



The Power of Member Boards and Delegates



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The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) is a private-sector organization whose membership is composed of public-sector social work regulatory boards. This unique public-private relationship provides numerous opportunities for the member boards to collaborate and cooperate on programs and services that benefit the membership. Such programs and services enhance government effectiveness while at the same time promote uniformity among and between member boards. Uniformity of licensure requirements and processes regarding data collection and management contribute to the efficiencies of members in making timely, yet informed, eligibility determinations. Specifically, and relevant to the current regulatory climate, uniformity provides opportunities for mobility and portability programs developed and implemented by the member boards.

What provides a unique strength to ASWB is the continuous involvement of member boards and persons designated by such boards in decision making at a policy-setting level. The collective voice of ASWB is representative of the membership that sets policies through active and meaningful participation by member boards. Active participation includes a delegate-elected Board of

Directors, committee appointments, and reports of recent activities, financial updates, and educational programming. In fact, ASWB funds a delegate from each member board to attend and participate in the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly to ensure opportunities for active participation. Attending delegates are encouraged to review materials and be prepared to discuss and vote on matters brought before the Delegate Assembly. **This representative form of governance is essential to informed decision making and ultimate exploration, development, implementation, and maintenance of programs and services deemed necessary for use by member boards.**

Member boards are encouraged to actively participate in the continued evolution of ASWB as an organization. No other organization exists that provides social work boards with direct involvement in the development of programs and services for use in the licensure process. Active participation comes in many forms including the use of the resolution process, elections of leadership, volunteerism for committees and task forces, networking, and participation in educational programming. The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in Atlanta, Georgia,

will include important discussions surrounding committee work and the exploration of mobility programs and opportunities. Prepared delegates and regulatory board members and staff will enhance the discussions and ensure results that benefit the membership.

As is customary, the delegates of the 2017 Annual Meeting will adopt the rules of debate that set the parameters of discussions and provide order to the proceedings. Also, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order will assist in ensuring order to the discussions and voting. Meaningful and constructive dialogue is the linchpin to member board involvement and directional decisions of the membership.

ASWB looks forward to a participatory and productive 2017 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.