



## Resolution promotes dialogue and action



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The 2017 Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in Atlanta, Georgia, was a shining example of positive and constructive dialogue among ASWB member boards. In particular, the delegates were presented with, discussed, and voted on a resolution addressing the association's Mobility strategy. This resolution was carefully drafted and distributed to the member boards well in advance of the annual meeting and involved a call to action on the part of the membership. Premeeting distribution allowed for member boards to ask questions of ASWB and have discussions at the jurisdictional level to identify specific concerns before arriving in Atlanta and participating in the discussion and vote.

Once at the annual meeting, the membership was presented with the report of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, and the resolution was read into the record. By design, and as is customary with other ASWB-like organizations, the vote on the resolution occurred the following day. This process allows for member boards and delegates to engage in conversations about the resolution and the effects on each jurisdiction and the membership. On day two of the annual meeting, delegates engaged in discussion on the floor prior to the vote.

While perhaps underused, the resolution process provides ASWB member boards with opportunities for direct input into significant policy decisions. Such policy decisions might include matters related to the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act, the Public Protection Database (PPD), the sharing of relevant information among member boards, convening a task force for a specific project, the undertaking of data gathering and sharing with membership, encouraging a call to action among the member boards to address significant multistate issues, and more. Boards are encouraged to refer to ASWB policy 4.2, Resolutions for information about how and when to introduce resolutions.

To clarify, resolutions are distinguishable from bylaws amendments. Amendments to bylaws generally address issues related to governance, authority of the Delegate Assembly, the Board of Directors and elections, committees, high-level financial and other authorities, and indemnification. They are adopted by the delegates at an annual meeting and upon due notice to the membership. Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be submitted at least 120 days in advance of the annual meeting and with notice to the membership no less than 60 days before the Annual Meeting.

As noted in the current ASWB policy manual, resolutions from member boards also must be submitted at least 120 days prior to the annual meeting. This time frame provides adequate time for the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and staff to ensure that the submission is within the scope of the ASWB mission and to provide necessary edits. The submitter of a resolution will always be consulted about editorial changes to ensure the substance of the resolution is maintained. The staff will also research submitted resolutions to ensure that they are not redundant with past resolutions.

Once staff has completed its review, the submitted resolution will be forwarded for committee consideration. The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee will provide a “Do Pass,” “Do Not Pass,” or “No Recommendation”

position. The rationale for the committee position will be incorporated into a report and distributed to membership. As was done at the 2017 Annual Meeting, the resolution will be read into the record before discussion and voting take place. All eligible delegates may vote to pass or not pass each duly submitted resolution. It takes an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates (assuming a quorum is present) for a resolution to pass.

Resolutions may be introduced by any member board of ASWB, and the resolution process is an appropriate way for member boards to be involved in big-picture policy decisions. Resolutions can stimulate thought-provoking discussions and action on the part of the membership and—if a resolution passes—action on the part of the association. Don’t forget about the resolution process. Use it.