



NATIONAL BOARD CANDIDATES

President Candidate(s)

Annette Wallace, CMP, CGMP (GP) (Missouri State Capital Chapter)



After working for the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) for over 15 years as event planner, I transferred to the Hawthorn Foundation, under the Governor's Office. My responsibilities include planning the Governor's Conference on Economic Development and the Kit Bond Citizen Leadership Award Dinner. I also coordinate multiple Hawthorn events in conjunction with the Governor's Office.

Prior to working for state government, I served as executive director, program director and event coordinator for various non-profit associations, including the Missouri Association of Life Underwriters, Missouri State Chiropractors Association, and Associated Industries of Missouri. I have about 30 years of experience in event planning, including 16 years in association management. I earned the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation in January 2009, the Certified Government Meeting Administration/Management.

I served as Planner Director on the SGMP National Board from 2017-2019 and presently serve as 1st Vice President.

My husband David and I live in Osage Beach, Missouri (Lake of the Ozarks), with our three dogs. We have three children and seven grandchildren, enjoy camping and boating, or just relaxing in the sun at the Lake of the Ozarks, or nearest beach.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

I believe my most unique qualification to serve on the National Board is my experience in managing non-profit associations and my 15+ years in government meeting planning. My experience has given me insight into association boards, an appreciation for working with volunteers, and the value of being a member of an association.

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

In the professional area it's planning the Governor's Conference on Economic Development. I have planned this event for five different Governors and all of them have expressed their gratitude of the level of professionalism and success of each event. I have been asked to consult for other Governor's Conferences, including on Tourism and Agriculture. Other state departments have also contacted me for information or guidance in planning other events.



My biggest challenge was last year in 2020 when it became necessary to pivot from an in-person conference, to then a hybrid conference, and finally to a virtual conference. I had five weeks to pivot a 500-attendee conference with 80 presenters to a totally virtual event.

Within the SGMP organization I am most proud of my serving as president of the MOCAP Chapter. During my three years as the MOCAP president, we were awarded a chapter operations award each year and the POY Award for the first time. This was the first time MOCAP had won a chapter operations award and POY. We had a great board and we all worked hard together to achieve our goals.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

My vision for SGMP is to continue building upon the enhancements our National Board has made and the determination in making SGMP the premier society for government planners and suppliers. Understanding SGMP's mission and goals, I will continue to work hard implementing improvements to SGMP through mentoring local chapters, working to maintain and increase membership, continue to improve educational opportunities and grow leaders, resulting in more qualified meeting planners and suppliers. SGMP has provided me with priceless education and networking opportunities which have contributed greatly to my career. I don't believe I would be where I am today without SGMP. All the obstacles we have faced this last year have shown me how important it is to be a member of SGMP. That message needs to be shared and I look forward to finding creative ways to share our message and provide guidance for our members and future members to enhance their careers. "It starts with us!"



1st Vice President Candidate(s)

Dina Fong, CGMP (GP) (Golden State Chapter)



I currently work at the California Department of Education (CDE) as a Communications Manager in a fast-paced environment where I supervise staff and oversee a wide variety of projects include coordinating numerous scholarship and awards programs for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) as well as copy editing and writing correspondence, news releases, website content, and social media.

I have many years of conference planning experience organizing multiple regional and statewide events ranging in size from 30-2,500. My responsibilities include handling site selection, contract negotiation, registration, program development, A/V, food and beverage, communications, budget, sponsorships, and on-site management.

I had the privilege of starting my career in the California State Capitol as a scheduler for then Assembly member Delaine Eastin followed by serving as her special assistant during her two terms as SSPI at the CDE which was an exciting journey.

Through my 18 years as an SGMP member, I have served as the Sacramento (now Golden State) Chapter President, Secretary, Director, and Immediate Past President and am presently a Planner Director on the SGMP National Board, serving as Board Liaison to the Central Region Chapters, Joint Leadership Meeting Task Force Chair, and National Communications Committee Board Liaison/Co-Chair.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

I believe my broad experience through my job, SGMP, and volunteer service with other boards and organizations have equipped me to serve on the National Board (NB). I am finishing my first two-year term as a NB director and would love to build the momentum and continue serving on the board—I have learned a lot since I first started! I have a much better understanding of the organization and the board functions and feel I can contribute even more if I get re-elected. As a board liaison to various chapters, I have enjoyed building relationships with my chapters and getting to know them. My chapter board experience has helped me understand the challenges the local chapters face, so that I can hopefully provide adequate support to assist them.

I often deal with time-sensitive, politically-sensitive, and confidential issues at my job which helps make decisions with sensitivity and discernment. I have strong written and verbal communication skills and am a team player, problem-solver, and good listener who is flexible, dependable, and easy-going. I enjoy working together on a team to achieve a common goal and do the best job we can for SGMP.



Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

A professional accomplishment that I am proud of is serving as the U.S. Senate Youth Coordinator for California. I coordinate every aspect of this scholarship program for high school students from beginning to end. The program seeks high-achieving students who are demonstrated leaders in their schools and communities and plan to pursue a career in public service. It starts with the recruitment process to developing application criteria and rubric for selections to soliciting readers, providing training, evaluating applications, and finally, preparing talking points, and coordinating the State Board presentation and celebration event for the delegates. It's a very rewarding experience to organize this program and select these outstanding students who seek to make a difference.

Regarding SGMP, I am proud of the years where I served as the Board Liaison/Communications Chair of our chapter Communications Committee and we received multi-year Newsletter of the Year and Communications/Website of the Year Awards. It was special to be recognized for our efforts because our team worked well together and were dedicated and passionate about making our newsletter and website the best it could be.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

I would like to see SGMP remain a premier resource for government planners through education and connection. I believe we offer good education and training opportunities through our annual education conference, webinars, and joint leadership meetings and want to continue supporting these efforts to help our members grow professionally and personally. I feel it's also very important to keep our members connected through our various communication channels such as social media, our website, and Zoom and in-person gatherings. These networking opportunities can help our members learn from one another as they dialogue, share resources, and best practices as well as challenges and how to handle them.

As we all know, the meetings industry has been dealing with many challenges during these unprecedented times, but we can make it if we can lean on one another and work together. I hope that my contributions as a board member can help to sustain our society and support our members in every way possible. I care about SGMP and our members and want to do my part in ensuring the organization's success in the years to come.



2nd Vice President Candidate(s)

Chris McLaughlin, CGMP (S) (National Capital Chapter)



Chris McLaughlin is currently the Director of Global Government Sales for Red Lion Hotels. With over 30 years of hospitality industry experience, in his current role he oversees all strategies which are related to the Government Market for a family of hotels that has 11 individual brands and over 900 properties.

Presently, Chris is completing his second term on the SGMP National Board of Directors in the role of National Treasurer. Historically, he has served as NATCAP Treasurer from 2013-2015 and earned his CGMP in 2009. Notably, in 2020 he was the recipient of the Sam Gilmer Supplier of the Year Award.

In addition to his involvements with SGMP, Chris also currently serves on National Lodging Committee for the National Defense Transportation (NDTA) as well as the National Hotel Advisory Board for FedRooms.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

I have worked in the hospitality industry for over 30 years and I have been an active member of SGMP for over 20 years. Since starting with SGMP, I have been consistently involved in our society. In addition, I have attended and exhibited at nearly every NEC since becoming a member.

I served as NATCAP Treasurer for one term (2013-2015), and I have also served as National Treasurer for nearly two terms (2017-present). I believe my overall professional skill set, level of experience and comprehensive knowledge of SGMP ranks as my strongest qualifications for a national leadership position.

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

The professional accomplishment that I am most proud related to my job is recently creating and successfully implementing a systemwide 'government compliant program' for Red Lion Hotels. I am most proud of this because the government compliant program helps our hotels better distinguish themselves as reliable partners to government customers through a variety of consistent best practices.

I can confidently confirm that SGMP has been paramount in providing me with the in-roads and knowledge which enabled me to incorporate everything. Notably, SGMP will undoubtedly



continue to be a tremendous resource in this area as things will likely evolve due to constant changes in our industry.

The singular professional accomplishment within SGMP that I am most proud of was being the national supplier leader for the Superheroes Circle Program in back-to-back years (2018-2019). Membership is an incredibly vital area, which is foundational to the success and stability to our society. Recruitment of new members should always be a top priority in our annual strategy as it is a primary revenue driver.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

My vision for SGMP will be to completely support SGMP's strategic plan. First and foremost, I need to work with the new National Treasurer to be certain that he/she has everything needed to do a great job. In addition, I will carry out the immediate responsibilities which are assigned to me, as well as mentor and support my other team members. Foundationally, SGMP will undoubtedly need a heavy focus on membership (both recruitment and retention).

Furthermore, the top two ideas for SGMP moving forward will be to (1.) immediately implement a recruitment strategy in the contract planner membership category and (2.) completely overhaul and implement SGMP's annual sponsorship opportunities.

Treasurer Candidate(s)

Mark Richardson, CGMP (S) (Rocky Mountain Chapter)



As a dedicated and passionate member of SGMP, I've served on the chapter level and national level supporting the organization since 2012. On the Chapter level for Rocky Mountain Chapter, I served in as: Supplier Director, Treasurer, Fundraising Committee Chair, and Membership Committee, and Fall Education Committee, Awards Gala committee, mentor to new members. Continue to provide dedicated support to the Chapter on a regular basis and attend all monthly chapter meetings/special events.

On the National level, I served as the Gilmer Institute of Learning Fundraising Trustees. Director on the National Board.

I served on the Board of Directors for the Peak Military Care Network, the Association of the United States Army, and the Military Affairs Council. In this capacity, I provide guidance for increasing membership, venue selections and fund raising. I will bring to the National Board my 25 + years in hospitality. My knowledge of how the government does business, experience working with the military branches, as well as other associations are highly recognized by my peers and superiors in the meetings industry. My expertise with RFPs will be an added asset to the team when reviewing site selections for future National Education Conferences.



What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

My experience on the Rocky Mountain chapter level as Treasurer where I was awarded treasurer of the year, fundraising at chapter, GILL & National levels give me a unique insight to serve as your next National Treasurer.

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

At the DoubleTree by Hilton Colorado Springs, my role is Military and Government Sales. As a prior Army Soldier, I'm honored to serve Military markets for the property. My singular professional accomplishment in this role was to receive from the United States Army's Sargent Majors Association - the honorary rank of Command Sargent Major, the highest enlisted rank in the Army. I was humbled to receive such an honor.

For SGMP it was receiving the Sam Gilmore Supplier of the Year 2018, I was shocked to win. Most proud I think because of how much SGMP has become part of my life, I love the organization and every member is like family.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

Post pandemic, a rebirth of SGMP, to regrow membership to its highest levels. Hotels will come back, suppliers will rejoin, travel will increase, and groups will meet again. Zoom meetings while convenient will never replace in person meetings. Membership will be the focus.

With increased membership comes increase revenues, to use not only for education but to focus on struggling chapters to become strong, too reestablish chapters that have closed, and open new chapters.



Secretary Candidate(s)

Char Alexander, CGMP, CTA, GMS (GP) (Michigan Chapter)



Greetings – I am Charnitamy Frances Alexander. A first-generation college graduate (c/o '92) from Michigan State University – GO SPARTANS! GO GREEN!! I have devoted the last 18 years of my career to public service in several roles within the State of Michigan as a civil servant, responsible for meeting and event planning amongst many other duties. Since March of 2017, I have been assisting our state's veterans. Family is very important to me and I especially cherish the SGMP family I have gained over the years.

I joined the SGMP family in 2006 as a general member of the Michigan Chapter where I immediately got involved and have remained an active member; serving on both statewide and National committees and then as a Board Director – only resigning in June 2020 to accept an appointment to the GIL Institute of Learning. My philosophy has always been that “TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK” and FAILURE IS NEVER AN OPTION! I am a hands-on team player and always ready to step up and lead if the need arises. None of us can ever be as strong as all of us working together. SGMP has never been a spectator sport for me.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

I have served on many boards and have experience in general board roles and leadership. I believe I bring a unique perspective in that I have always worked full-time jobs but still knowingly accepted the commitment and sacrifice required to ensure that I was able to give a 100% effort and contribution. I am a self-proclaimed “idea incubator”. I have first-hand knowledge of what works and many examples of what has not. I am resilient when it comes to change; switching gears in efforts to recalibrate if a desired result is not manifesting from an initial strategic plan of action. I have acquired many BEST PRACTICES that I am eager to share.

Four years ago, I started a community-based mentoring association for girls and women. Social media has granted me an outlet to share what I have learned as I climbed career ladders and completed many trainings while raising my two daughters as a single parent. This outlet affords me the chance to offer support to many people without being physically present. I attended law school and the legal student in me thrives on being able to help others. I have a servant's heart!



Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

I am most proud of proposing and leading the initiative to stand up a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee at my current job. I am proud to say that I unselfishly put myself in a vulnerable position for the greater good. I had to fight against many underlying biases to bring out the substance necessary to bring it to fruition, but it was worth the extra time, effort and uncomfortable discussions. The benefits were not available to me, but it makes my heart smile to know that for years to come, many others will benefit from my selfless work, research and training.

Similarly, within SGMP, on both the state-wide and National levels, I am very proud to be a part of leadership and be another example of what possibilities are available to members that look like me. I remember seeing role models on the website and at my first convention and thinking “One Day I Would Love to Serve on A Higher Level!” Those leaders gave me hope and inspired me. I continued to serve, learn and grow and when the opportunity came, I was ready and thrilled to become that inspiration and role model to others!

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

My vision for SGMP is to gain recognition nation-wide as a respected global resource for government meetings and events with a solid portfolio of best practices!

Two ideas that I have for SGMP moving forward towards this vision are listed below:

GOVERNMENT EXTENSION OFFICES – I believe that we should have meeting professionals in every capitol city, that are readily available, as central points of contact, for all things *Meetings and Events*. Then each state Department could receive guidance on reaching out to an SGMP rep as their needs arise for meetings and events of all types and we could position ourselves as the Leaders that we are – waiting to assist with these things that we are well versed and skilled to do.

RECAPTURING & REVIVING LOST CHAPTERS – We have a responsibility to make sure that every meeting professional in every state has access to be more involved from their home state. The National Board, in my opinion, should be the force behind ensuring that, even if it means facilitating and empowering new and upcoming leaders to serve in leadership roles while acting “out of classification” in board seats so that there is an active presence.



Director Candidate(s)

Michelle Hawkins, CGMP (GP) (Old Dominion Chapter)



Michelle D. Hawkins is the Program Manager for the Institute for Contemporary Art Student Opportunities Program at the Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA). I bring more than 25+ years of state government experience in administrative business coordination in finance, human resources, and event planning experience to the Planner Director position. I have been employed by Virginia Commonwealth University since 2002 and prior government experiences include administrative support to various regulatory programs at the Virginia Department of Social Services, Department of Criminal Justice Services, and the Charitable Gaming Commission.

She has been an active member of SGMP since 2006, earning the Certified Government Meeting Professional designation in 2009. Hawkins has served in several roles within the Old Dominion Chapter on the board as First Vice-President chairing the Education Committee, and as Planner Director chairing the Membership Committee. She has chaired the chapter education conference several times and co-chaired and volunteered with other committees throughout the years. During her tenure as Education Chairperson, Hawkins created several award-winning chapter education programs. She was recognized by her peers as Chapter Planner of the year in 2019 and 2011, as well as Member's Choice Recipient in 2018.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

I would bring professional leadership strength as well as an understanding of chapter operations based on my 15 years of active membership experience. Serving in various roles on the board and chairing/volunteering for committees (below) has afforded me first-hand experience in creating solutions to challenges that may have been present for these committees while supporting the mission and vision of the Old Dominion Chapter.

Old Dominion Chapter Service

- o 2019 -2021
 - § Co-Chair Nominations and Elections Committee (2019)
 - § Chair - Chapter Education Conference (2019, 2020)
 - § Co-Chair - Communications Committee (2019)
 - § Member - National Education Committee (2019)

- o 2017 – 2019
 - § Member
 - Education Committee
 - Communications Committee



- § Member - National Education Committee (2019)
- o 2015 – 2017
 - § Board Member, Planner Director - Membership
 - § Member
 - Hospitality Committee
 - Communications Committee
 - Chapter Education Conference Committee
 - Education Committee
 - § Member - National Membership Committee

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

I am most proud of completing my Masters' Degree during a difficult period of the loss of a parent. I am most proud of creating two programs for the Old Dominion Chapter that won Programming of the Year at the NEC. Generating these programs gave me an opportunity to bring a forward thinking, fun and engaging learning exercise to my chapter members.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

I have a passion for learning and education and am an advocate for promoting inclusion and cohesion among chapter members. My vision and goal is to offer support to chapters as a liaison by providing a voice of reason, offering creative support and out-of-the box thinking for challenges they may be facing and assisting these chapters with recruiting the next generation of leaders.

Lorie Jaegers, CGMP, CTA (S) (Missouri State Capital Chapter)



Lorie Jaegers, member of SGMP for the last fifteen years and on and off for about seven years before that. I have been a supplier for twenty-four years and have worked for six hotels in my career. The hotel I work for now, becoming a member of SGMP was one of my requirements to take the job. I have served on The MOCAP board Lorie for eight years, on The Gilmer Institute of Learning Trustees for a year and several different committees. I have been the speaker for MOCAP a few times, built a new website, and redesigned the newsletter for MOCAP. Now I am a moderator for our virtual meetings.



What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

I am uniquely qualified for SGMP because I am so passionate about SGMP. I just love the education and the relationships you make. I have friends and colleagues all over The United States. The education is endless! SGMP has taught me so many things like self-confidence, to be outgoing (unbelievably at one time I was shy) and if you want something ask for it, the worst thing that could happen is they say no. With everything SGMP has given me, I owe it to SGMP to serve, volunteer and do what is needed for the organization! I bleed SGMP!

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

My most professional accomplishment was booking a weekend group for the hotel I was working for at the time. Not only did this group fill the hotel I worked for but they also used four other hotels for overflow. My boss had told me not to go after the group, I was setting myself up for failure, they had tried many times. I could not help but try harder. That group has been coming to Jefferson City, MO now since 1991, until Covid hit, all because I was told I would never get them! Never say never!

My most proud moment with SGMP was leading the MOCAP Chapter Communications team to Third place on Communication of the Year. May not be much to some; however, MOCAP had never won anything in Communications. We had a strong president at the time and she begged me to take over communications. I kept telling her I do not know how to recreate the web site or the newsletter! She begged until I gave in and I learned so much that year! Set your mind to something and you will accomplish it!

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

My vision for SGMP is bringing us all back together, help rebuild the membership and help rebuild SGMP financially. I personally learn more in person than virtually. I am thankful for the virtual world, wow how it has helped keep us connected in this last year, however I thrive on being around everyone and learning face to face. Due to Covid so many have lost jobs or the ability to stay a member of our organization! As a team, we need to find all-potential members new or old and get them back in or in SGMP! We need to come up with fundraising ideas that will not take away from our chapters. Together we thrive!



Christine Pribbernow, CGMP, (GP) (Northern Lights Chapter)



Christine Pribbernow, CGMP, is the Senior Event Planner at the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED). Her state service began in 2007 and in 2014, her career path guided her into an event planner role. In calendar year 2019, while on a team of two, she completed over 90 events for DEED. Because of the various divisions of DEED, these events include trade shows, international events, career fairs, internal meetings, and public agency events. In 2020, virtual events were expanded to meet the needs of the agency.

Ms. Pribbernow joined SGMP in 2016 and for the Northern Lights Chapter, she served as a Director from 2017 to 2019 and as President from 2019 to the present. In 2018, Ms. Pribbernow earned the Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) designation.

Ms. Pribbernow lives with her husband in a suburb of Minneapolis, MN with their three sons; ages six, three, and one, and a cranky seventeen-year-old cat.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

The past year has been especially devastating to the hospitality industry. While serving on my chapter board, we were able to collaborate on new ideas to keep members and past members engaged with the goals and mission of SGMP. Monthly meetings went virtual at no-cost for the year, weekly virtual coffee breaks were implemented, and we highlighted our members on social media for their hard work and recognition while they navigated the pandemic.

I hope to bring innovative ideas to the national board to help rebuild our membership and chapters over the next two years so that SGMP is sustainable, innovative, and continues to be the professional organization leading government event planning.

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

One of my biggest accomplishments as an event planner has been hosting our annual Minnesota Veterans Career Fair. This annual event hosts between 100-200 companies that are hiring for positions that offer family-sustaining wages, healthcare, and benefits. Also, service providers, on-site resume review, and no-cost professional LinkedIn photos are offered for Minnesota veterans and their families. This event was offered virtually in 2020 with attendance exceeding expectations. We hope to deliver this event in hybrid format in the future to make sure that physical location of the company or jobseeker doesn't hinder the goal of professional career opportunities for veterans.



During my first year as serving as chapter president, I also received our chapter's "Planner of the Year" award. I was honored to be recognized for my commitment to the Northern Lights Chapter for continuing the mission of SGMP as well as for my work as a planner while serving the state of Minnesota.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

My goal for joining the SGMP National Board is to share my knowledge of success and challenges that I've experienced coming from a smaller chapter. While the hospitality industry needs time to recover, so does SGMP. The membership continues to decline, and chapters are struggling to sustain operations. My two ideas that I'd like to develop include:

- Amending the current bylaws temporarily for two years, to include filling board vacancies by sharing members from other chapters based on chapter size or region. This plan does not include consolidating finances.
- Increase SGMP's presence nationwide through sponsored LinkedIn social media campaigns to build membership, specifically targeting those beginning a new position working in government meetings, hospitality students, and new graduates.

Susan Shaffette, CGMP (CP) (Louisiana Chapter)



Susan Shaffette is the CEO of Team Dynamics, a consulting firm that coordinates conferences and educational training for professionals and volunteers, manages communication for organizations both nationally and in multiple states, and provides community outreach and strategic planning for various entities. She has served on the board of directors for the SGMP - Louisiana Chapter for the past six years and served as Immediate Past President, President, Program Chair and Communications Chair. She has participated in every NEC since joining. She earned her CGMP in 2014, certification in Virtual Event and Meeting Management in 2020 and certification in Nonprofit Management in 2003. Susan has over 30 years of experience working within the government and nonprofit meetings industry.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

My goals in serving SGMP on the national level would be to help with growth and survival to ensure our association bends and thrives in this rapidly changing world. It is crucial that we all move forward together to remain a resource to the members. During the last year, the world shifted under our feet. As a meeting professional, I am used to being flexible and solution-oriented. With my team we faced the required pivots boldly and successfully. I bring that attitude into 2021. I bring a spirit that is willing to work hard to reach goals with the national team/board.

My work history has included many projects, but all tie to the skills used for planning and implementing nonprofit/government work and team development. The work we do in our company is focused on the professional needs of government and nonprofit leaders. I can bring



experience in nonprofit board training and development, grant training & writing, management of website content, webinar development and management, and over 30 years of consulting experience.

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

Professionally, the pivot that we made within the company this year was the riskiest and has proven to be a success as we fill the calendar with new work projects. We shut down for two months, regrouped and were challenged to bring the biggest meeting we have ever helped coordinate to fruition – 6000 attendees at a multi-day virtual conference for teachers across the state.

Picking a single SGMP accomplishment is difficult, but I think being involved with the development of the programs for our chapter during the two years that we were selected for SGMP Program of the Year by SGMP is very high on my list of professional accomplishments. This was important to all the members of our chapter as it confirmed that we were bringing quality programs to the members, that we were keeping everyone abreast of current issues, trends, and bringing ROI to the chapter members.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

My vision for SGMP is to help with the challenges of membership as organizations struggle to deal with furloughs, layoffs and meeting restrictions. I want to bring the years of volunteering within membership organizations (from local to national positions) to SGMP.

My ideas that I'd like to share include:

- 1) Help to develop chapter-level membership materials, videos and documents that support membership growth;
- 2) Help to create a monthly member recognition program to recognize stellar contributions to the field of meetings and events.



Gilmer Institute of Learning Trustee Candidates

EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING CANDIDATES:

Kathleen Ryan, CGMP (CP) [\(National Capital Chapter\)](#)



Kathleen Ryan is currently The Boeing Company's, Space, Defense & Security, Customer Engagement Team Lead for the Washington D.C. region and is responsible for planning and executing senior customer meetings and special events.

Kathleen is a retired Air Force Officer and a former Chief of Protocol for the Department of the Air Force supporting the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force and interacting with global protocol engagements. She was also Aide-de-Camp to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As a former small business owner, Kathleen was an Associate of the Protocol School of Washington®, where she collaborated on the development of their Protocol Officer Training Course. Working with Harlan Lee Associates, she conducted protocol training for the Missile Defense and Defense Intelligence agencies. She is a founding board member of Protocol & Diplomacy International Protocol Officers Association. She is a Certified Government Meeting Professional and serves as chapter secretary for NATCAP. Kathleen was selected as the SGMP 2020 Sam Gilmer "Planner of the Year".

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

I have over 35 years' experience in the event planning and protocol fields and bring diverse skills to SGMP. As the Potomac Region Team Lead for Customer & Market Engagements for Boeing, I support both government and international customers in a variety of meetings and special events which involves researching cultural backgrounds as well as ethical guidelines to ensure compliance in our business engagements. And as a retired Air Force Officer and a prior GS civilian, I have a strong background in military and government and bring those perspectives. I'm currently serving as the NATCAP chapter secretary and am active with our programs committee. I have learned much from my fellow planner and supplier members and have proven to foster teamwork among team members.

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

In 2019, I became the co-lead for the development of a Protocol 101 series of monthly educational sessions for the Global Sales and Marketing division of Boeing Defense, Space and Security (BDS). These programs initially focused on protocol basics and expanded to include



cultural sessions of regions around the world. Our team developed new programs focused on hosting virtual and hybrid events as well as how to safely host customer events in our current COVID environment. This multi-year project has expanded our reach beyond BDS and includes attendees from the Boeing Global Services and Boeing Commercial Aircraft divisions. We are now recognized as a Boeing enterprise-wide resource.

Being selected the 2020 Sam Gilmer Planner of the Year is a great honor and covers many years of service to SGMP. The most significant has been the development of the protocol section for the CGMP course which I currently teach. I thrive on interacting with the class attendees and am continually challenged to keep up with current trends in the field. I routinely receive questions months after a class and am happy that I can help solve an issue and more importantly, be a mentor.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

I greatly value our mission and objectives of enhancing and promoting the knowledge and expertise of government meeting professionals as well as affording resources and networking for our members. I particularly appreciate providing meaningful education. I believe education is a key reason members join and stay in SGMP. As an Education Trustee, I will endeavor to further develop quality education for our members.

Two areas I would like to lead and collaborate on are:

- 1) Continue to strengthen Education-focused relationships, with and among the Chapters, with objective to help each Chapter to develop and execute strong Education programs and events.
- 2) Continue to emphasize and strengthen employment-enhancing Education opportunities for our members – by leveraging Education opportunities and tools in all facets of employment attainment, retention, advancement, and professional fulfillment.



FUNDRAISING CANDIDATES:

Wayne Callis, CGMP (S) (Old Dominion Chapter)



As the Government/Military Sales Manager for VisitNorfolk, Wayne Callis proudly promotes his hometown of Norfolk, Virginia as a premier meeting destination.

He has served in the hospitality industry for over 20 years in various markets and received the Certified Government Meeting Professional designation in 2013. Wayne has been a member of the Old Dominion and NATCAP Chapters of SGMP since 2012. He has served as a Gilmer Institute of Learning Fundraising Trustee 2019-2021. Wayne also serves on the Executive Board of the Navy League of Hampton Roads as VP of Development and the Board of

Directors for the USO of Hampton Roads and Central VA.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

As a current Gilmer Trustee, I understand the commitment and vision of the Institute to move the Society forward and grow in future years.

Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

Working with our local chapter of the US Navy League has given me many opportunities on the local level to work with our military. Receiving the Outstanding Service Award, Navy League of US, Hampton Roads Council- 2018 was a great honor.

I believe I am most proud of being elected to serve on the Gilmer Institute of Learning but a close second would be receiving Treasurer of the Year for the Old Dominion Chapter in 2017.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

Moving forward and growing the Society in our current state will take creative thinking and growing the membership. I believe the National Board and GIL has the members to achieve this goal. Continued support to chapters in assisting with education and membership is the way to grow our society.

Two ideas for SGMP moving forward are:

1. Create a membership drive, maybe have a "Grow Our Membership Month" and award for chapter that achieves the highest. This can also coincide with the Circle of Heros.



2. Each Chapter host a monthly “Happy Hour” and offer food and drink ideas along with history on their area.

SCHOLARSHIP AND CERTIFICATION CANDIDATES:

Tecumseh Deloney, CMP, CGMP (CP) (National Capital Chapter)



Extensive experience in the hospitality industry as a leader and manager in the areas of association and government conferences, logistics, exhibit sales, fundraising, budget management, team building, contract negotiations and governance oversight. Serve as Sr. Manager Conferences & Meetings on a government contract awarded to ZERO TO THREE with responsibility for conferences & meetings ranging from 30 to 3,500 attendees.

19 years as an SGMP member. Currently serving on SGMP’s National Board of Directors and Chairing 2021 NEC Planning Committee. Served as former National Board Liaison to Chapter Boards and members providing helpful tools/resources to manage and operate

within their chapters, sharing National Board updates and best practices for increasing monthly meeting attendance, membership recruitment, retention and scholarships.

During NATCAP Presidency, chapter won numerous awards to include NEC Chapter Challenges – “Show Me Your Shoe and “Best Hat”; Membership retention/growth; and Newsletter of the Year.

I am a leader with proven governance, analytical, organizational, problem solving and prioritization skills. I lead through encouragement, forward thinking, positive examples, questions and “Whatever It Takes”.

What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the National Board or Gilmer Institute of Learning?

Having served in numerous leadership positions within the Society throughout my 19 years of SGMP membership has given me insight to what is entailed to serve as a Gilmer Trustee. Positions include Chapter Director and 2-term President followed by National Board Director and Secretary. I’ve served as a CGMP Exam Proctor, both in person and virtual, and exam grader. If elected, moving from a National Board Member position to a Gilmer Institute of Learning Trustee affords me a broader understanding of the inter works Trustees perform. I look forward to working more closely with our members as they aim to achieve their Certified Government Meeting Professional Certification and secure SGMP NEC Scholarships.



Please share what singular professional accomplishment you are most proud of and why? And what singular professional accomplishment within the SGMP organization you are most proud of and why?

Professional Accomplishment: I am honored to be one of the 15 **Connect Association 2020 15 over 50 Awardees**. 2020 was the second year Connect Association offered an award to individuals over 50 years of age. When I read about the nomination and shared with my mentor; we agreed to submit the application. After receiving correspondence notifying me that I was a finalist and later reading Press Release and subsequent Connect Association Magazine listing all 15 Awardees; I was triple honored to be among leaders in the hospitality industry. Who would have imagined my professional journey and leadership roles within SGMP would lead me to a Connect Association Award.

SGMP accomplishment: Recipient of the 2017 Sam Gilmer Planner of the Year Award. As a Contract Planner who often said I wonder if I would qualify for that award. After years of guessing who the previous winner was speaking about; I was SHOCKED when I realized in 2017 it was me, Tecumseh, they were speaking about. My involvement on the Local and National Boards in conjunction with contracting business with SGMP Suppliers played a pivotal role in receiving this prestigious award.

Please share your vision and top two ideas for SGMP moving forward.

My vision is to continue sharing SGMP's operational standards across the Society and promoting how membership (retention/recruitment) is important to our existence. During these challenging times, it's important for members to stay connected and feel like they are valued. Top two ideas to help SGMP move forward include: 1) identifying various ways to further promote the benefits of obtaining the CGMP certification and 2) obtaining other hospitality industry's best practices to sustain the future of SGMP.