

INSIDE BUZZ



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

November/December 2024

|||President's Pen



Hello Mary,

While our Chapter President enjoys a well-earned vacation, I'm pleased to step in and share updates about our chapter's achievements. As your 1st Vice President and member since 2015, I've had the privilege of watching our chapter grow each year.

2024 has been remarkable for professional development. Our Education Committee scheduled great learning opportunities that increased our industry expertise while helping members earn credit hours toward their Government Meeting Specialist certification. The Annual Education Conference at Treetops Resort was a highlight, where our AEC Committee delivered a memorable PLAID-tacular event. And throughout the year, our Registration Committee ensured every event ran smoothly, welcoming members and guests with warm smiles and professionalism.

Our commitment to community service was particularly impactful this year. The chapter auction raised over \$4,000 for scholarships supporting future AEC and National Education Conference attendees. We extended our reach through various service projects, including supporting The Karing Home Youth Project in Otsego County and building flower beds, benches, and specialized equipment for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Our chapter provided crucial support to Haven House in Lansing, helping families facing homelessness. When disaster struck Portage, we responded with emergency donations for tornado-affected families. Throughout the year, we maintained steady support for many Michigan organizations.

I'm grateful to all our members, particularly our dedicated committee volunteers who contribute to our chapter's success. For those looking to enhance their membership experience, I encourage you to explore our committee opportunities. Whether you're seasoned in the

industry or just beginning, there's a place for you to contribute and grow.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and thank you for your continued engagement with MiSGMP. Here's to a great year in 2025!

Warm regards,
Cathy Mayhew
1st Vice President
MiSGMP Chapter
Director, Associated General Contractors of Michigan

MEETING TO REMEMBER?
LANSING'S MY CHOICE

Choose
LANSINGTM

Let Us Help!

Don't wait to claim **YOUR** spot as a **MiSGMP Sponsor!**



SGMP
Michigan

Prime sponsorship opportunities for 2025 are going fast, and this is your chance to put your organization in front of key government meeting decision-makers.

Our sponsorship packages deliver outstanding ROI through premium event placement, digital newsletter features, and exclusive networking opportunities. Each package has been designed to maximize your organization's exposure to our engaged membership of government meeting professionals.

Contact our sponsorship team today to secure your partnership.

Please visit our [website](#) for the most updated availability and to see our affordable sponsorship packages. Contact

Dorothy Mott, GMS, for more information.

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS
Efficient & Affordable Waterfront Venues

BLUE WATER CONVENTION CENTER
 36,000 Sq. Ft. Meeting Space
 149 Attached Sleeping Rooms
 at the DoubleTree by Hilton

ST. CLAIR INN
 13,000 Sq. Ft. Meeting Space
 80 Sleeping Rooms &
 3 Onsite Cottages

MICHIGAN'S THUMB COAST
 Terra Damchuk
 terra@bluewater.org



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 about yourself and SGMP.

If you've never been spotlighted and are interested, please complete the MiSGMP new **Member and Member Spotlight Form**.

Legacy Award



Laurie Nickson Cornerstone Award

The MiSGMP Board wanted to express their gratitude for the exceptional effort a member has shown in their dedication to our chapter, our members, and at the national level throughout the

years. One who's ability to support MiSGMP greatly contributed to improving team morale, achieving outstanding awards, and providing our members with the education they needed. The board wanted to do something to recognize this member for their high standard of excellence and to show them that their dedication never went unnoticed. So.....they developed an award!

The Laurie Nickson Cornerstone Award will be presented annually to an individual whose extraordinary contributions, unwavering dedication, and exceptional efforts have laid a foundation of excellence within the Society of Government Meeting Professionals – Michigan Chapter. This award is named in honor of Laurie Nickson, whose personal and professional devotion to MiSGMP's mission, goals, and chapter operations, has set an enduring example. This award celebrates those who, like Laurie, inspire others through selflessness, leadership, and a commitment to meaningful progress.

Recipients of The Laurie Nickson Cornerstone Award are the bedrock of our organization — pillars of support, visionaries of progress, and champions of lasting change. They will exemplify the values and spirit that ensure our organization continues to thrive and make a profound impact for generations to come.

Well-deserved Laurie!

Membership Report

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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



As of November 30, 2024, MiSGMP has 166 members including 85 Planners, 77 Suppliers and 4 Others. The planner/supplier ratio is at 52%. Overall SGMP membership is up at 1,447. **An increase of 19!**

WE HAVE MET OUR THE 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...](#)

Education

Upcoming MiSGMP Education Meetings

THERE IS NO JANUARY MEETING.

Happy New Year!



Aligning Your Purpose with Your Goals | February 19, 2025

Speaker: Lisa Fisher, Lisa Fisher Associates

Competency: Education & Programming

Purpose is the straightest path to power and the ultimate source of personal strength. In this session, you will identify your core purpose and begin crafting your personal purpose statement and so much more. You'll also discover how aligning your purpose with your goals can lead to a more focused and fulfilling life.

Courtyard by Marriott Lansing

REGISTER HERE



National Education Conference

The SGMP National Education Conference (NEC) is an annual event featuring over 20 hours of professional development sessions, exciting keynote speakers, an industry tradeshow, networking opportunities, a fundraising silent auction, and more!

The 2025 National Education Conference will be held May 6-8, 2025 at the St. Louis Union

Station Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. Early Bird Registration will open November 12, 2024. The discount deadline and room rate deadline is April 2, 2025. Learn more about [sponsorship opportunities](#).

[Register Online](#)



Please remember to familiarize yourself with the updated registration and meeting check-in policy and pricing.

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.



Event logistics can take sudden turns, similar to a projector failing right before a presentation.

To stay in the loop and avoid any surprises, we recommend occasionally peeking at our [calendar of meetings and events](#) for the latest updates. Thank you

Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP)

A promotional graphic for the Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) designation. It features the SGMP logo (Society of Government Meeting Professionals) on the left, which includes a stylized dome icon. To the right is a circular photo of three people in a meeting setting. Below the photo is the text "YOU ARE A GOVERNMENT MEETINGS EXPERT" in large, bold, black letters. Underneath this text are three icons with corresponding text: a gear icon for "BUILD EXPERTISE", a network icon for "GROW YOUR NETWORK", and a person icon for "BECOME A LEADER". At the bottom of the graphic is a horizontal strip of various travel and meeting-related icons, including a camera, globe, map, American flag, suitcase, and travel bag.

YOU are a government meetings expert, and holding your Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) designation is the proof. Don't forget to renew your CGMP every three years. [Renewing is as easy as 1-2-3!](#) \

Step 1

- **Earning Credits.**
- **Earn hours at SGMP National Events**
- **Earn hours at SGMP Chapter Events**
- **Earn hours online**

Step 2

- **Track Your Hours.**

Step 3

- **Apply for recertification.**

Government Meeting Specialist (GMS)

The Government Meeting Specialist (GMS) Certificate is a professional development program offered by MiSGMP for both planners and suppliers. Open to current SGMP members, this voluntary certificate provides essential meeting management knowledge through MiSGMP monthly meetings, Annual Education Conferences, and approved National SGMP programs. The program typically takes 1-3 years to complete and is suitable for professionals at all experience levels. Learn more and start earning your certificate [here](#).





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.**

JOIN US IN APRIL FOR THE 2025 IZZO RUN/WALK/ROLL

Our chapter will be forming a team to be part of this exciting event on MSU's campus celebrating Coach Izzo's legacy. Your participation supports The Izzo Legacy endowment and local charities. Contact Cathy Mayhew to add your name to our team list and show your Spartan spirit! Event details and registration information coming soon.



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