



ASWB grows up: Making the case for regulation

Celebrating 35 years dedicated to public protection

The celebration of ASWB reaching 35 years was festive and full of surprises. Who knew that Kim Frakes of Nevada had such talent with the tambourine or that CEO Mary Jo Monahan could rock out with such style on the Stones' classic, "Satisfaction"? Members and guests who attended the welcome reception at the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in Boise, Idaho, in November had a memorable evening dancing to the Chaz Browne Group, connecting with fellow regulators, former ASWB leadership, and friends, and experiencing the history of how ASWB grew up to become the association it is today.

As social workers, ASWB members know of what Noble spoke when she recounted the history of ASWB in terms of human development. Following its birth in 1979, the association survived its infancy in the 1980s, struggled through its turbulent teen years in the 1990s, transitioned to its 20s in the 2000s, and emerged in the 2010s older and wiser as a 30-something. During each of these decades, ASWB continued to make the case for regulation and stayed true to its mission of public protection.

Video montages with musical interludes from each decade set the scene for Noble's retelling of



each era in ASWB's history. The role of regulation was celebrated: Stories of disciplinary actions that put an end to unsafe and incompetent professional behavior illustrated the necessity of regulation to safeguard the public.

Noble also connected past to present by recognizing former presidents in attendance during her speech: Brahma Wilczynski of New Mexico, who served in the 1980s; Amanda Duffy Randall of Nebraska, who served in the 2000s; and Patricia Heard of North Carolina, who served in the 2010s.

Two other former presidents sent greetings: Mae Gunnare of South

Dakota, who served in the 1990s, and Frances Goddard, who served both as president in the 1980s and later as executive director of the association. Janice James of Kentucky, president in the 2000s, was expected to attend the celebration but was delayed by weather.

Following the speech, a video of photos taken of ASWB volunteers through the years ran in a continuous loop. Many in attendance were pictured during service in their younger days, attesting to the dedication and commitment that remains a strength of ASWB membership.

The special guest of the evening was former executive director Donna DeAngelis, who spent 18 years at the helm of ASWB operations. Invited to share her memories about ASWB, she recalled the turbulent teen years, when then-president Sunny Andrews hired her. She spoke of the importance of the exam and the importance of ASWB in service to its members and public protection.

The evening was the capstone to a year in which ASWB has celebrated the importance of regulation, starting with the Spring Education Meeting on discipline. The Path to Licensure campaign has elevated the awareness of social work faculty and students to the importance of regulation in the profession. And ASWB leadership has received more invitations to be present at roundtables and meetings of other leadership social work organizations to discuss the exams, regulation, professional competency, and mobility.

Moving into the future, Noble noted, “the case for regulation is still rock solid, and ASWB will continue to meet that need.”

[President Dorinda Noble’s 35th anniversary speech can be viewed here.](#)