

INSIDE BUZZ

SGMP
Michigan

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

September/October 2025

||| President's Pen



Greetings!

My fellow MiSGMP-ians,
Can you believe it's October already, and we have enjoyed some 80-degree weather? I love the sunshine, but I'll admit I wouldn't mind some crisp fall temps. After all, it's a lot easier to enjoy the pumpkin patch without worrying about getting a sun tan!

We kicked off our year just a couple of months ago back in August at the brand-new Doubletree in Battle Creek. I quickly learned that some of the members at my table apparently had plans to "take out the president" with their new self-defense moves—don't worry, I'm still standing!

From there, we made our way to Kalamazoo (my current hometown) at the Delta Conference Center. That's where I discovered that maybe I shouldn't rely too heavily on "script reading" and that the board might be hinting it's time for me to up my speaking game. I told them I'll work on it—but hey, at least I don't sound as corny as a scarecrow in October!

About four weeks ago, we sent out our [membership survey](#), and the feedback has been rolling in. The survey will remain open until the night before our October Monthly Meeting. I truly appreciate the insight because it's not just about helping me grow as your president—but also about finding new ways to strengthen our board, grow our membership, and explore new adventures that give back to both our chapter and our community.

Looking ahead, we're headed to the Lansing Doubletree this month and then to the Lansing Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in November. With Halloween around the corner, Thanksgiving in about 50-ish days, and Christmas in around 80-ish (my personal favorite holiday), the year is flying by.

Sponsorship packages for fiscal year 2026 are now rolling out—spots are limited, so be sure to connect with Dorothy to see how your organization can make a difference. And as a reminder, we are only a few months away from starting the voting process for the 2026–2028 Board of Directors. I keep hearing no one wants the Presidency role... but hey, who knows? Stranger things have happened! At least in this role, the only deadlines you'll face are meeting dates, not government shutdowns!

Speaking of which, it looks like the government shutdown has been averted on the state side for now. The federal side still has work to do, but I think we might finally be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

As always, thank you for your continued support and energy. Our chapter grows stronger and brighter with each gathering, and the smiles at our meetings remind me why this community is so special.

And now, just to make sure you've read all the way to the end... I leave you with this little test: What kind of key has legs but cannot open doors?

Sincerely,

Nick Stratton, GMS



Nick Stratton, GMS
President

Michigan Chapter of the Society of Government Meeting Professionals
Training and Meeting Planner, Community Mental Health Association of Michigan



Help us build connections—one story at a time! If you haven't been featured in the MiSGMP e-newsletter, now's your chance to introduce yourself to other MiSGMP members. Fill out the form and let us spotlight you; **MiSGMP New Member and**



Supplier Member Spotlight

Savannah Christiansen | Convention Services Manager | [Experience Grand Rapids](#)



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

I am a graduate of the Ferris State Hospitality Program and have been working in hotels until my most recent career change to Experience Grand Rapids.

Tell us a little bit about the property you represent.

Experience Grand Rapids is the official destination marketing organization for the region, dedicated to showcasing the area as a premier tourism and convention destination. Through marketing, sales, and community partnerships, we drive visitor awareness and economic impact while sharing Grand Rapids with the world.

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

I was connected to MISGMP through my colleagues at Experience Grand Rapids, and I love the networking opportunities with MI planners and suppliers.

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

People, now more than ever, want to meet and connect. I think that SGMP creates a place for people to do that and helps planners create meetings that offer the same.

What meeting trends are you seeing that may benefit other chapter members?

I have seen a lot more wellness offerings and have been asked about different types of wellness ideas that could be offered to attendees, such as yoga or massages, etc.

If you've never been spotlighted and are interested, please complete the MiSGMP new [Member and Member Spotlight Form](#).

Membership Report

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of September 30, 2025, MiSGMP 156 members: 74 Planners | 77 Suppliers | 5 Others. The planner/supplier ratio is at 47/53%. Overall SGMP membership is at 1,407.

WE CONTINUE TO MEET OUR THE STRATEGIC FOCUS #1 BY INCREASING THE MISGMP MEMBERSHIP TO 150 MEMBERS.

Don't forget to update your profile in our [NEW MISGMP WEBSITE](#) – use your SGMP website login credentials. Log into your [SGMP member account](#), update your profile, and check your membership expiration date.

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...](#)

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Education

Upcoming MiSGMP Education Meetings



Lead the Room: Etiquette Essentials for Confident, Inclusive Meeting Planning

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Speaker: Shelley Boyd-Davis

Competency: Protocol

In this empowering session, discover how modern etiquette enhances every stage of meeting planning—from first impressions to follow-up. Learn how small, intentional actions create lasting impact, foster inclusion, and elevate your professional presence. Whether welcoming VIPs or navigating unexpected changes, you'll gain the confidence and tools to lead with grace, clarity, and respect.

Kellogg Center is offering guestrooms. To book an overnight guestroom, use code 1320. [BOOK HERE](#)

Location: The Kellogg Center, East Lansing | 219 S. Harrison | East Lansing, MI | 48824

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Step Up to the Plate Challenge: Membership Pennant Race



Help MiSGMP Win the Pennant!

The SGMP is running a national membership campaign awarding both individuals and chapters for recruiting members. SGMP is the only society dedicated to the specific needs of government meeting planners, and they want to reward YOU for spreading the word!

Prizes and recognition will be awarded both individually and to chapters.

[Learn More](#)

2026 Annual Education Conference

The Michigan Society of Government Meeting Professionals (MiSGMP) is seeking presenters for our 2026 Annual Education Conference.

We Are Looking For:

Educational sessions relevant to government meeting professionals

Presenter Benefits:

Gain visibility within the government meetings sector

To Submit:

[Click here to submit](#) your presentation topic and summary. The submission deadline is Monday, November 11, 2025. Please contact: acastner@michbar.org or (517) 346-6322 with any questions or for more information.

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.

Upcoming Live Classes - The Fall 2025 CGMP class will take place **Dec. 10, 2025** in Chicago at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Chicago - Magnificent Mile.
[Register for the Fall 2025 CGMP Class](#)

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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