Ready to lead

New Board of Directors and Nominating Committee members bring a breadth of experience to leadership

At the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly, ASWB delegates reelected Treasurer Mel Harrington of South Dakota following his nomination from the floor and elected Joyce Bell of Maryland, Patricia O’Reilly of West Virginia, and Beatrice Traub-Werner of Ontario to serve as directors at large. Bell fills the director at large, open seat; O’Reilly was elected to a public member seat; and Traub-Werner was elected as a director at large, licensed social worker. Carla Moore of Louisiana and Ann-Marie Buchanan of Tennessee were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. All election winners have served on committees with ASWB and all have a history of leadership outside the association, both in their professional lives and as volunteers. Each will serve a two-year term.

ASWB Board of Directors

Mel Harrington was first elected treasurer of ASWB in 2015 and said in his campaign remarks that he is “committed to provid[ing] strong governance oversight of all our financial affairs, which include the existing and future operating budgets, the headquarters construction, and our financial reserves.” He completed his term on the South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners in 2014. According to the bylaws, however, Harrington was eligible to run for election as a seated member on the ASWB Board of Directors.

Joyce Bell has served on the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners since 2010 and currently serves as chair of its Statute and Regulations Committee. Bell pointed out that her work on that committee and her involvement with ASWB have helped her focus on the importance of creating...
“a clear and attainable picture through our laws, regulations, and policies of who we are and what our roles are in protecting our most vulnerable.”

Patricia O’Reilly returns to the ASWB Board of Directors, having completed her most recent term in 2015. She serves as the consumer representative on the West Virginia Board of Social Work. For her, that designation rings true, as she has been a consumer of social work services in the past. As one of two public members on the Board of Directors, O’Reilly said that this service allows her “to bring back to [social workers] and bring back to the table [my perspective] on these issues” in regulation and public protection.

Beatrice Traub-Werner completed ten years of service on the council of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers in September, most recently serving as president for three years. In her campaign remarks, Traub-Werner highlighted new issues faced by ASWB members in professional regulation. “I am very interested in the challenges our professions face as issues of technology intersect with mobility and the legislation that regulates our practice is tested in ways we have not ever had to consider up until now,” she said.

**Nominating Committee**

Ann-Marie Buchanan of the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure and Certification was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. In her campaign remarks, Buchanan emphasized her commitment to listening to ASWB members and finding the right individuals to serve as leaders. “I like to talk,” she admitted, “but most importantly, I like to listen. And when I listen, I learn. What I like to listen to is what you all can do.”

Carla Moore of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners was also elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. She cited her extensive committee work for ASWB as an asset for Nominating Committee service. “My committee work has helped me to understand the needs of ASWB,” she said, “which puts me in a position to match persons to the various positions.”

Buchanan and Moore will be joining the three current members of the Nominating Committee, who were elected in 2016: Jennifer Fulcher of Mississippi, Karine Levesque of New Brunswick, and Greg Winkler of Wisconsin.

**The gavel passes to Timothy Martel Brown**

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, President M. Jenise Comer of Missouri passed the gavel to incoming president Timothy Martel Brown of Texas. Brown served as president-elect in 2017 and will serve two years as president, followed by a fourth year as past president.

The new Board of Directors met briefly after the annual meeting was adjourned. They will have their first full meeting in January. In addition to those elected in Atlanta, the Board includes President Tim Brown, Past President Jenise Comer, Secretary Lisa Crockwell of Newfoundland and Labrador, and directors at large Harold Dean of Arkansas, Florence Huffman of Kentucky, Ken Middlebrooks of Minnesota, and Robert Payne of Idaho.