



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SGMP Announces New National Board, Gilmer Institute of Learning**

ALEXANDRIA, VA—April 29, 2021—The Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) announced its newly elected National Board of Directors and Gilmer Institute of Learning trustees for 2021-2023. The newly elected leaders will be installed virtually in June and recognized at the upcoming 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Education Conference (NEC), September 21-23 in Huntsville, Alabama. Annette Wallace, CMP, CGMP, was elected president. Wallace serves as Event Manager for the Hawthorn Foundation in cooperation with the Missouri Governor’s Office where she organizes the Governor’s Conference on Economic Development and the Kit Bond Citizen Leadership Award Dinner.

“My experience managing non-profit associations and my 15+ years in government meeting planning has given me insight into association boards, an appreciation for working with volunteers, and understanding of the value of being a member of an association,” said SGMP President-elect Annette Wallace. “I plan to continue improving SGMP’s educational opportunities to grow leaders, resulting in highly qualified government meeting planners and suppliers across the nation. All the obstacles we have faced this last year have shown me how important it is to be a member of SGMP.”

The new SGMP National Board of Directors for 2021-2023 includes:

- President: Annette Wallace, CMP, CGMP (Jefferson City, Missouri)
- First Vice President: Dina Fong, CGMP (Sacramento, California)
- Second Vice President: Chris McLaughlin, CGMP (Omaha, Nebraska)
- Treasurer: Mark Richardson, CGMP (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
- Secretary: Char Alexander, CGMP, CTA, GMS (Lansing, Michigan)
- Director: Michelle Hawkins, CGMP (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
- Director: Lorie Jaegers, CGMP, CTA (Columbia, Missouri)
- Director: Christine Pribbernow, CGMP (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- Immediate Past President: Michelle Milligan, MSW, LMSW, CGMP (Detroit, Michigan)
- Executive Director/Ex-officio: Pamela Valenzuela, CAE (Alexandria, Virginia).

SGMP’s educational arm, the Gilmer Institute of Learning (GIL), will welcome three newly elected members, each for a two-year term:

- Wayne Callis, CGMP (Norfolk, Virginia)
- Tecumseh Deloney, CMP, CGMP (Washington, DC)
- Kathleen Ryan, CGMP (Washington, DC)

Continuing as GIL trustees are the following:

- Henry Harper, CGMP (Richmond, Virginia)
- Mary Robinson, CDME, CGMP (Howell, Michigan)

SGMP President Annette Wallace will serve as the group's Advisory Chair. The GIL leads the Certified Government Meeting Professional (CGMP) certification, education and programming, scholarships and fundraising for the Society.

“I look forward to working with our leadership as we continue to navigate continual market changes and prepare our members for redevelopment and advancement,” said SGMP Executive Director Pamela Valenzuela, CAE. “The disruptions of the last year and shifts to more hybrid and virtual meetings show how valuable it is to have a professional home for government meeting professionals who train, plan, learn and collaborate together to create and manage ethical, high-impact, economical government meetings and events that drive our nation's economy forward.”

Each leaders' two-year term of office begins on July 1, 2021. The new board of directors and Gilmer Institute of Learning trustees will be installed virtually June 22 and recognized during the Sam Gilmer Awards Banquet on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at the National Education Conference (NEC) to be held in Huntsville, Alabama, and virtually. Those who plan or provide services for local, state or federal government meetings are invited to attend the hybrid conference. Visit [SGMPNEC.org](http://SGMPNEC.org) to learn more.

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***Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, the Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) was founded in 1981 and is the only national organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to individuals who plan and execute government meetings. We deliver our membership value of education, resources and networking to 2,000 members in 19 chapters across the country. Our mission is to enhance and promote the expertise of government meeting professionals. For more information, please visit [www.sgmp.org](http://www.sgmp.org).***