ASWB’s annual business meeting is referred to as the delegate assembly for a reason: The attendees who serve as delegates of the member jurisdictions assemble to conduct some critical business at the meeting, including elections for ASWB leadership positions on the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee.

Elected to the ASWB Board

The 2018 delegate assembly elected six members to the 2019 ASWB Board of Directors: Harold Dean of Arkansas, office of the president/president-elect; Lisa Crockwell of Newfoundland and Labrador, secretary; Deborah Jones of British Columbia and Roxroy Reid of New Mexico, directors at large, licensed social worker; Ken Middlebrooks of Minnesota, director at large, public member; and Kate Zacher-Pate of Minnesota, director at large, member board administrator. Claude Savoie of New Brunswick, Glenda Webber of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ginny Dickman of Idaho were elected to serve two-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

The office of the president, unlike other positions on the ASWB Board, is a four-year commitment. Harold Dean will begin his term by serving one year as president-elect before stepping up for a two-year term as president, then completing his service as immediate past president for one year. Dean served

Familiar faces, new roles

Delegates elect nine established ASWB leaders to serve on the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee

Newly elected members of the 2019 Board of Directors are, from left: Lisa Crockwell (NL), Roxroy Reid (NM), Kate Zacher-Pate (MN), Harold Dean (AR), Ken Middlebrooks (MN), and Deborah Jones (BC).
three years as chair of the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board and has been involved with ASWB as a member of the Mobility Task Force and as a member of the Board. This year marked the end of his term as director at large on the ASWB Board. In his election speech, Dean emphasized practice mobility and strategic thinking. “We must continue to move forward implementing the Mobility resolution” that passed in 2017, Dean said. “Operationalizing our new strategic framework will be very important in giving clarity and focus to our organization on helping member boards strengthen their role in public protection.”

Lisa Crockwell was re-elected secretary, a position she has held on the Board of Directors since 2016. Crockwell has served as registrar for the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers for 19 years. In her remarks to the delegate assembly, Crockwell drew on an electricity metaphor, comparing ASWB members to protons and electrons. “We need to appreciate our differences and understand we all have legislative realities,” she said. “But at the same time, know that it’s truly only when we bond together and are on the same wavelength that we find those solutions to important issues that we have in common.”

Debora Jones and Roxroy Reid, both elected as directors at large, come to the Board of Directors with direct experience with the ASWB examination program. Jones and Reid both worked as item writers, and Jones also served on the Exam Committee and as a form reviewer. Each of them emphasized the importance of practice mobility for ASWB member jurisdictions. Jones pointed out that she brings practical experience with practice mobility as a social worker who has practiced and been regulated internationally. Reid talked about the value of practice mobility as a workforce issue in New Mexico. “We need to come together [around mobility]” he said. “Mobility is my thing.”

Ken Middlebrooks was re-elected for a second term as director at large, public member. In addition to his service on the ASWB Board of Directors, Middlebrooks has served for 15 years on the Minnesota Board of Social Work. Middlebrooks cited his family’s experiences with licensed social workers as motivating his service with ASWB and the Minnesota board. “I feel a personal responsibility,” he said, “to ensure that everyone who needs a social worker has access to a social worker who is both ethical and culturally competent.”

Joining Middlebrooks will be his long-time colleague from the Minnesota board, Kate Zacher-Pate, as director at large, member board administrator. In addition to her 25 years of experience in social work regulation, Zacher-Pate has been involved with ASWB for two decades, most recently serving as chair of the Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee, and a stint as chair of the Administrators Forum. She sees the priorities of ASWB as “Mobility, service to jurisdictions, exam integrity, sustaining partnerships, and promoting leadership.”

With the exception of Dean, the newly elected Board members will serve two-year terms, which began with a brief meeting of the Board following the annual meeting. Rounding out the 2019 Board are President Timothy Martel Brown of Texas, Treasurer Mel Harrington of South Dakota, and directors at large Patricia O’Reily of West Virginia and Beatrice Traub-Werner of Ontario. The vacant seat for director at large following the resignation of Joyce Bell of Maryland earlier this year was filled by appointment. (See the sidebar on page 3.)
Elected to the Nominating Committee

Ginny Dickman has a long history with the Idaho Board of Social Work Examiners and with ASWB. She served on ASWB’s Board of Directors at the turn of the century and most recently on the ASWB REAL Committee. In her candidate statement, Dickman emphasized the need for candidates who are “diverse and talented members who embrace our mission.”

Claude Savoie currently serves as president of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers and chaired the NBASW disciplinary committee for ten years. He sees the challenge of the Nominating Committee as rooted in an overall decline in volunteerism. “The Nominating Committee must play a vital role in motivating candidates to serve their organization as leaders.”

Glenda Webber is president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers and recently served on the ASWB Continuing Competence Committee. The critical work of the Nominating Committee, she says, lies in “recognizing and fostering leadership amongst peers, engaging them in the work that must be done, and highlighting the importance of their contribution to safe, ethical social work practice.”

Dickman, Savoie, and Webber will join Carla Moore of Louisiana and Ann-Marie Buchanan of Tennessee, who were elected to the Nominating Committee in 2017.

2019 Board of Directors vacancy filled

In December, the ASWB Board of Directors approved the appointment of Brian Philson of Michigan to serve a one-year term as director at large, open. The appointment fills the vacancy left when Joyce Bell of Maryland resigned for personal reasons. Philson will serve until elections are held at the November 2019 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly, when he will be eligible for election to the same position if otherwise qualified.

Philson received his MSW from Michigan State University and a B.A. in social work from Spring Arbor College. He is president and CEO of Highfields, a $9.2 million human services nonprofit where he has worked for more than a decade. Previously he was executive director of a juvenile detention center in Jackson, Michigan, for 15 years. Philson has served as an adjunct instructor at three Michigan schools of social work, including Michigan State University.

Philson is serving his second, four year term on the Michigan Board of Social Work and is in his third year as the board chair. He has been active with ASWB for many years, most recently serving on the Finance Committee in 2017 and 2018. He has also served as Michigan’s delegate at ASWB’s annual meetings and attended ASWB education meetings.