



connecting with the **CAROLINAS CHAPTER**

Quarter 1 Newsletter - October 2026

LAST QUARTER AT A GLANCE July - September 2026

BY THE NUMBERS

- 2** Events
- 61** Members
- 2** Education Hours
- 6** New Members

AUGUST VIRTUAL KICKOFF & SEPTEMBER AT THE COAST



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our August Virtual Kick-Off and September at the coast in Wilmington, NC, and helped us start the new SGMP year on a high note!

We shared what's ahead for the Carolinas Chapter, including upcoming educational and networking opportunities, ways to get involved, and exciting plans for the year ahead, and explored

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Lori Schwarze, BBA, CGMP
RTI International



We've kicked off the year by welcoming new members, launching an exciting 2026-2027 programming calendar, and introducing creative FUNdraising opportunities to support our chapter's educational mission.

I joined SGMP in 2009 through the North Carolina Chapter and have since been a member of NatCap and now the Carolinas Chapter. Over the years, I've learned that the greatest value of membership comes from active involvement.

I've had the privilege of serving as First Vice President, Secretary, Director, and on both the communications and fundraising committees. These experiences have helped me better understand our organization, build meaningful connections, and contribute to our chapter's success. They've reinforced a lesson my dad taught me: you get the most out of something when you invest in it.

Although I've never considered myself a natural "joiner," SGMP has given me a true sense of community. It's a place where ideas are welcomed, voices are heard, and lasting professional relationships are built. I encourage each of you to get involved, share your ideas, and discover the benefits that come from contributing.

A few fun facts about me:

- I live in Durham with my husband of 31 years and have two grown sons living in the Virgin Islands and Philadelphia.
- My husband and I enjoy golf, travel, reading, and staying active.
- I've been with RTI International for 33 years and am beginning to envision retirement, with plenty of golf included!

I'm thrilled you're part of our SGMP community and look forward to seeing you soon.

Warmly,
Lori Schwarze

Carolinas Chapter President



YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU

Get more involved and join one of our committees today!

For more information,
email lori@rti.org

- Communications
- Membership
- Programming
- Honors & Awards
- Fundraising

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Help us make our holiday silent auction a success by donating an item, experience, or gift basket for fellow SGMP members to enjoy! Your contribution helps support the SGMP Carolinas Chapter while spreading a little holiday cheer throughout our community.

Donations will be open until October 30 -
<https://expoauctions.wufoo.com/forms/sgmp-auction-donation-form>

Bidding will open on November 2 and close at 12pm on November 12.
We will send out an email once bidding opens.

LET CAROLINAS SGMP *Help You* WITH YOUR **HOLIDAY GIFTS!**

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

What We're Looking For:

-  THEMED GIFT BASKETS
-  OVERNIGHT STAYS
-  TICKETS TO GAMES, SHOWS & MOVIES
-  GIFT CARDS & CERTIFICATES
-  DINING & LOCAL EXPERIENCES
-  SPA & WELLNESS PACKAGES
-  AND MORE!

 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ITEMS:
OCTOBER 30, 2026



Donate. Bid. Give.
**AND CHECK HOLIDAY
SHOPPING OFF YOUR LIST!**

Help us create an auction full of
gifts people will love!

*Thank you for
supporting Carolinas SGMP!*

Interested in
joining SGMP and
the Carolinas
Chapter?


**JOIN SGMP
HERE!**

We want to keep
seeing you
around!

CONNECT WITH US

Access all the links
in our newsletter on
our Linktree here!

[https://linktr.ee/
carolinassgmp](https://linktr.ee/carolinassgmp)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Want to be featured in
our quarterly newsletter?

Nominate yourself or
another member here to
be featured in our
quarterly newsletter!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOV 12
Raleigh, NC

JAN 14
Charlotte, NC

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.sgmp.org/carolinas-events>



HIGHLIGHTS + HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to our chapter leadership! SGMP Carolinas is proud to announce that we received the following awards at the 2026 National Education Conference in Williamsburg:

- Highest percentage growth in Chapter membership
- Outstanding Communications - Commendation
- Chapter Operations (Honors)



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Question of the Quarter:

What's one leadership skill you're currently
working to strengthen?

Submit your answers here:

<https://forms.gle/jyDdQhXyGr4mCLWj7>

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