

2024 Bylaws and Resolutions Committee report to the Delegate Assembly



Charge to committee

The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee reports to the delegate assembly, which considers resolutions and bylaws changes for adoption. The committee adheres to the current bylaws in making its report and receives input from the Board of Directors. As necessary and appropriate, the committee will work in collaboration with other ASWB committees and task forces to complete its charges. The committee’s work will be guided by the ASWB strategic framework whenever applicable.

Ongoing charges

1. Considering all amendments duly proposed to the bylaws and making recommendations to the Board of Directors and the delegate assembly as to the implications of adoption.
2. Initiating any suggestions that the committee feels necessary for change to the bylaws or proposed amendments.
3. Providing leadership to the bylaws amendment process at the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.
4. Screening and processing all resolutions to be brought before the delegate assembly in accordance with association policy.
5. At the direction of the Board of Directors, reviewing the ASWB Policy Manual for inconsistencies with current bylaws or association practice, and drafting proposed changes for consideration by the ASWB Board.

2024 charges

1. Considering a sample resolution similar to Resolution No.: 1-2022, Including ASWB on Member Board agendas to increase current and ongoing knowledge of ASWB, as directed by the 2022 Delegate Assembly
2. Working with ASWB General Counsel to determine best practices for Board terms.
3. Working with the DEIJ Committee to evaluate the bylaws language for inclusivity and equity.

Recommendations/actions

As a result of its work during 2024, the ASWB Bylaws and Resolutions Committee is proposing two resolutions for consideration and adoption by the Delegate Assembly. These

Committee members

Chairperson

Elizabeth Crone, Arkansas

Ann-Marie Buchanan, Tennessee
Board liaison

Jolene Engelking, Minnesota

Miguel LeBlanc, New Brunswick

Claudia Vicencio, Florida

Stephan Viehweg, Indiana

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resolutions are in line with the ongoing and 2024 charges. In addition to these two resolutions, the committee is putting forward a bylaws amendment proposal aimed at clarifying the language regarding elections of the association's directors.

The resolutions and the proposed amendment to the bylaws can be found at the end of this report

Future discussion topics and/or suggestions for 2025 charge

In 2025, the committee should continue to determine ways to encourage member engagement. Resolutions are one way for member boards to express their priorities and concerns. The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee should work with staff members to conduct outreach to member jurisdictions in order to determine if members are confronting issues that would be applicable to a majority.

One suggestion to encourage member engagement with regard to bylaws amendments and resolutions is to host a virtual event for member administrators and board members in early 2025, which outlines the process for drafting and submitting these measures for consideration by the delegate assembly.

In addition to its work with the DEIJ Committee, the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee could also have its members convene with representatives from other standing and ad hoc committees to discuss how those groups have used the language of the bylaws as a guide or reference in their work. These conversations may result in proposed amendments from members or other committees.

Proposed amendment to ASWB Bylaws

The 2024 Bylaws and Resolutions Committee proposes the following amendment to the ASWB Bylaws, Article VII. Added text appears in **red**.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Section 3. Qualifications for Continued Service.

c. Seated Directors.

Notwithstanding Article VII, Section 2 in these bylaws, seated directors are eligible to be elected to up to two additional terms for any **other** position on the Board of Directors inclusive of the Office of the President after they have ceased to be a Member Board Member, if they are otherwise eligible. However, seated directors are subject to the term limits set forth in Article VII, Section 7.

Resolution #2024-1

Title: **Task Force to Consider Regions Encouraging Increased Engagement**

Proposer: Bylaws Committee

WHEREAS, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) is a membership organization, whose Member Boards are governing bodies empowered to credential and regulate the practice of social work in the United States and Canada and comparable entities, and

WHEREAS, ASWB provides programs and services that lessen burdens on Member Boards, and

WHEREAS, ASWB recognizes that each Member Board has its own process to fulfill its mission of regulating social work in the interest of public protection, and

WHEREAS, ASWB promotes communications to allow the association to assist the social work regulatory community benefit from the effectiveness and efficiencies of the ASWB programs and services, and

WHEREAS, ASWB wishes to expand the involvement of its Member Boards to assure current and relevant information is involved in the development, implementation, and maintenance of programs and services that are of benefit to the membership, and

WHEREAS, ASWB realizes and understands the importance of Member Board engagement in the development and implementation of programs and services relevant to social work regulation, and

WHEREAS, it may be beneficial and communication efforts may be enhanced through the use of regions for communication and involvement by Member Boards, and

WHEREAS, the development of regions may increase the knowledge by members of Member Boards of ASWB and its programs and services and enhance the collective opportunities by members of Member Boards to contribute to the evolution of current programs and stimulate consideration of additional programs and services, and

WHEREAS, the development of regions and increased opportunities for communications may also increase volunteer engagement for the benefit of Member Boards and social work regulation, and

WHEREAS, the use of the word region in this resolution is meant to incorporate the concepts of cohorts, subsections or districts, or smaller groupings of Member Boards that could be based upon governance structures, number of licensees, geographic distribution, or any other collective characteristics to improve the communication opportunities of those participating.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Board of Directors convene a Task Force to explore the use of regions intended to increase and cultivate communications among and between ASWB Member Boards and stimulate grass roots efforts to evolve and enhance programs and services; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the progress or results of the exploration be reported back to the membership at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.

Resolution #2024-2

Title: **Member Board Engagement**

Proposer: Bylaws Committee

WHEREAS, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) is a membership organization, whose Member Boards are governing bodies empowered to credential and regulate the practice of social work in the United States and Canada and comparable entities, and

WHEREAS, ASWB realizes and understands the importance of Member Board interactions and access to information in order to fulfill the legislatively mandated mission of social work regulation in the interest of public protection, and

WHEREAS, ASWB provides programs and services that lessen burdens on Member Boards, enhance effectiveness and efficiencies, and facilitate fulfillment of this legislative mandate of public protection, and

WHEREAS, ASWB promotes communications to allow the association to assist the social work regulatory community to benefit from the ASWB programs and services, and

WHEREAS, ASWB recognizes that each Member Board has its own process to fulfill its mission of regulating social work in the interest of public protection, and

WHEREAS, ASWB wishes to expand the knowledge of ASWB, its existing programs and services to each member of the Member Boards and their staff, and

WHEREAS, increased engagement and information exchange and feedback enhances the upwards opportunities for and encourages Member Boards to be the stimulus of the exploration, development, implementation, and maintenance of programs and services through the collective wisdom of the association, and

WHEREAS, increased knowledge of and engagement by Member Boards will guide the organizational development and future of ASWB.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) develop a plan to increase opportunities for knowledge of and engagement by and between Member Boards that offer opportunities for the broader participation of members of Member Boards and their staff to benefit from the collective wisdom of the ASWB community, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ASWB Board of Directors periodically report its progress and results to the Member Boards, including an update to the membership at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.