

MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

- 11:30a – Registration Opens
- **Registration fees must be paid online with a credit card. Only cash and check will be accepted at the door.**
- **Walk-in registration is strongly discouraged. Members who choose to register at the door will incur the standard monthly meeting registration fee for their membership type, the standard \$20 late registration fee, AND an additional \$25 walk-in fee. PLEASE NOTE THAT MEAL AVAILABILITY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED FOR WALK-IN REGISTRANTS.**
- Noon–12:30p - Lunch
- 12:30p-12:45p – Announcements
- 12:45p-1:45p – Education Session
- 1:45p-2p - Closing Announcements

No Member Meeting in July (Board Meeting Only)

August 19, 2026

Title:	Partners Not Opponents; Leveraging Curiosity to Build Connection
Presenter:	Kris Liebau , Action and Ease Coaching, LLC
Description:	Frustrated that your message isn't getting through to your team or leadership? Exhausted trying to engage and motivate people within the organization? Communication is a two-way street and being a good communicator requires establishing connection with curiosity to drive results and enhance understanding. This session will give you the space to reflect on your current communication strategies and feedback systems as well as providing tactical tools for empowering teams, mitigating conflict, building trust, and getting results Three takeaways from this session. 1. Build awareness of patterns of ineffective communication 2. Learn methods for staying curious in challenging situations 3. Develop techniques fostering spaces for maximum creativity and collaboration, creating real solutions with high buy-in
Competency:	Business Management
Location:	DoubleTree by Hilton Battle Creek

Registration Sponsor:	Available
Credit Hours Include:	1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP (Strategic Planning)

September 16, 2026

Title:	Increasing Organizational Performance through Disability Inclusion
Presenter:	Paul Artale
Description:	One out of every five Americans has a (dis)ability, more than 55% of Americans will have a disability before they retire, and the buying power of individuals with (dis)abilities is \$1 trillion per year. Despite these facts showing that (dis)ability is part of every workplace and transcends all identities, most organizations struggle to create work environments that attract, accommodate, and retain people with (dis)abilities. During this program, Paul Artale goes beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and helps you understand the essential factors that create a disability inclusive environment whether it be for your clients or staff. This program blends Paul's personal experience as an individual with visible and invisible disabilities, his experience as an award-winning special education teacher, and the latest research to create a presentation that is information-packed, practical, and challenges common assumptions. Three takeaways from this session. 1. Understand Disability Identity formation 2. Devise practices that build rapport with clients/coworkers with disabilities 3. Engage with meaningful methods to improve disability inclusion in your organization
Competency:	Education and Programming
Location:	Holiday Inn Midland
Registration Sponsor:	Available (contact Dorothy Dean for more details).
Credit Hours Include:	1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP (Stakeholder Management)

October 21, 2026	
Title:	Mastering Michigan Government Travel: Guidelines, Per Diems, and Insights
Presenter:	Jamie Mathews, State of Michigan
Description:	Navigate the complexities of official government travel in Michigan. This session covers the latest per diem rates, travel regulations, and meeting cost optimization strategies while providing valuable insights into government travel needs. Three takeaways from this session: 1. Understand the current rules, regulations, and per diem rates that govern official government travel in Michigan. 2. Gain clarity on the Travel Expense Exceptions Request Form process and how to request increases for guest room and food and beverage per diems. 3. Learn how to effectively meet government planner expectations to streamline costs and ensure successful meetings and events.
Competency:	Travel Fed/State/Local
Location:	Bay Pointe Inn Gun Lake
Registration Sponsor:	Available (contact Dorothy Dean for more details).
Credit Hours Include:	1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP (Project Management)

November 18, 2026 <i>Pending Approval from National</i>	
Title:	Sustainable Tourism
Presenter:	Dr. Jonathon Day , Founder - Sustainable Tourism and Responsible Travel Lab @ Purdue University - White Lodging - J.W. Marriott, Jr. School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
Description:	Sustainability has never been more important to the meetings industry. Yet sustainability can be a complicated and confusing topic. In this presentation, we'll cover a range of topics designed to help meeting planners and tourism industry partners implement sustainability programs that improve participant satisfaction, support clients' corporate social responsibility goals, and contribute to your destination community's quality of life. In this session, we'll cover big picture issues and provide practical tips that can be applied to your next meeting.

	Three takeaways from this session: 1. Practical steps to make your meetings more environmentally friendly 2. Guidance on planning for positive and lasting social impact 3. Emerging trends in meeting sustainability and social impact
Competency:	Facilities and Services
Location:	Holiday Inn Mt Pleasant
Registration Sponsor:	Mt Pleasant CVB
Credit Hours Include:	1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP (Sustainability and Social Impacts)

December 16, 2026 - Bring your leaders! <i>Pending Approval from National</i>	
Title:	Your Secret Weapon: How CVBs Make Planning Meetings Easier
Presenters:	CVB Panel: Stephanie Wohlfert, CMP, CTA - Choose Lansing Haleigh Gerwig - Experience Grand Rapids Alisa Hale - Gaylord Area Convention & Tourism Bureau Aimee Zionskowski - Traverse City Tourism Jessica Gibson - Discover Michigan's Thumb coast
Description:	Discover how Convention and Visitors Bureaus (CVBs), also known as Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs), can save meeting planners valuable time by serving as a single point of contact for hotels, venues, local resources, and destination expertise. Learn about the many complimentary services they provide, including site selection, RFP distribution, attendee resources, and local connections, to help make every meeting easier to plan and more successful. Three takeaways from this session: 1. Identify DMO's complimentary services and understand how they can support every stage of the meeting planning process from site selection through attendee experience. 2. Recognize how partnering with a DMO can save time and streamline planning for hotels, venues, local suppliers, and destination resources. 3. Apply strategies for leveraging local destination expertise to enhance meeting outcomes, create memorable attendee experiences, and build stronger relationships with host communities.

Competency:	Facilities and Services
Location:	The Hidden Gem Lansing
Registration Sponsor:	Choose Lansing
Credit Hours Include:	1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP (Strategic Planning)

No Member Meeting in January (January 21, 2027; Board Meeting Only)

February 17, 2027 *Pending Approval from National*

Title:	Decoding the AV Quote: Understanding the Crew Behind Your Production Labor
Presenter:	Adam Nelson
Description:	
Competency:	Technology
Location:	Courtyard Lansing Downtown
Registration Sponsor:	Available (contact Dorothy Dean for more details).
Credit Hours Include:	1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP (Meeting or Event Design)

March 10-12, 2027 Annual Education Conference

Location:	The Kensington Hotel
Credit Hours Include:	Earn multiple credit hours during the 2.5-day conference for GMS, CGMP, and CMP (CMP excludes Ethics and Professional Development core competencies)

April 21, 2027 *Pending Approval from National*

Title:	“Judge Laurie” - Music Licensing
Presenter:	TBD
Description:	Stay tuned!
Competency:	Logistics
Location:	Hilton Garden Lansing
Registration Sponsor:	Available (contact Dorothy Dean for more details).
Credit Hours Include:	1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP (Meeting or Event Design)

May 19, 2027 <i>Pending Approval from National</i>	
Title:	Behind the RFP: Honest Conversations Between Planners & Suppliers
Presenter:	TBD
Description:	Stay tuned!
Competency:	Education and Programming
Location:	TreeTops Resort
Registration Sponsor:	Available (contact Dorothy Dean for more details).
Credit Hours Include:	1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP (Stakeholder Management)