



**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 36 years as an organization, I believe our founders would be happy to see that we are still pursuing their original vision of developing an association dedicated to government meeting professionals and focusing on education and industry relationships. So, it is in October, we remember the insight and hard work of our founding members that led to the creation of SGMP.

Your National Board continues to work on your behalf to fulfill the strategic plan created in 2016 and to achieve the overall mission of our founding members. Recently, you have seen the launch of two different membership campaigns - one being the "Superhero Circle," which I hope you all become a part of, and the other being "My Professional Home." I believe Sam Gilmer and other founding members felt the need for a "Professional Home" and thus SGMP was founded. Please check out the information related to both of these campaigns located on www.sgmp.org. I am excited by our plans for the future, including additional national education opportunities, and the release of the 2019 NEC RFP.

We also have been working on our social media presence, which obviously didn't exist 36 years ago. So, if you have not already done so, make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter and connect with us on LinkedIn.

I am so proud to lead this organization and consider it my Professional Home. As we celebrate our founding, reach out to another SGMP member and reminisce about a NEC you attended or a Chapter meeting. Let others in our industry know why SGMP is your Professional Home and encourage them to become a part of this great organization.

Registration for the 2018 NEC will open
mid-November.
Hope to see you all in Norfolk.

