

INSIDE BUZZ



The membership newsletter of the
Michigan Society of Government Meeting Professionals (MiSGMP)

May/June 2026

|||President's Pen

Greetings!

What a whirlwind of changes, emotions, opportunities, and challenges these past few months have been. As we approach the end of another chapter year, I wanted to take a moment to connect with all of you and share some updates.



First and foremost, let's talk about our chapter.

As many of you know, Michigan continues to be one of the strongest chapters in SGMP—second in the nation, and a chapter that continues to set the standard for engagement, leadership, and member involvement. As we close out our chapter year, I want to thank each of you for the role you've played in making that possible.

Our May meeting was an incredible success. While I was unfortunately unable to attend, I've heard nothing but wonderful feedback. A tremendous thank you to everyone who helped make it happen.

This month, many of us are attending the National Education Conference (NEC), and your Board of Directors will gather for our annual leadership retreat. During the retreat, we will establish our strategic goals and objectives for the next two years while also preparing for the transition of outgoing and incoming board members. It is always an exciting and important time as we continue building for the future of MiSGMP.

Serving as your President over the past two years has truly been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. When I first stepped into this role, I was excited, humbled, and admittedly a little nervous. Leading a chapter as strong and accomplished as ours felt like a tremendous

responsibility. Today, I look back with gratitude for the experiences, lessons, friendships, and memories we've shared together.

What began as a leadership position quickly became something much more meaningful. Over the years, many of you have become friends, mentors, trusted colleagues, and in many ways, family. Words cannot adequately express how much this journey has meant to me.

As a reminder, we do not have chapter meetings scheduled in June or July. Our regular monthly meetings will resume in August on our traditional third Wednesday schedule. We look forward to gathering again at the DoubleTree by Hilton Battle Creek.

In the meantime, please watch your inbox for an upcoming email from me that will outline some additional updates as we look ahead to the coming year.

Warm wishes,

Nick Stratton

President of the Michigan Chapter of Society Government Meeting Professionals



SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHT



Hannah Steele | Sales Manager
Great Wolf Lodge

Tell us a little more about yourself.

I am a hospitality and events professional with experience across multiple areas of sales, leadership, and event management. Throughout my career, I have worked in nonprofit leadership, event planning, conference services, and hotel sales, giving me a well-rounded perspective on creating successful events and meaningful client experiences. Currently, I serve as a Sales Manager at Great Wolf Lodge, where I focus on building strong relationships and helping organizations create memorable meetings and conferences.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my boyfriend and our two dogs, reading, singing, and hiking whenever I can get outdoors. I'm passionate about connecting with people, creating positive experiences, and continuing to grow within the hospitality and events industry.

Tell us a little bit about the hotel you represent.

Great Wolf Lodge offers more than 10,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, including a ballroom and breakout rooms equipped with integrated AV technology and customizable catering. With dedicated event support, onsite amenities, and family-friendly accommodations, the lodge provides a unique setting for both productive and memorable events.

How did you get connected to SGMP and the Michigan Chapter, and what do you like most about your membership?

I've just joined! Many of my colleagues have recommended joining, and I am thrilled to finally be involved!

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

I think that consumers are moving away from just wanting a cookie-cutter planning process and event. Things like connection, trust, and personalized hospitality are valued as much as logistical elements. SGMP is a great resource because it covers both sides of that spectrum, giving planners and suppliers practical knowledge and resources while also giving a space to build trust..

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MiSGMP MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of May 31, 2026

159
TOTAL MEMBERS

76
Planners

75
Suppliers

7
Others

Planner / Supplier Ratio: 50% / 50%



GOAL MET! 150+ MEMBERS *Membership Goal Exceeded!*

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE



- ✓ Update Contact Info
- ✓ Review Profile Details
- ✓ Check Expiration Date

MEMBER VALUE



Education



Resources



Networking

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



- Be Featured in our Newsletter!
- *Submit the Member Spotlight Form!*

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UPCOMING MiSGMP EDUCATION MEETINGS



INTRODUCING SGMP MICRO-CREDENTIALS YOUR PATH TO SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE

SGMP is thrilled to announce the launch of a new program designed to empower our members: **SGMP Micro-Credentials**. This initiative allows you to deepen your knowledge and showcase your skills in nine core competencies essential for successful government meeting planning.

The program offers a flexible and accessible way to gain recognition for your expertise. By completing just five hours of targeted professional development in a specific competency, you'll earn an electronic certificate demonstrating your mastery at the Fundamentals, Advanced, or Expert level.

We're kicking off the Micro-Credentials with a focus on **Technology**. Whether you're looking to build a foundational understanding of event AV, master event registration software, or explore the world of event apps, we have a Technology Micro-Credential for you.

Coming soon in 2026: Prepare to enhance your skills in areas such as Education & Programming, Ethics, Finance & Contract Management, and more! Visit the SGMP website to learn more about the program structure, available Technology Micro-Credentials, and how you can get started on your path to becoming a recognized expert in government meetings. <https://www.sgmp.org/microcredentials>

SAVE
— THE —
DATE 

AUGUST 19

 **DOUBLETREE**
by Hilton
BATTLE CREEK 

REGISTRATION
— WILL OPEN SOON —

CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONAL (CGMP)



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. Here's how:

Step 1 = Earning Credits.

- Earn hours at SGMP National Events - [National Education Conference](#) (NEC)
- Earn hours at SGMP Chapter Events - View our chapter listing [here](#).
- Earn hours online - View our online learning portal [here](#).

Step 2 = Track Your Hours. Login at <https://learn.sgmp.org> with your regular SGMP login credentials. Add outside education sessions or track the ones that you've already taken through national, another chapter, or MiSGMP.

Step 3 = Apply for recertification.

If you have any questions about the recertification process or requirements, please contact SGMP Education Director, Alan Kleinfeld, at education@sgmp.org.



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

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