

INSIDE BUZZ

SGMP
Michigan



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

July/August 2026

|||President's Pen

Hello MiSGMP members,

I hope you're enjoying your summer and finding time to relax. As we look ahead to the year ahead for MiSGMP, I wanted to share an important update.

Due to a couple of open positions on the board resulting from career shifts among our members, the board met to discuss how to fairly handle those vacancies. After a vote, the changes were approved and installed at our recent board retreat. As a result, I moved from 1st Vice President into the role of President for 2026-28, and Nick Stratton was instated as our Immediate Past President.



I'm ready to get started and congratulate our newly installed Board of Directors! A special thank you goes to Nick for his leadership these past two years and we're glad he'll continue helping lead our chapter for another two years. The support from my fellow board members has already been strong, and we'll be working as a true team sharing responsibilities, leaning on each other's strengths, and moving our chapter forward together.

Looking ahead, our Education Committee has done an excellent job putting in place the programming for the coming year. We're kicking things off with our August 19 meeting, "Partners Not Opponents; Leveraging Curiosity to Build Connection," presented by Kris Liebau of Action and Ease Coaching. This session will give attendees space to reflect on their current communication strategies and feedback systems, while providing tactical tools to empower teams, mitigate conflict, build trust, and get results. Be sure to see the [full schedule here](#) and put the dates on your calendar!

We're also pleased to share the [2027 sponsorship prospectus](#) has been developed for the coming year. Please take a moment to review it and see what opportunities your company

may consider supporting as we plan for another great year of chapter programming and events.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas and I mean that sincerely. Everyone's involvement is valuable to the success of our chapter. Let's learn, grow, and have fun together this year!

Cathy Mayhew

*President of the **Michigan Chapter of Society Government Meeting Professionals***



**MISGMP 2026-2028
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

 CATHY MAYHEW, GMS PRESIDENT AOC MICHIGAN	 MANDI VANOTEGHEM 1ST VICE PRESIDENT MICHIGAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION	 TAMMY PALMER, GMS 2ND VICE PRESIDENT PARK PLACE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER	 JAMIE MATHEWS, CTA SECRETARY STATE OF MICHIGAN - DTMB
 DOROTHY MOTT TREASURER MT. PLEASANT AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU	 KRISTEN TAYLOR, CTA, GMS, VPM DIRECTOR, PLANNER CATALYST	 JAY GLADSTONE DIRECTOR, SUPPLIER CALHOUN COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU	 KATY GOLDEN, CGMP, GMS, CTA DIRECTOR, PLANNER MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
 NICHOLAS STRATTON IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS	Congratulations & thank you for your service!		

SGMP Michigan



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PLANNER SPOTLIGHT



Mandi VanOoteghem, CMP
Manager of Membership Services
Michigan Public Transit Association

Tell us a little more about yourself.

I'm a proud mom of a 22 year old son and 20 year old daughter. I'm also a proud CMU graduate (Fire Up Chips!) who is moving to the Kalamazoo area at the end of summer. I love listening to music, reading, playing cards, watching football (Go Lions!), and spending time with family and friends.

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

membership?

I've been a supplier for my whole career, and I saw MiSGMP as a great way to get educated about the Government market along with a great way to meet people. I recently switched over to the planner side and recognize the importance of staying up-to-date on the Government market along with continuing relationships with a great group of people.

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

The meetings industry continues to change quickly. Both suppliers and planners are expected to do more with less while continuing to provide engaging experiences. While updates to technology are important, I believe relationships are what continues to drive the industry forward. MiSGMP plays an important role by helping members stay connected, learn from each other, and keep up with industry changes.

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

I am passionate about providing a great experience for everyone at meetings. To me, that means thinking about inclusion from every angle. Food allergies are a big part of this, so I provide menus before events so attendees know what to expect. I'm also encouraged to see more conversations around neurodiversity and how small changes like sharing agendas ahead of time, offering quiet spaces when possible, or considering sensory needs can help people feel more comfortable and engaged. I believe these kinds of thoughtful accommodations create a better experience for everyone.



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Want to be featured in our next eNewsletter?

Complete the [MiSGMP New Member & Member Spotlight Form](#) and share your story!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

New Members:

- **Michelle LeGault**, Anderson Township
- **Stephanie Kerr**, Bay Pointe Inn

Glad to have you in the MiSGMP community!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MiSGMP MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of July 31, 2026

159

TOTAL MEMBERS



75

Planners



76

Suppliers



8

Others

Planner / Supplier Ratio: 51% / 49%



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

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE



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MEMBER VALUE



Education



Resources



Networking

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



- Be Featured in our Newsletter!
- Submit the [Member Spotlight Form!](#)

[SUBMIT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT FORM](#)

Stronger Together • Growing Membership • Engaged Community



Bay Pointe



LODGING



DINING



EVENTS

Bay Pointe is a family-owned, award-winning resort on Gun Lake, conveniently located between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo in West Michigan. The four-season property offers indoor and outdoor venues for meetings, retreats, and events for up to 300 guests. With on-site catering, lakeside lodging, and attentive service, Bay Pointe delivers a seamless setting for teams to connect and celebrate in a beautiful natural environment.



www.baypointeinn.com



events@baypointeinn.com

UPCOMING MiSGMP EDUCATION MEETINGS



UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



AUGUST 19, 2026



Partners Not Opponents; Leveraging Curiosity to Build Connection

**PRESENTER:**

Kris Liebau, Action and Ease Coaching

**OVERVIEW:**

Frustrated that your message isn't getting through to your team or leadership? Exhausted trying to engage and motivate people within the organization? This session will give you the space to reflect on your current communication strategies and feedback systems as well as providing tactical tools for empowering teams, mitigating conflict, building trust, and getting results.

**COMPETENCY:**

Business Management

**LOCATION:**

DoubleTree by Hilton Battle Creek

**CREDIT HOURS
INCLUDE:**

1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP
(Domain A: Strategic Planning)



SEPTEMBER 16, 2026



Increasing Organizational Performance through Disability Inclusion

**PRESENTER:**

Paul Artale

**OVERVIEW:**

One in five Americans has a disability, and despite \$1 trillion in annual buying power from this community, most workplaces still fall short of true inclusion. This program goes beyond ADA compliance to reveal the key factors that create genuinely disability-inclusive environments for clients and staff alike. Blending personal experience, special education expertise, and current research, it delivers practical insights that challenge common assumptions about disability at work.

**COMPETENCY:**

Education and Programming

**LOCATION:**

Holiday Inn Midland

**CREDIT HOURS
INCLUDE:**

1 – GMS, 1 – CGMP, 1 – CMP
(Domain H: Event Design)



View the full Monthly Meeting Schedule [here](#).

STRONGER TOGETHER • GROWING MEMBERSHIP • ENGAGED COMMUNITY



GRAND RAPIDS

TRENDING TIPS FOR MEETING PLANNERS

TRENDING TIPS



Speak Fluent Meetings Industry

From ADR to SMMP, the meetings world runs on acronyms borrowed from travel, hospitality, and production. This handy glossary breaks down 35 of the most common ones from certifications like CMP and CAE to hotel rate plans like FAP and MAP, so you can navigate contracts, RFPs, and industry conversations with confidence.

If you have helpful TIPS you would like to share, please email them to: dkopkau@msbo.org.

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.

Upcoming LIVE Classes - Our winter live CGMP class will take place at the Trilogy Hotel Huntsville, Autograph Collection, 707 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL, 35801 on November 30, 2026 - December 2, 2026.

Upcoming Virtual Synchronous (Zoom) Classes -

August 5-7, 2026 - Register

October 14-26, 2026 - Register





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