



## A Founder's Day Message

from President Michelle Milligan, MSW, LMSW, CGMP

**Our Mission: Enhance and promote the expertise of government meeting professionals**



The initial organizational meeting for the Society of Government Meeting Professionals occurred on October 29, 1981, in Washington, DC. Founder Sam Gilmer presided over the meeting, and his efforts to create the Society were greatly assisted by Dave Dubois and Jim Horvath. As we celebrate 37 years as an organization, I believe our founders would be happy to see that we are still holding true to our original mission of providing education, resources and networking opportunities to our members. So, it is on October 29<sup>th</sup> we remember the insight and hard work of our founding members that led to the creation of

SGMP.

The current National Board continues to honor our founding members by staying true to our mission and continuing to evolve as our industry, members and Society grow and change with the times. Thus, I am excited to report the key events and activities that occurred in this anniversary month for SGMP.

- Celebrated of the inaugural [Government Meeting Professionals Month](#) (October 2018)
- Released refreshed website at [www.sgmp.org](http://www.sgmp.org) with new blog section (October 16, 2018)
- Recognized emerging talent with the [Top Young Professionals Under 37](#) which appeared in our *Government Connections* magazine and online
- Held first Twitter Chat (October 18, 2018)
- Launched Instagram site at [@sgmpignite](#)
- Relaunched the Online Education platform via [live webinars](#) (October 29, 2018, with more than 80 attendees)

As I shared in my 2018 State of Society address **the future is bright for SGMP**, and the above events are just the beginning for this fiscal year. Look for an updated NEC website to be launched in mid-November 2018 with plenty of details including education sessions, local events, sponsorship opportunities and the auction donation form. National NEC scholarship applications will be available starting on November 5<sup>th</sup> on [www.sgmp.org](http://www.sgmp.org). I am overjoyed to have the 2019 NEC in my home area of Detroit and am thrilled I can share with all my SGMP colleagues the amazing comeback that Detroit is experiencing.

Celebrate the rest of Government Meeting Professionals Month and SGMP's Founder's Day with a fellow SGMP member!!

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