

2026 Membership and Engagement Task Force report to the Delegate Assembly

Task Force Charge

The purpose of the Membership and Engagement Task Force (METF) is to develop and promote strategies and best practices for enhancing membership and member engagement within the association, through review of bylaws, policies and member feedback. To accomplish its work, the METF will accept suggestions from non-task force members seeking to raise awareness of current challenges in these areas.

The task force will work closely with the ASWB Board President and Chief Executive Officer and will report to the Board of Directors.

As necessary and appropriate, the task force will work in collaboration with other ASWB committees and task forces to complete its charges. The task force's work will be guided by the ASWB strategic framework whenever applicable.

The METF is charged with the following:

1. Making recommendations for a new membership structure by reviewing the current ASWB membership structure as outlined in bylaws and policy and researching other membership structures from other associations and from stakeholder input. Presenting recommendations to the Board of Directors.
2. Exploring the possibility of using "regions" or subgroups of ASWB member jurisdictions, per the 2024 Resolution, with the goal of increasing and cultivating communications among and between member boards/colleges and making recommendations to the Board of Directors. Service will be based on project-specific timelines.

Recommendations/actions

The METF began meeting in March 2025 and continues to meet regularly in 2026. The METF focused on modernizing ASWB membership structure, clarifying expectations for members in good standing, and strengthening engagement and governance representation, while being careful not to undermine ASWB's 501(c)(3) status or core regulatory mission. The group moved from exploratory discussion to clear recommendations and draft bylaw/policy directions, particularly around membership categories, and regional ideas.

Recommendations/ actions from the first charge, Making recommendations for a new membership structure:

Membership Categories & Scope

The METF recommended creation of a Past Presidents membership category and moved this forward to the bylaws committee for evaluation.

The METF decided not to pursue an organizational membership category at this time due to:

- Governance concerns
- 501(c)(3) implications
- Unclear benefit relative to risk

Committee members

Co- Chairperson

Brian Philson (MI)

Co- Chairperson

Elizabeth Pope (NC)

Cathy Ada (PEI)

Ann-Marie Buchanan (TN)

Terry Erickson (WI)

Karine Levesque (NB)

Carla Moore (LA)

Sharolyn Wallace (OK)

Dale Atkinson, Legal Counsel

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Recommendations/ actions from the second charge, Exploring the possibility of using “regions” or subgroups of ASWB member jurisdictions

The METF created a framework for evaluating potential approaches to regional or subgroup representation within ASWB with the following Guiding Principles:

Regardless of the model selected, any representation framework should strive to:

1. Promote Broad Engagement

The structure should encourage participation from all jurisdictions, including smaller jurisdictions that may have fewer resources or volunteers.

2. Reflect Regulatory Diversity

The system should recognize that member boards operate under different governance models and face different regulatory environments.

3. Support Inclusive Leadership Development

Regional structures should create pathways for emerging leaders and ensure that opportunities are accessible across the association.

4. Balance Simplicity and Equity

A model that is easy to understand and administer may encourage participation; however, simplicity should be balanced with the need for fair representation.

5. Strengthen Communication

Any (regional) structure should improve information sharing among members and between members and ASWB leadership.

Next steps:

Five options were contemplated with the hybrid model being recommended by the task force.

This will be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and discussion at the November 2026 meeting.