

It is my honor to accept the nomination for and to seek the support of the membership for the position of Vice President for the Alliance of Social Workers in Sport (ASWIS). Having been a member of the ASWIS for over nine years and having served on the Executive Committee and as Co-Chair of committees previously, I take this position very seriously. In the coming term of the Executive Committee, it will be vital to update the Bi-Laws, evaluate the next five-year plan, and expand on the amazing growth we have seen. When I joined the ASWIS there were barely one hundred members and today we sit at over five hundred. With that growth comes the need to examine the future of the organization to ensure membership brings opportunities, networking, and development across all members. Growth is not just about numbers but about the quality of what that membership brings. It is with that growth in mind that I have several areas I want to address if voted onto the Executive Committee.

The first thing I want to address is committees that have gone dormant or fallen off. It was committees like the student committee, college sports committee, and research committee that helped me advance in my career that I want to bring back or strengthen. Along with that is to bring more attention and areas for growth directed at BSW students and recent graduates. As a rural academic, I am aware that many of our BSW students and graduates may not be able to continue to a graduate program right after their undergraduate. Yet, these young social workers may have wanted to work in sport or have contacts with athletes that could benefit from networking, continuing education, committees, and even new educational initiatives. I want to see the ASWIS be an umbrella so that all social workers, of any education level, can see their seat at the table. My dream is to see social workers from the hollers of Kentucky to the heart of New York sharing, learning, networking, and building together this field that we all love so much into the future without forgetting our past.

Speaking of our past, which is another goal I have identified if voted onto the Executive Committee. ASWIS has been around for over 12 years now and in that time there has been a lot of work by some of the most amazing people I have ever known. I would like to see a history of the ASWIS created and embedded on the website that recognized the contributions of past, present, and future members. It is when we forget our history, all the way back to Jane Addams, that we find our future getting hazy. I want to recognize our past and on that same path bring back some of those who may have left the ASWIS over the years to show them there is still a home for them here.

Another goal of mine is to expand something that has been a passion of mine since I joined the ASWIS and that is spreading the word of sport social work. I spend a lot of time speaking at local, state, and across the nation at conferences about our field yet still hear all too often people say, "I didn't even know this existed." I want to continue to seek ways to expand our reach, the knowledge of sport social work, and growing our membership. It is for this and all the reasons I have laid out in this forum that I seek the votes of the ASWIS membership for the position of Vice President.