

INSIDE BUZZ



A monthly membership newsletter from the
Michigan Society of Government Meeting Professionals (MiSGMP)

March | April 2024



||| President's Pen



We're so 'PLAID' you attended the Annual Education Conference (AEC) at Treetops Resort in Gaylord, MI this March! MiSGMP offered **8 opportunities** to earn one continuing education credit in 5 of 9 National approved core competency areas. If you're thinking of attaining your CGMP, GMS, or have your CMP, don't forget to either set up or record your educational events in your **EIC account** (Events Industry Council) to track professional development.

From the intricacies of AI to the life-saving techniques of AEDs, all

eight AEC sessions were expertly taught and incredibly educating. We networked by the fire over fluffy marshmallows and delectable toppings. The awards dinner was welcomed with a cozy and rustic ambiance as we honored six Supplier Longevity certificates; Zenith Supplier of the Year – Amanda VanOoteghem; Zenith Planner of the Year – Amy Castner, and the President’s Award – Mary Trombley. Congratulations to you all! Your continuous support of SGMP and the Michigan Chapter is invaluable and your dedication does not go unnoticed.

The silent auction brought in more than \$4,000 that go to support chapter scholarships to AEC and NEC. Thank you for bidding high and to those who donated items. Our fundraising events would not be successful without you!

Thank you to all our MiSGMP AEC sponsors and the Annual Education Committee who made this event possible!

Congratulations to the [Courtyard by Marriott at CMU](#) and [Meet Mt. Pleasant!](#) The 2025 AEC will be held in Mt. Pleasant!

Here are a few upcoming things to look forward to:

- Announcement of the 2026 AEC location.
- Monthly Meeting RFP details.
- National Education Conference, May 7-9, 2024, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Installation of the new FY24-26 board of directors.

You’ve let us know our best form of communication with you is via email. If you’re not seeing our messaging, be sure to check your spam or junk folders. Those updates that can be made via the website or social media are done so in a timely order. Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

I look forward to working with each of you during my final months serving as President. As always, if you have any questions or ideas, I can be reached at President@misgmp.org or NovakT5@michigan.gov. If you’d prefer a phone call, please email me for my phone number.

In Gratitude,

Tammy Novak, C&MP, GMS

Tammy Novak
President

Michigan Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals



MEETING TO REMEMBER?
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Membership



MiSGMP members asked for more opportunities to meet members in the Mid-Year Survey. Now's the time to let members learn about you! It's simple, just [answer a few questions here](#) about yourself and SGMP. Please ensure to send a headshot to membership@misgmp.org.

Supplier Member Spotlight

Jessica Wilson | Corporate & Social Sales Manager | Bay Point Inn

What meeting trends are you seeing that may benefit other chapter members? Based on our trends at Bay Pointe, meeting planners are looking for venues that not only allow colleagues to meet outside of the office, but also to have experiences that are unique and inspirational. We have groups that spend the morning training, the afternoon on a pontoon, dinner in our open air lakefront Pavilion, and campfire stories at our cottage firepits to wrap up the night! SGMP plays a role in helping suppliers get in front of meeting planners who are looking for this type of unforgettable experience. **Click on the button below to read more about how Jessica got connected with MiSGMP!**



Meet Jessica

Stephanie Ware | Sales Executive | Visit Muskegon

Tell us a little bit about yourself. I am a Corporate & Social Sales Manager at Bay Pointe. With 12 years of hospitality experience ranging from restaurant food and beverage manager to sales at an event venue, creating unforgettable experiences is my passion! Working with a variety of different types of clients & budgets, my goal is to connect people with one of our unique venues that fits in their event's vision, from inspirational meetings to relaxing staff retreats. **Click on the button below to read more about Stephanie's property!**



Meet Stephanie

Planner Member Spotlight

Erin Rommeck | Administrative Assistant | Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO)

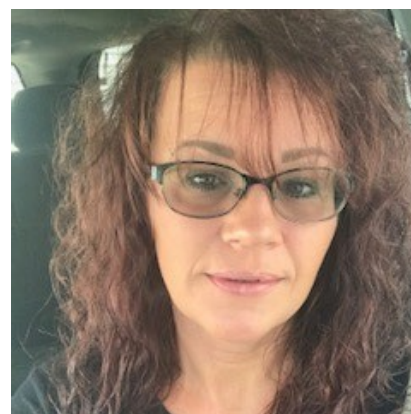
How did you get connected to SGMP and the Michigan Chapter and what do you like most about your membership? The fabulous, Debbie Kopkau is a model of event planning. Her expertise, kindness, sincerity, and depth of knowledge inspired me to reevaluate my career path to include meeting planning. Without her influence, I would never have developed the fantastic MiSGMP relationships and (educational and fun) meetings to ask questions and grow. **Click the button below to find out how she feels about the industry moving forward!**



Meet Erin

Shelia McCulloch | Executive Secretary | State of Michigan

Tell us a little bit about yourself. I have been with the State of Michigan for 20 years—working for Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan Department of Transportation, and Michigan Development Disabilities Council before joining MDARD in 2017. My duties include compiling correspondence, presentations, and reports; coordinating and supervising division office functions; correlating workflow and evaluating of division work; assisting or independently gathering and summarizing data for projects; and an array of other administrative tasks. **Click the button below to find out more about Shelia's role!**



Membership Report

Log into your [SGMP member account](#), update your profile, and check your membership expiration date.

As of March 31, 2024, MiSGMP has 161 members: 90 Planners | 67 Suppliers | 4 Others. The planner/supplier ratio is at 57%. Overall SGMP membership is at 1,405.



WE HAVE MET OUR THE STRATEGIC FOCUS #1 BY INCREASING THE MISGMP MEMBERSHIP TO 150 MEMBERS. MiSGMP has increased 20 members.

The SGMP [FY24-28 SGMP Strategic Plan](#) offers many membership capacity building initiatives.

Our member value is delivered through education, resources, and networking. [Read more HERE.](#)

If you want to be a part of member recruitment or retention initiatives, reach out to a Membership Committee member today.

Membership Committee

Tammy Novak, President, and Board Liaison – NovakT5@michigan.gov

Jocelyn Davis, Committee Chair - davisj31@michigan.gov

Kristen Taylor, Secretary – kristen@mha-mi.com

Shelley Long, First VP - slong@m-a-n-s.org

Dorothy Dean – dorothy@meetmtp.com

Laura Elkin – laura.elkin@crescenthotels.com

LaJone McClinton – mcclintonl@michigan.gov

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3 Onsite Cottages

BLUE WATER CONVENTION CENTER

36,000 Sq. Ft. Meeting Space
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at the DoubleTree by Hilton

MICHIGAN'S THUMB COAST



||| Education

THANK YOU 2024 AEC SPONSORS

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our AEC sponsors and exhibitors for their generous support in making AEC a resounding success! Without their invaluable partnership, this event would not be possible.

Congratulations to the 2024 Award Winners



Planner of the Year

Amy Castner, GMS State Bar of Michigan



Supplier of the Year

Mandi VanOoteghem CMP, CPCEGo Great Lakes Bay



President's Award

Mary Trombley
Target Promotions

Upcoming MiSGMP Education Meetings

Aware & Prepare | May 15

Justin Moore from SKM Group will be the presenter. Meeting to be held at **VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center**, 460 W. Western Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440

REGISTER HERE

ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENT Take the Fear Out of Team Building | June 5

Matt May, from Premier Team Building & Interactive Experiences is bringing to us, Take the Fear Out of Team Building

"What is the first thing you think of when you hear (or



read) “team building”? Why does team building, whether you spell it as one word or two, have such a negative connotation to so many? For those who are naturally active and/or outgoing, team building is often welcomed with open arms; however, for those who are introverted, and/or less athletically inclined, it’s often a cause of hesitation, fear, and anxiety. Team building is more than zip lining, trust falls, and slide show presentations. This interactive (simple, engaging activities), informative, and engaging presentation shows you how.

Attendees will learn why “team building” is not a “bad word”, what positive team building experiences entail, and that first and foremost team building can and should be FUN!”

Event to be held at **Walden Woods Resort & Conference Center**, 2975 Old US 23, Howell, MI 48855. Overnight rooms available.

CLICK HERE for more info. Registration opening soon. Stay tuned!

Explore Brighton Howell Area is the special event sponsor.



Limited Sponsorship Opportunities for the 2024 Annual Special Event in Howell

Hurry! There are only a few opportunities remaining! If you are looking for an easy, cost-effective way to promote your facility or services, sponsoring our Special Event on June 5, 2024 is very affordable! Visit our [website](#) for the most updated availability or contact Stephanie Wohlfert, CMP, GMS, at sponsorship@misgmp.org for more information.

Silver Sponsor: \$300 | 1 remaining

- MiSGMP signage recognition
- 1-minute of lectern time

Bronze Sponsor: \$150 | 6 remaining

- MiSGMP table recognition

Breakfast Sponsor: \$300 | 1 remaining

- Placement of your banner at event
- 1-minute of lectern time
- Opportunity to greet guests

Beverage Sponsor: \$300 | 1 remaining

- Placement of your banner at event
- 1-minute of lectern time
- Opportunity to greet guests

Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP)



CERTIFIED CGMP
GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONAL

REGISTER NOW!

LIVE In-Person Certification Course

www.sgmp.org/cgmp-certification

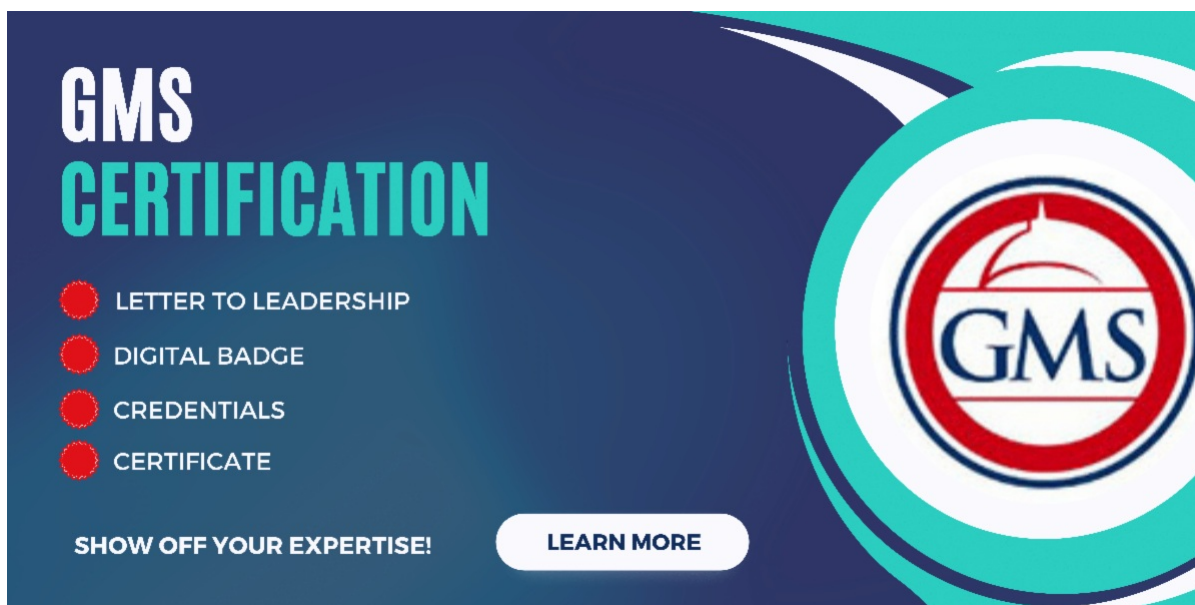
Get Certified Today!

- Federal Rules & Regs
- Financial & Contract Management
- Travel & Logistics
- Stand out in today's competitive marketplace

The Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) is designed for planners and suppliers whose work is governed by the rules and regulations of federal government. Individuals who have earned their CGMP have obtained the highest designation that is specifically for government meeting professionals.

Live In-Person CGMP Class – May 2024 – Sign up today! [Read more....](#)

Government Meeting Specialist (GMS)



GMS CERTIFICATION

- LETTER TO LEADERSHIP
- DIGITAL BADGE
- CREDENTIALS
- CERTIFICATE

SHOW OFF YOUR EXPERTISE! [LEARN MORE](#)

*Friendly reminder to GMS holders to wear your GMS pin at all MiSGMP events.

Volunteer

Exciting Community Service Projects for April & May: Making a Difference in Local Communities



Join Us in Supporting Haven House This Month

Haven House - the only housing option in Lansing designed for families where Mom, Dad and kids can stay together. At the April education meeting we will be collecting items from this list. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the complete Amazon list.

Online donations are warmly accepted and greatly appreciated.

Joining Forces to Support Kids Food Basket and the Mission for Area People



In May we will be supporting two Muskegon based causes – **the Kids' Food Basket** and the Mission for Area People.

Kids' Food Basket flagship 'Sack Supper' program works to ensure all children have access to nourishing, healthy food to pursue a hunger-free West Michigan. At our meeting we will be decorating the paper sacks the meals are distributed in. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Mission for Area People's goal is to provide Muskegon County residents with resources to meet basic needs, promote dignity & respect, and improve quality of life. Also at our meeting we will be collecting items for their Personal Care Drive. [CLICK HERE](#) for their Amazon wish list.

Learn how you can volunteer and make a difference. Visit the MiSGMP website [committee page](#) or reach out to the Board or Co-Board Liaison(s).

[Click Here to See the Areas You Can Volunteer!](#)



MiSGMP | 5859 W. Saginaw Hwy. #144 | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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