



Committees begin a new year

Volunteers from 41 jurisdictions, including seven provinces, will populate the 2018 committees and task forces

ASWB committees do much of the heavy lifting at ASWB. Four of these workhorses are standing committees, meaning that their existence is mandated in the ASWB bylaws: Finance, Bylaws and Resolutions, Nominating, and Examination. The Board of Directors is the fifth standing committee, elected by and representative of ASWB's governing body, the delegate assembly. The other committees include Regulation and Standards, Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL), and Continuing Competence. Those appointed to serve in 2018 can be viewed [here](#).

The members of the ASWB Board and the Nominating Committee, ASWB's two elected committees,

have diversity at their core: the bylaws instruct the Nominating Committee to "use its best efforts to reflect diversity on both the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee." But the reflection of diversity infuses all of ASWB's committees and task forces. Although the type of diversity is not defined in the bylaws, committee appointments reflect geographic and ethnic diversity, as well as practice diversity in the Examination Committee.

Beyond being the bedrock of social justice and part of the social workers' code of ethics, diversity broadens perspectives, deepening the conversation about the association activities and the charges



The Membership Task Force met in April, in Herndon, Virginia. From left: Richard Silver (QC), chair, ASWB President Tim Brown (TX), Janice James (KY), Treasurer Mel Harrington (SD), and Director at Large Robert Payne (ID).

that the committees are asked to consider each year. Differing opinions and experiences add richness and help ensure that the work of the committees has the benefit of thoughtful discussion.

The ASWB president appoints members to ASWB committees each year guided by the bylaws and with the input and approval of the other members of the Board of Directors. Although committee service is generally one year, the president can choose to reappoint members to the same committee to provide continuity. Committee chairs have usually served at least one term on the committees they are asked to chair. Recommendations for appointments start with [committee interest forms](#) received each year from membership. Recommendations are also sought from current volunteers and staff to the committees through a survey sent at the end of the service year.

After the ASWB Board approves the appointments, ASWB's Volunteer Engagement and Outreach department sends letters on behalf of the president to appointees to invite the volunteers' participation. The president contacts those approved to serve as committee chairs. Service on each committee has different time commitments. Committee members may be asked to participate in numerous conference calls throughout the year as well as attend one or more in-person meetings to complete the committee's charge. Attendance at committee meetings is fully funded.

Appointments to most committees follow this process. However, the Examination Committee is filled using different protocols, because members are selected from the



The Finance Committee met in April in Culpeper. Front row: ASWB Treasurer Mel Harrington (SD), chair, and Carole Bryant (SK). Back row: Brian Philson (MI) and Roxroy Reid (NM).

pool of item writers and are not customarily social work regulators. The term for members of the Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee, which plans the association's annual education conference, is based on the conference year not a calendar year.

Committee members have the opportunity to collaborate on

important work of the association in support of the strategic plan. Because committee work is part of the ASWB governance structure, experience on ASWB committees is an important element that the Nominating Committee considers when choosing candidates for leadership positions within the organization.

Volunteers needed for 2019!

Members and member board staff interested in serving on a committee in 2019 are encouraged to submit a [committee interest form](#). Because committee size is limited and because diversity is such an important component of the appointment process, not everyone who submits a form will be selected to serve. Interested volunteers who are not selected are advised to resubmit each year that they are willing to serve to provide notice of their availability. Information about [ASWB's committees](#) can be viewed on the members section of the website. Pages dedicated to each committee list the committee charges, anticipated time commitment, and member strengths sought.