



Dedicated to ASWB's volunteers

New department's mission is maintaining positive relationships with ASWB volunteers and strengthening leadership qualities through volunteer service

While the department and its name, Volunteer Engagement and Outreach (VEO), may be new this year, the two ASWB staff members currently supporting it have a combined 16 years of experience with ASWB's meetings, exhibits, initiatives, and volunteers. The mandate given this recently reorganized department, which reports to Chief Operating Officer, Dwight Hymans, is to meet the logistical needs of ASWB conferences, off-site meetings, and outreach events, as well as to enhance enjoyment in and recognition of volunteer participation. It is the excellent work by volunteers and retention of great volunteers that helps keep ASWB strong. "The new department allows ASWB to put a clear

focus on our volunteers in a way that wasn't as likely before," said Hymans. "This department will give ASWB the opportunity to support the recruitment and development of the numerous individuals who make such a significant contribution to ASWB's mission. We would not be a strong organization without our volunteers, and we want to be sure we are providing the supports necessary for them to feel a part of our organization and continue to contribute to our important work."

Senior Manager Melissa Ryder explained, "With the many ASWB initiatives on the horizon, it makes sense to have a department dedicated to fostering and strengthening



Volunteer Engagement and Outreach department team members LaTonya Bannister and Melissa Ryder will use their extensive ASWB experience to develop a meaningful volunteer engagement program.

the support of one of our greatest resources as an organization, our volunteers.”

Ryder knows what she is talking about. In the past, she has assisted ASWB leadership and worked with association volunteers. The continuity she brings to this new endeavor is what paves the way for its success: Ryder knows the key stakeholders and what it takes to get things done within the framework and legal requirements of the association. She also brings organizational skills, expertise in planning large educational meetings, experience in planning professional development, and a desire to make a difference. Ryder said, “The department’s mission is maintaining positive relationships with ASWB volunteers and strengthening leadership qualities through volunteer service.”

The second member of the VEO team, Meetings Assistant LaTonya Bannister, will continue providing support for committee meetings and volunteer training for member boards as she has done for the last three years. Bannister says that she has “a passion for preparation and efficiency so volunteers can have an enjoyable time while getting the work done.” In addition, she will continue to support the department in a variety of ways. The team will expand to include a meetings manager in the near future.

Besides these two main areas, volunteer recognition is another vital component of the department. VEO staff will manage the existing volunteer recognition and awards program and they look forward to being able to discover new ways

to express appreciation to ASWB volunteers.

All three key components of VEO will be reflected at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in San Diego, November 17–19. The VEO staff are planning to provide opportunities for members to learn about serving on ASWB committees and other paths to leadership within ASWB during preconference sessions and at the welcome reception on Thursday. The awards luncheon on Saturday will honor the winners of the Sunny Andrews award for board members and the Glenda McDonald award for board administrators as well as recognize those ending their committee service. Members are encouraged to attend the information sessions and to express their interest to staff.