

# Proposed amendments: ASWB Bylaws

# Substantive amendment proposals:

#### **Article VII. Board of Directors and Officers**

- Amended language in "Section 1" to expand eligibility for Director at Large positions.
- Amended language in "Section 7(c)" to correspond with changes in "Section
  1" regarding overall composition of the Board of Directors.
- Incorporated formatting changes for sake of clarity when referring to specific categories of Director at Large positions. Pending successful adoption of the amendment proposals, these formatting changes will be incorporated elsewhere in the bylaws as necessary.

# Section 1. Composition.

There shall be 11 members of the Board of Directors: four Officers, which shall be identified as President, Immediate Past President or President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary; and seven Directors at Large, which shall be identified as three Directors at Large – Licensed Social Worker, two one Directors at Large – Public Member, one Director at Large – Member Board Administrator, and one two Directors at Large – Open. The Association Officers and Board of Directors Officers shall be one and the same.

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#### Section 7. Terms.

Service on the Board of Directors shall be limited to four consecutive elected terms, exclusive of the Office of President. However, seated directors are subject to the limitations set forth in Article VII, Section 3(c). The terms of the Directors shall be as follows:

- a. Office of President. [NO CHANGES PROPOSED]
- b. Secretary and Treasurer. [NO CHANGES PROPOSED]
- c. Directors at Large. Directors at Large shall be elected to serve for two-year terms. There are three Director at Large Licensed Social Worker positions, two elected in even-numbered years and one elected in odd-numbered years. There are two is one Director at Large Public Member positions, one elected in even-numbered years and one elected in odd-numbered years. There is one Director at Large Member Board Administrator position, elected in even-numbered years. There is one are two Director at Large Open positions, one elected in even-numbered years and one elected in odd-numbered years. A Director at Large shall not serve in the same position for more than two consecutive elected terms, nor hold more than one seat on the Board of Directors at any time.

## **Recommendations:**

To promote broader participation while addressing ongoing eligibility and engagement issues, the Nominating Committee recommends the following changes:

- Amend the number of Director at Large Public Member positions from two to one.
- Convert the Director at Large Public Member position previously slated for election in even-numbered years to a Director at Large – Open position.
- 3. Slate the Director at Large Public Member position in odd-numbered years only.

### **Rationale:**

These proposed changes from the Nominating Committee expand eligibility to the Board of Directors by providing a second Director at Large – Open position in the place of an existing Director at Large – Public Member. This change would allow all eligible Licensed

Social Workers, Member Board Administrators, and Public Members to be nominated and slated for the two Open positions.

As the proposed changes call for the designation of a second Open position, it will be more feasible to recruit eligible candidates. Notably, this proposal also seeks to preserve diverse representation by maintaining designated seats for one Public Member position and one Member Board Administrator position.

The Nominating Committee appreciates and recognizes the value of participation by public members. However, it has historically been difficult to identify and slate multiple qualified public member candidates due to low levels of engagement with ASWB. The Nominating Committee strives to slate individuals who are experienced regulators and actively involved with ASWB. This task becomes even more challenging in even-numbered years, when nine positions must be filled, compared to six positions in odd-numbered years.

Despite these challenges, the Nominating Committee recognizes the importance of continued public member participation and encourages the recruitment of eligible candidates from all backgrounds – Licensed Social Workers, Member Board Administrators, and Public Members – to be slated for election to the Director at Large – Open positions. Public members represent the communities served by ASWB, and their presence on the Board of Directors enhances its accountability and its diversity of perspective.

The proposed amendments involve language changes to *Article VII. Sections 1 and 7*. The amendments included herein do not impact *Article VII. Sections 2-6*.