

To: ASWIS Executive Board
From: Richard D. Weaver Jr, PhD, MSSW
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Platform for Secretary

I have been a member of the Alliance of Social Workers in Sport since 2017. I joined this organization as a young PhD student looking for an organization that supported athletes and found a family. Through this organization I have made friends, found mentors, built resources, and collaborated with peers. As a member I sought to find more ways I could support the field of sport social work. I collaborated with other members in 2018 to form the student committee to support students actively in social work programs at all levels, which included collaborating on research. I went on to serve two terms on the Executive Committee as Program Director. Now I am seeking support to serve as the Secretary.

One of my primary goals as a member has been to promote and expand the reach of the ASWIS. I have done this through meetings with other non-profits and universities, presenting at conferences and meetings, and publication of articles. As Secretary I plan to continue that active promotion of the organization to continue to amazing growth the ASWIS has seen in the past year. Along with external promotions I also believe in clear and open communication with membership which is an essential part of the Secretary position. I will work with all organizational leadership and partner organizations to promote transparency to the membership. I will collaborate with the Executive Committee to review current bylaws, look at reforms and revisions, and seek feedback from the membership.

As part of building a long-lasting organization I would like to rebuild and expand the Student Committee. This committee allowed me the ability to connect with other students and active professors that helped me succeed through my courses. As a professor at a large university, I have seen how important building community and support for students has on their success. Through building that sense of community early with student members can help ground growing academics and professionals. Many of the current membership started as students and know the value of making sure early members feel supported and heard.

In closing, as a long-term member of the ASWIS, the organization is on the right track of building a strong voice for sport social workers. To continue this positive path, it is vital to examine bylaws, build effective communication with members, support fellow sport social workers, and build relationships with external partners. If elected to the position of Secretary, it will not only be my goal to impact all these areas but to continue my work promoting our field at every venue.