

INSIDE BUZZ

SGMP
Michigan



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

May | June 2024

|||President's Pen



Dear MiSGMP Members,

As I put pen to paper for the final time as your President, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and reflection on a remarkable journey we have shared over the past four years. This is my last note in this capacity, and I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to the Michigan chapter. **THANK YOU!**

Now let's get down to business.

Our chapter was represented by 15 members at the National Education Conference (NEC) in Omaha, Nebraska, May 7-9. While weather was not our friend, everyone made it safely to NEC. The new NEC app allowed attendees to view the sessions ahead of time, complete session surveys, and know exactly where sessions and events were happening.

Leaders attended the Joint Leadership Meeting on May 6, and then enjoyed a welcome reception by National President Annette Wallace and the Hilton Omaha. Some of us jump started our morning with GOAT YOGA while others walked to IOWA! And MiSGMP did not come home empty handed at the SAM Gilmer Award Ceremony. We were awarded the following:

- Communications of the Year Commendation
- 1st Place Communications of the Year – Newsletter
- 1st Place Programming of the Year
- Chapter Operations Excellence

Several of our members were **awarded the Legacy Award** and LaJone McClinton received the Top Young Professional Award. **MISGMP ROCKS!**

With change comes amazing new things but, as we move forward with new leadership, please remember one thing will never change; our best form of communication is via email so be sure to check your spam or junk folders. Keep following us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn as some news can be shared via the website or social media.

Get all the updates in this edition of the Inside Buzz. You won't want to miss out on information for our upcoming meeting on August 21!

I look forward to working with each of you in my new role as Immediate Past President. I hope you all have a fantastic, memory filled, Summer!

Tammy Novak, CGMP, GMS

Tammy Novak, CGMP, GMS
President

Michigan Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals

MEETING TO REMEMBER?
LANSING'S MY CHOICE

Choose  **LANSING**™

Let Us Help!

The graphic features a woman in an orange blazer smiling and holding a clipboard. The text is in orange and blue, with a green button at the bottom.

||| Leadership



Meet Your 2024-2026 MiSGMP Board

On June 5th during the chapter's Special Event in Howell the **incoming board** members took the oath of office to serve on the 2024-26 Board of Directors. Please congratulate and thank these members for their service.

- Nicholas Stratton, President
- Cathy Mayhew, 1st Vice President
- Stephanie Wohlfert, 2nd Vice President
- Jodie Shaver, Secretary
- Dorothy Dean-Mott, Treasurer
- Tammy Lynn Palmer, Director
- Stephanie Reed, Director
- Randi Talmage, Director
- Tammy Novak, Immediate Past President

The new Board of Directors will take office on July 1, 2024, their terms will end on June 30, 2026. Short bios of each of them will be featured in upcoming *Inside Buzz* newsletters.

(Pictured from L to R: Tammy N, Tammy P., Stephanie R., Jodie, Cathy, Nick, Dorothy and Randi with Laurie Nickson administering the oath; lower right corner Stephanie W.)

Annual Special Event

It was a beautiful day in Howell for the chapter's June Special Event at **Waldenwoods Banquet & Conference Center**. The day started with an interactive, engaging education session on teambuilding with Matt May from **Premier Team Building & Interactive Experiences**, followed by an informative session by staff from the **Howell Nature Center Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**; a delicious lunch; and opportunities to build flower beds, benches and duck 'wheelchairs' for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.



Thank you to the Special Event Committee and event sponsors. Your support helped make this event possible!

- Explore Brighton Howell Area
- Visit Muskegon
- Experience Grand Rapids
- DeVos Place - ASM Global
- Crowne Plaza Lansing
- AC Hotel Lansing University Area
- Grand Traverse Resort
- DoubleTree Battle Creek

Thank you!

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

Laura Elkin | Global Sales Director | Crescent Hotels & Resort

What are your thoughts regarding the industry moving forward and how does SGMP play a role?

I believe that strong relationships and direct communications continue to be integral for conducting business. We had a bit of a hiatus with our virtual time, but I think planners will continue to do business with organizations that care about their success. Direct relationships are how you build this kind of relationship. SGMP puts us all in the same place for impactful engagement.

Click on the button below to read more about how Laura got connected with MiSGMP!



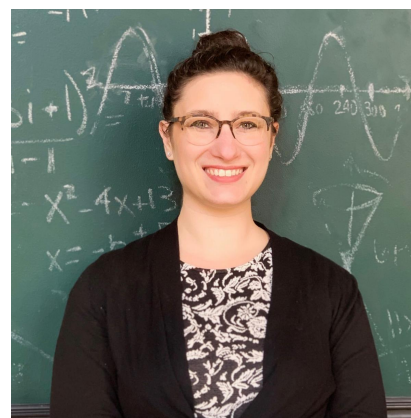
[Meet Laura](#)

Planner Member Spotlight

Chandler Alpiner | Events Coordinator National Center for Manufacturing Sciences

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I fell into Events a bit by accident, but now I never want to leave! After graduating from the University of Michigan, I moved to California to work at the Disneyland Resort. It was there that I fell in love with hospitality, even though my major in college was in no way related to that. When I moved back home to Michigan, I was able to get a job in the Food & Beverage department at the newly open Graduate Hotel in Ann Arbor. Although I was involved in banquets in this position, my time with events truly started after I was promoted to Sales Administrator. I began to work closely with the Sales Managers on all sorts of events from max capacity weddings to small board meetings. I was promoted to Sales Manager myself in February of 2020... and I think we all know how that ended.



Click the button below to find out how she feels about the industry moving forward!

[Meet Chandler](#)

Membership Report

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

As of June 30, 2024, MiSGMP 156 members: 85 Planners | 67 Suppliers | 4 Others. The planner/supplier ratio is at 56%. Overall SGMP membership is at 1,421.



WE HAVE MET OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS #1 BY INCREASING THE MISGMP MEMBERSHIP TO 150 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 LaJone McClinton, Committee Chair - mcclintonl@michigan.gov

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS ON THE WATER

Efficient, Affordable, & Scenic

ST. CLAIR INN 1,300 Sq. Ft. Meeting Space 80 Sleeping Rooms & 3 Onsite Cottages	BLUE WATER CONVENTION CENTER 36,000 Sq. Ft. Meeting Space 149 Attached Sleeping Rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton
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MICHIGAN'S THUMB COAST

Terra Damchuk
Director of Sales
terra@bluewater.org

||| Education

Streamline Your MiSGMP Registration & Meeting Check-In

- **Registration = Important!** No one wants to be stuck in a line when they could be

networking and catching up with colleagues. Let's speed things up and get everyone networking faster!

- **New Rule Alert:** Starting in August, credit card payments need to be made online *before* the event. If you forget, you'll need to step aside, pay on your phone, and show proof of payment to get your name badge. Cash and checks will still be accepted on-site.
- **Need Help?** If you're unsure how to pay online, reach out for a quick tutorial. Once you do it, the StarChapter system saves your info, making future registrations a breeze!

Let's make registration smooth and fun, so you can get back to the conversations, friendships, and work that make our meetings great! Find the new policy on the [MiSGMP website here](#).

Upcoming MiSGMP Education Meeting

The Power of Inclusive Benefits (Segment 3 of 3) | August 21 *Speaker:*

Valada Sargent *Competency:* Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

If your organization's benefit offerings are not perceived as inclusive, you may be missing out on talent or failing when it comes to retention. Join us at the [Holiday Inn & Suites Mount Pleasant](#).

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Meeting Dates & Locations for 2024-25

On Monday, June 17, the outgoing and incoming Board of Directors of MiSGMP convened for a productive day of planning and strategizing the chapter's growth. The Monthly Meeting RFPs received were reviewed and the board made the selections for the locations.

We are delighted to share the [following dates and venues](#) for the monthly meetings - please mark your calendars!

Additionally, for your budgeting needs and to ensure the continued quality of resources and education, effective July 1, 2024, the Board has approved an increase in the monthly meeting registration fee by \$5 for all membership categories and non-membership categories. We appreciate your understanding and support as MiSGMP strives to provide excellent services to its members. Updated pricing may be found on the [chapter's website](#).

Attention Suppliers! Stay tuned as the new 2024/2025 Sponsorship Catalog will hit your inbox in late August. Sponsoring and advertising with MiSGMP is an affordable and effective way to promote your hotel, destination, or product. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP)



CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONAL
The highest designation available to government meeting professionals

A circular inset image shows a woman with curly hair wearing a headset and smiling while working on a laptop.

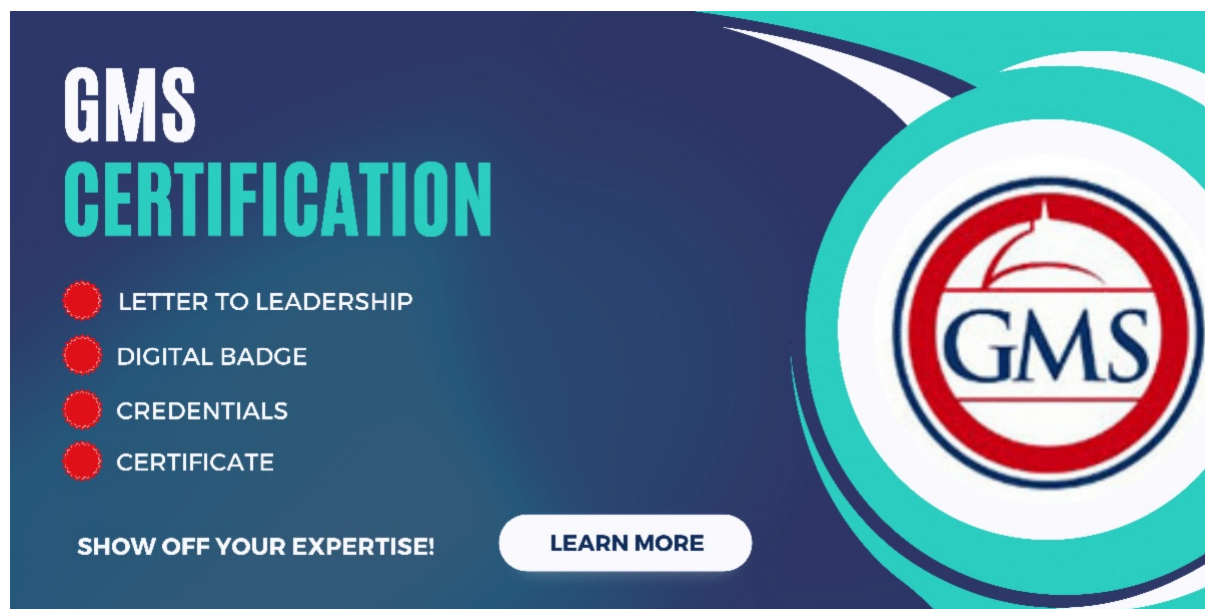
The Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) is designed for planners and suppliers whose work is governed by the rules and regulations of federal government. Individuals who have earned their CGMP have obtained the highest designation that is specifically for government meeting professionals.

**SOME
THING
NEW**

The CGMP course is now offered in 3 formats – Live (in person), Virtual Synchronous (via Zoom webinar), and On-Demand. You may select your preferred form for the course following registration. To earn your CGMP, you must complete ALL required components of your selected format AND examination.

[Learn more and sign up today!](#)

Government Meeting Specialist (GMS)

A promotional banner for GMS Certification. The background is dark blue with a teal and white circular graphic on the right containing the GMS logo. The text 'GMS CERTIFICATION' is in large white and teal letters. Below it, four red circles list the benefits: LETTER TO LEADERSHIP, DIGITAL BADGE, CREDENTIALS, and CERTIFICATE. At the bottom left, it says 'SHOW OFF YOUR EXPERTISE!' and at the bottom right, there is a white button with 'LEARN MORE' in blue text.

**GMS
CERTIFICATION**

- LETTER TO LEADERSHIP
- DIGITAL BADGE
- CREDENTIALS
- CERTIFICATE

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

NOTE: Item #4 under the GMS Process has been modified. If you are renewing or achieving your GMS, please be sure to [review](#) the updated process.

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

Volunteer



Joining Forces to Support Haven House

At the April membership meeting, the chapter supported [Lansing's Haven House](#) who's mission is to guide and support families who face homelessness on their paths to stable homes. They were very appreciative of the items received and extends their thanks to everyone.

Emergency Donation Drive

In May, we asked members to help with an emergency donation to help families affected by the tornado that hit the town of Portage. The collected items were given to the [Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency \(KRESA\)](#) for distribution throughout the communities.

KRESA

The Board of Directors is currently reviewing the structure of the MiSGMP Committees. Please continue to visit the [committee page](#) for updates and to learn more on how you can help make a difference.



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