When Jeanie Crane, ASWB’s new meetings manager, was hired in April to be part of ASWB’s Volunteer Engagement and Outreach (VEO) department, she did not know she would be traveling five days later to Henderson, Nevada, for her first ASWB Education Conference. “I jumped right in,” Crane said. “It was a great experience. I was able to meet the Board of Directors and committee members and see how our meetings are run. Now that I’m back in the office I know what questions to ask and how to prepare.”

Crane has responsibility for coordinating the logistical details of the ASWB committee and task force meetings and the two annual meetings. She will also serve as logistical staff to the Regulatory Education and Leadership (REAL) Committee that plans the content for the annual education meeting.

A 2010 graduate of James Madison University, Crane received a degree in sports and recreation management with a minor in business. Her internship with the Boys & Girls Club in Hilton Head, South Carolina, resulted in a full-time job there. Since then, her knowledge of the hotel and restaurant business has grown through employment with Marriott and, later, the Shenandoah Crossing Resort.

It is clear that what Crane has trained to do and what she likes to do are one and the same. She explained, “I enjoy the planning—meeting new people, networking with hotel staff, choosing the food and beverages, expanding my horizons with travel to new places, and negotiating prices.” Crane also expressed an appreciation for the ASWB volunteers she has met.

Since Henderson, she has been working closely with the Examination Development department to learn about the structure of their meetings. She was instrumental in finalizing the details of the standard setting meeting held in Virginia in
May with more than 60 attendees including ASWB staff, consultants, and licensed social workers selected for the study from U.S. and Canadian member jurisdictions. (See related story.)

She also staffed a meeting of the REAL Committee and worked onsite with Meetings Assistant LaTonya Bannister at the New Board Member Training session (NBMT) in June. When she wasn’t busy behind the scenes at NBMT, she was able to sit in during parts of the training. “I got a feel for how these meetings are run, what materials are covered, and what meeting space is conducive to making a meeting successful for them,” she said.

On a personal note, the fact that Crane enjoys event planning has come in handy as she and Charles Middlemas (her high school sweetheart) arrange for their wedding in August—so her last name will change. “My fiancé and I are almost ready to enjoy dinner, beverages, dancing, and a special time with friends and family at a local historic inn.” There are two puppies in her life: Max and Ducky, and yet somehow she manages to find time “to use the piano my grandmother gave me recently and there are ‘his and hers’ kayaks ready for summer trips to the Rapidan River with Charles and friends.”

Crane becomes the third member of the VEO team that includes Bannister and is led by Senior Manager, Melissa Ryder. “Jeanie is a great addition to the team,” says Ryder. “We have needed this position filled for a while, and were looking for someone with enough experience to do the job and enough energy to dive right in and learn about our unique meetings and conferences. We are excited that she was able to meet us where we were and jump in with a smile!”