



The Rocket Blast

August 2025

The purpose of The Rocket Blast is to keep our members informed of upcoming events, meetings, and programs. If you have something you'd like to submit, please reach out to Jamila Page at hsvhsfom@yahoo.com.

About the Society of Government Meeting Professionals

Since 1981, SGMP has supported government meeting planners in their efforts to produce government meetings in accordance with state and federal laws. While we are not a federal or state agency, and we receive no direct federal or state funding, we help ensure that meeting planners comply with federal and state procurement laws, running efficient and cost-effective government meetings.



**Society of Government Meeting
Professionals**

2025 - 2026 Rocket City Alabama Chapter Board of Directors

President - Johnita Romine

1st Vice President - Stephanie Moore-Doman

2nd Vice President - Jackie Ramos

Secretary - Jamila Page

Treasurer - Diana Baccus

Immediate Past President - Mare Arighi

We are looking for members who want to be more involved with the Rocket City Alabama Chapter by serving as a Government Planner Director, Contract Planner Director, or Supplier Director. If you're interested, please contact Johnita Romine at johnita@rntrocks.com for more information.



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Meet the President...

Hello,

It is an honor to serve as President of the Rocket City Alabama Chapter. The past two years have been rewarding, and I look forward to the upcoming year filled with exciting education and networking opportunities.



Outside of SGMP, I am the Executive Director of Reach and Teach, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering students, inspiring educators, and bridging the gap between schools and the entertainment industry through innovative "Education through Experience" programs. As a champion for education and workforce development, I understand the life-changing impact of preparing students for careers they love, which is why I am passionate about my work.

In addition to my role at Reach and Teach, I serve on the CyberReach Board of Directors and as an online host for River Hills Church. I am also proud to be a part of Leadership Greater Huntsville's Flagship L-36 Class. I am grateful for the leadership experiences I've gained at local, state, and regional levels through organizations like Alabama DECA, North AlabamaWorks, and Alpha Gamma Delta.

When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I'm married to Michael, an avid golfer, and we have 20-year-old twins, Johnston and Baylee, who keep me busy in my most important roles as a wife and mother. I love to travel and am always planning the next adventure. Above all, I treasure the connections I've built both professionally and personally, believing that people and purpose make all the difference.

Best,

Johnita



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Board Meetings

Held Virtual 2nd Thursday of each month 4:00 - 5:00 pm

September, December, February, and April, will be held immediately following the Chapter Meeting.

All members are welcome to attend. To get the link for the virtual meetings, please reach out to Johnita.

Rocket City Rockstar

Jamila Page

Front Office Manager

Candlewood Suites

Jamila Page is a dedicated hospitality professional with a passion for exceptional guest experiences. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, she earned her degree in Hospitality with a concentration in Food and Beverage Management from Kendall College in 2015.

In 2021, Jamila brought her talents to Huntsville, Alabama, affectionately known as the Rocket City. She began her career there at the Holiday Inn Research Park, where her hard work and leadership quickly led to a promotion to Director of Sales after just six months. In June 2025, Jamila took on a new challenge, transitioning to the role of Front Office Manager at Candlewood Suites.





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Who will be the next Rocket City Rockstar?

Each month a member is recognized as the Rocket City Rockstar. This person can be nominated by any member in good standing. The Rocket City RocksStar will be awarded a certificate during an in-person meeting and on the Rocket City Alabama Chapter website the month in which the member is nominated.

Nominations are now being accepted via the link below.

[SEPTEMBER](#)

Industry Recognitions

The Certified Government Meeting Professional designation ("CGMP") is designed for planners and suppliers whose work is governed by the rules and regulations of the federal government. Individuals who have earned their CGMP have obtained the highest designation available that is specifically for government meeting professionals. The CGMP is recognized in the hospitality industry; many government contracts now require planners working on the contract to have their government certification.



The Government Meeting Specialist (GMS) Certificate is an SGMP Chapter program recommended for all planners and suppliers seeking the knowledge to perform the functions of their employment effectively and professionally in the meeting industry.





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Upcoming Educational Opportunities

- SGMP offers monthly webinars on core competency topics, approved for Contact Hours (CEUs) for the CGMP and via the EIC. View the [SGMP Events Calendar](#) for a list of upcoming webinars.
- The Rocket City Alabama Chapter will offer educational programs throughout the year!

Additional information on Microcredentialing, Core Competencies, and other related education programs in our newsletters.

Upcoming Programs, Events, Meetings

The membership decided to try four (4) in-person meetings this year instead of meeting monthly. Educational programs will be provided during these meetings as well as via online the Lunch and Learn meetings. The in-person meetings will be September, December, February, and April. The Lunch and Learn meetings will be October, January, March, and May.

September

16th - Rocket City Alabama Chapter Meeting

4:30 - 6:30 pm

Courtyard Huntsville, 4804 University Dr NW, Huntsville, AL 35816

Six Degrees of Separation - And I'm Not Talking about Kevin Bacon!, Presented by Our Own...Jennifer Middleton!!!

16th - Rocket City Alabama Chapter Board Meeting

Immediately Following Chapter Meeting

October

16th - Rocket City Alabama Chapter Board Meeting

21st - Rocket City Alabama Chapter Lunch and Learn

11:45 am - 1:15 pm

Registration required to receive the meeting link. Please click [here](#) to reserve your spot.

