committees and task forces, and members of ASWB Board of Directors were busy as liaisons to committees and serving on multiple task forces.

### Task Forces

This year the Board of Directors had more task forces at work in one year—five all told—than in years past. All were engaged in work focused on sustaining ASWB operations or on serving ASWB membership.

The Mobility Task Force has had the highest visibility, charged with bringing a Mobility Strategy and resolution to this year's Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly for a vote. In collaboration with member boards, task force members proposed, revised, proposed, offered for comment, and revamped the original Mobility plan until it became a strategy that is ready for adoption and implementation. Their report will be

presented at the Annual Meeting in November.

The generative discussions of the Membership Task Force resulted in the short-term recommendation to [restructure member dues](#) and longer term recommendations to the Board of Directors about membership categories and benefits. The task force made a progress report to the Board of Directors in August and will continue its work in 2018.

The Foundation Restructure Task Force has been charged with reviewing ASWB's 501(c)(3) research arm to make recommendations to the ASWB Board of Directors for how to use the Foundation to its best potential. The task force made a progress report to the ASWB Board of Directors in August and received approval to continue its work based on its recommendations.

The other two task forces provided guidance related to personnel processes. The CEO Evaluation Task Force provided recommendations accepted by the Board of Directors to update Section VI. Personnel in the ASWB Policy Manual. The Succession Planning Task Force will make its recommendations to the Board of Directors in November for policy updates. Both task forces will have

completed their mandates this year.

## Committees

ASWB has four standing committees and three ad hoc committees. Committee chairs will report more fully on committee activities at the Annual Meeting.

The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee report of proposed bylaws amendments and resolutions that delegates will be asked to vote on is available to [download](#). Chair Brian Carnahan of Ohio will present the committee report at the Annual Meeting. Other committee members include Joyce Bell of Maryland, Yvonne Haynes of Virginia, Carla Moore of Louisiana, Kathy Outland of Oregon, Mark Scales of Nova Scotia, and Board liaison Meenakshi Budhraj of Arkansas.

The election slate for 2017 positions on the ASWB Board of Directors and open seats on the Nominating Committee reflects the work of the Nominating Committee of chair Anwar Najor-Durack of Michigan, Jennifer Fulcher of Mississippi, Claude Leblond of Québec, Karine Levesque of New Brunswick, Greg Winkler of Wisconsin, and Tim Brown of Texas and ASWB president-elect. Najor-Durack will introduce the candidates at the Annual Meeting and moderate the candidate speeches on Friday.

The Finance Committee met regularly throughout the year in completion of its charge to advise the ASWB Board of Directors on issues related to the use of the association's assets, and the development of revenue sources. In 2017, it also was charged with holding generative discussions on future capital projects and

discussing upcoming decisions for the new building such as alternative energy sources and landscaping. Finance Committee members include ASWB President-Elect Tim Brown of Texas, Janice James of Kentucky, Brian Philson of Michigan, and Robert Showers of Louisiana. ASWB Treasurer Mel Harrington of South Dakota is committee chair and will present the Finance Committee report at the Annual Meeting.

Instead of its usual four meetings per year to approve questions to be pretested on the ASWB social work exams, ASWB's [Examination Committee](#) of 18 volunteer subject matter experts (SMEs) met twice: in August and October. The rest of the year, staff and many SMEs were busy preparing to launch new exams in 2018 based on the most recent practice analysis, conducted in 2015–2016. Committee Clinical co-chair Bora Sunseri of Louisiana, Masters co-chair Stephanie Washington of Texas, and Bachelors co-chair Mary Stebbins of Virginia will update the membership of the committee's activities at the Annual Meeting.

The Continuing Competency Committee of chair Mark Gianino of Massachusetts, Rachell LaRose of Missouri, Beatrice Traub-Werner of Ontario, and ASWB Board liaison Anna Lyn Whitt of Mississippi reviewed the outcomes from the 2017 Education Conference "Beyond CE: Regulating Competency in a Dynamic Profession" to come up with recommendations for jurisdictions to consider and recommendations for further research needed before the committee is ready to publish best practices in continuing competence as directed by their charge. To complete the research, they

recommended collaboration with ASWB's Foundation research grant scholars and the Path to Licensure Institute scholars as well as the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). [Download the Continuing Competency Committee report](#).

As members of the Regulation and Standards (RAS) Committee, chair Laura Thiesen of Alaska, Spencer Blalock of Mississippi, Sonia Cisternas of Québec, Vikki Erickson of Nevada, Jacqueline Lowe of South Carolina, Elizabeth Pope of North Carolina, and Board liaison Florence Huffman of Kentucky have an ongoing charge of reviewing the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act. Since this document had undergone a thorough three-year review recently, the committee made no recommendations for amendments this year. The hiatus gave the committee the opportunity to review complementary publications, including the ASWB Guidebook for Social Work Disciplinary Actions, and to continue promoting use of ASWB's Public Protection Database (PPD) to membership. The committee also wrote a letter to the Mobility Task Force supporting the Mobility Strategy and the task force's efforts to place the Model Social Work Practice Act at the heart of the strategy. [Download the RAS Committee report and letter of support](#).

Members of the 2018 Regulatory Education and Leadership Committee are at the midway point of planning the ASWB 2018 Education Conference focused on implementation and advocacy tools for moving the Mobility Strategy forward. All jurisdictions may have different methods and approaches to achieving greater practice mobility for licensed social

workers. All will need ideas and tools readily accessible to activate the Mobility Readiness Teams and review current legislation to determine how to overcome perceived barriers to implementation. Committee members include Kenya Anderson of Tennessee, Endsley Real of Georgia, Carolyn Szafran of Missouri, Barb Whitenect of New Brunswick, Vicki Williams of Tennessee, and Board liaison Harold Dean of Arkansas. Chair Kate Zacher-Pate of Minnesota will give membership a preview on Saturday at the Annual Meeting.

“I observed first hand the committee work our volunteers provide,” said ASWB President M. Jenise Comer. “They are passionate and ‘on fire’ about providing excellent service to ASWB. On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to thank them for their contributions.”

## Want to serve? Want to learn more?

Members will have an opportunity to visit with committee chairs and get information first-hand about serving on committees that interest them. Committee chairs will host the Welcome Reception on Thursday, November 16, preceding the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. There attendees can get up close and personal to ask: “What’s it really like to serve on your committee?”

Mobility Task Force members will share hosting duties, offering membership another opportunity, in addition to the two [listening sessions](#), to ask questions about the Mobility Strategy and resolution that delegates will vote on, on Saturday, November 18.

Members may submit a [Committee Interest Form](#) at any time. Committee appointments are made by the ASWB president after receiving input and approval from other members of the ASWB Board of Directors. Additional input comes from ASWB staff to the committees, the Volunteer Engagement and Outreach department, and ASWB executive staff and includes recommendations based on the committee interest forms on file. ASWB staff are always glad to know of members’ specific interests, skills, and strengths, and efforts are made to reflect diversity on the committees. With a few exceptions, committee appointments are made at the beginning of the calendar year. As per the ASWB bylaws, “composition and tenure of the committees is at the discretion of the ASWB president.”