



Presidential Report – 2025

ASWIS understands that a precise and critically developed strategic plan provides the blueprint for our collective growth. Clearly stated mission, vision, and value statements offer the overarching objectives of ASWIS. However, the specific goals outlined in our [2025 strategic plan](#) gave us targeted tasks for achieving our primary objectives. Our Executive Committee and membership used this strategic plan to guide our work throughout the calendar year. In the end, our efforts maintained our commitment to ensuring members have access to new resources, continuing to inspire a subspecialty of social workers, and drawing local, state, national, and global attention to the well-being and functioning of athletes and those who serve them.

In the spirit of transparency, our Executive Committee submits this Presidential Report to provide specific outcomes related to each of our ten strategic goals.

Goal One: Membership Education

Our Executive Committee recognizes the value our membership brings to ASWIS. We take pride in returning the investment of our members through educational opportunities and the expansion of their professional networks. The following were outcomes for this calendar year:

- We offered a record number of Continuing Education (CE) opportunities to our members. This was achieved through consistent CE offerings from our Clinicians Committee, the Sport Social Work Symposium, and partnerships with numerous sport-based organizations. In total, we offered 26 CEs.
- As we enter 2026, we will continue these efforts and seek to actualize additional one-day training opportunities for ASWIS members in regional locations. We look forward to engaging our members in this work.

Goal Two: Committee Engagement

The Executive Committee streamlined the list of standing committees. The success of ASWIS is directly tied to the success of each individual committee. The following outcomes demonstrate progress made this year:

- We streamlined and staffed the Clinicians Committee, Practicum Education Committee, Conference Planning Committee, and Research Committee.
- Each committee maintained a working agenda and provided monthly updates at Executive Committee meetings.

- The Clinicians Committee led efforts to significantly expand partnership opportunities for ASWIS. New partnerships formed in 2025 included Coaching HER©, Mission 89, the National Eating Disorders Association, The Quell Foundation, and Survivors for Change. The committee updated our provider network procedures to ensure greater efficiency and oversight. It also continued to provide exemplary clinical support and consultation.
- The Practicum Education Committee continued to build a directory of sport social work placements and expanded the impact of our Practicum Education Manual. The committee also began offering [technical consultation](#) to colleges and universities seeking to expand sport social work offerings.
- The Conference Planning Committee led our most successful symposium to date. We had a record number of proposal submissions, presentations, attendees, and sponsorship dollars. The committee also took several steps to professionalize our operations.
- The Research Committee continued connecting emerging, early-career, and seasoned researchers to grow the publication, presentation, and grant-funding portfolios of ASWIS members.

Goal Three: Membership Growth

The growth of ASWIS depends heavily on the recruitment of new members and the renewal of existing memberships. Our collective voice, strengthened by membership growth, positions ASWIS, the social work profession, and our members to better serve the sport population. We are excited to report the following:

- We currently have 431 members, a record number that reflects a 39% year-over-year increase.
- Our membership continues to expand both nationally and internationally, with a record number of states and countries represented.
- We continue to utilize all features of the Join It membership software (e.g., social media linkage, monthly digital newsletters, and listserv management).

Goal Four: Infrastructure

We strive to serve as a model nonprofit organization both within sport and across the broader social work landscape. We continue to maintain our nonprofit status, an Employer Identification Number (EIN) with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and [bylaws](#) that guide the mission of ASWIS. To further advance these areas, we achieved the following:

- Hired a full-time Program Coordinator (Amanda Dailey-Weaver) with fiscal support from the University of Kentucky College of Social Work.
- Began the process of shifting our incorporation to Kentucky to support our Program Coordinator's roles and responsibilities.
- Facilitated elections to ensure fresh ideas and perspectives remain a staple of our Executive Committee.

Goal Five: Policy

Influencing policy strengthens ASWIS's advocacy efforts and shines a local, state, national, and global spotlight on our grassroots work. To achieve this goal, the Executive Committee and our members accomplished the following:

- Maintained our [policy platform](#) and responded to numerous legislative and lobbying requests.
- Placed members on multiple national governing body committees and task forces.

As we enter 2026, we must increase public awareness of policies and legislation impacting sport social work and develop policy recommendations and toolkits to support professionals in the field. We look forward to working collectively on these efforts.

Goal Six: Research

Research plays a vital role in raising awareness of athlete needs and understanding how athletic participation influences individuals across the lifespan. ASWIS views research as a unifying force that allows members to collaborate on meaningful projects. Additionally, member presentations at local, state, national, and international conferences provide valuable visibility for ASWIS and advocacy for athletes. This year, we achieved the following:

- Our members delivered over 100 presentations globally on sport social work topics.
- Our members produced the largest number of peer-reviewed publications in a single year (80+).
- The Executive Committee entered into several MOUs supporting the intersection of practice and research with organizations such as Mission 89 and The Quell Foundation.
- The *Sport Social Work Journal* (an ASWIS affiliate) published two volumes.
- In conjunction with the University of Kentucky, the [International Institute for Sport and Behavioral Health](#) was launched as part of a sport social work collaboration.

Goal Seven: Sport Social Work Symposium

ASWIS remains committed to hosting an annual symposium on the integration, application, and evaluation of social work in sports. The symposium provides a peer-reviewed forum for disseminating research, practice knowledge, and advocacy for the sport social work movement. It also offers an excellent networking opportunity. This year, the Alliance accomplished the following:

- Hosted the largest symposium to date in New Orleans, LA.
- Began initial preparations for the 2026 symposium in Los Angeles, CA.

Goal Eight: Fiscal Management

The financial strength of ASWIS is essential to achieving the goals established in our strategic plan. Having adequate fiscal resources supports our ability to lead the integration of social work across all realms of sport. Steps taken to ensure fiscal sustainability include:

- By the end of 2025, we will move \$70,000 into a brokerage account, mutual fund, or other investment vehicle.
- We sought professional advising to ensure our investment strategies align with our goals and remain in compliance with tax laws and regulations.
- The current fund balance for ASWIS is \$168,000.

Goal Nine: Website and Communication

A central hub where members can access and share information is essential to organizational success. Our website serves as the primary source of information about ASWIS. We also offer additional modes of communication through our monthly digital newsletter and multiple social media platforms. Accomplishments for this year include:

- A complete rebrand of the website, including new resources for the general public, our membership, and prospective members. Since launching the new website in May, we had 17,173 website visitors equaling 34,958 page views.
- A 21% increase in social media followers.

Goal Ten: Formal Education

Recognizing the need to prepare social workers for careers in sport, the Alliance believes that a Sport Social Work Certificate Program or specialized courses at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels can provide excellence in education, research, practice, and service. This foundation allows social workers to play a meaningful role in advancing the social justice of athletes. To maintain and expand the Sport Social Work Certificate Program and create specialized college courses, ASWIS:

- Entered a new MOU with the University of Kentucky that will increase the visibility of the Sport Social Work Certificate Program for years to come.
- Through our prior partnership with Tulane University, 42 students completed the Sport Social Work Certificate Program this year.
- Continued working with institutes of higher education to promote sport social work courses and formal degree pathways. This included multiple sport social work graduate certificates to come in fall 2026 and the first DSW concentration in sport social work.

ASWIS celebrates a year of remarkable growth, strengthened partnerships, and record-setting accomplishments across education, research, and membership engagement. These successes reflect the collective dedication of our members and the continued evolution of sport social work as a vital professional discipline. Building on this momentum, we look forward to advancing our mission even further as we move boldly into 2026.