# Commonwealth Connection newsletter





**Upcoming Meeting Dates** 

**January 6th, 2021** 

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

March 2-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**April 7**<sup>th</sup>, 2021

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

www.sgmp.org www.olddominionsgmp.org

### **What's Inside**

President's Message

**Committee Updates** 

Treasurer's Report

**Industry News** 

**Local Chapter News** 

**Membership News** 

Professional Development

**Chapter Board** 

**SGMP National News** 



### President's Corner Fall 2020 Angela McGrath

It's hard to believe the holidays are upon us already! I hope everyone has been enjoying the wonderful days of fall and had a great Thanksgiving. I continue to think about each of you and your families and hope everyone is staying safe and well.

As we all continue to navigate through the challenges of COVID and adjust to new norms, the board is aware that some members still may not have access to their email due to furloughs. So, with this in mind, I want to continue to encourage all of our members to get in touch with us at olddominionsgmp.org with a secondary email. In addition, please log into your SGMP account on the national site and provide a secondary email address there as well if you have not done so already. Providing both the chapter and national with a secondary email helps to ensure you will continue to receive communication from SGMP. I also ask everyone to pass this information along to your fellow SGMP members who may be on furlough as we want to stay in touch with everyone!



This past July, the board met for a one-day retreat and mapped out the chapter's strategies and operation plans for 2020 – 2021. Membership continues to be a top strategic focus. Since COVID first began our membership has dropped some, however, our chapter is resilient, and membership remains strong as we continue to see new members join. Following membership, our 2nd strategic focus continues to be education as we continue to work to provide you with a variety of quality programs.

The conference committee has been busy planning our Chapter Education conference which will be on March 2-3, 2021. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

I am pleased to announce that we have two new board members!
Supplier/Director and Fundraising Chair: Amy Overstreet
Supplier/Director and Membership Chair: Charles Waddell
I am excited these two members have agreed to serve in these positions.

Old Dominion Chapter Elections will be this coming spring. Please consider running for a board position. Having new perspectives on the board will help keep our chapter growing and improving. Being involved on the board is a great way to develop and hone your leadership skills.

Stay safe and well during the holiday season and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2021!

Angie

### **Committee Reports**

### **Fundraising Committee**

A BIG thank you to the entire membership for continuing to donate, purchase, and participate in all our Fundraising Events!



**Communications Committee Chris Bunting, CGMP** 

Social Media Chair: Michelle Hawkins, CGMP

Committee Members: Sandra Brashear, Wendy Evalle, Joyce Fogg, Laura Osborne, Harold Kretzer, and Valerie Gardner.

Thank you to the Communications Committee for helping to keep the chapter informed. Let us know if you are not getting your chapter meeting notices or email updates. Chapter members please let Chris Bunting know if you want to join our committee.

Be sure to like and follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **LinkedIn** and **Instagram**.



Quarterly Treasurer's Report

September: \$15,861.06

October: \$15,803.83

November: \$16,907.43

A reminder to everyone: Please be sure that all checks have the MEMO section filled out so that payments can be expedited quickly.

Andrew Marks, Treasurer treasurer@olddominionsgmp.org

#### **MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!**

Help us achieve and maintain a 50/50 ratio by recruiting new members and renewing your own membership on time!

Old Dominion Membership Report
As of November 2020

TOTAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP: 75	
Total Planners	37
Total Suppliers	34
Retired/Other	4
Current Ratio	52.1%

## Community Outreach Committee Tishaun Harris-Ugworji

Thank you to everyone that donated toys to the VA Fisher House in Richmond.

We are currently selecting the charity for the Chapter Education Conference in Virginia Beach. Stay tuned for updates.

## Hospitality & Mentoring Committee Karen Sullivan, CGMP

The Hospitality Committee looks forward to greeting and helping you check in for our monthly meetings. New to SGMP? This committee is a great way to meet members as they arrive at the meetings.

We will continue to have waivers to sign upon arrival for the next several months.

PLEASE BE SURE TO STOP BY THE DESK TO HAVE YOUR ATTENDANCE NOTED BY THE HOSPITALITY TEAM.

#### Social distancing for our meetings

We are glad to meet in person but will need everyone to follow social distancing protocols for our meeting.

The meeting room will be set up for social distancing.

We are encouraging everyone to bring masks. Bring your name tag as well if you have one. If not, some will be available.

We will have a questionnaire we will ask everyone to complete at the door - Covid 2019 tracing.

We ask that if you are not feeling well please stay home and join us at the next meeting.

We request that anyone who may have been exposed in the weeks leading up to the meeting not attend.

#### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES & CHANGES**

Remember to keep membership information up to date.

If you have a change in your contact information, you can go online at <a href="https://www.sgmp.org">www.sgmp.org</a> and update your information. If your organization has a change in personnel and the membership changes to another person, fill in a membership change form and submit it directly to SGMP.

You can find membership information on Old Dominion's website at www.olddominionsgmp.org under the membership tab, or feel free to contact us at <a href="Membership@olddominionsgmp.org">Membership@olddominionsgmp.org</a>.

### Education Committee Chair: Joyce Fogg

The Education Committee is working on programs for the coming year. We hope to have informative programs for both suppliers and planners. If you have suggestions, please e-mail the Education Committee.

Thank you to all our suppliers who have agreed to host Old Dominion for the coming year.

We look forward to visiting your properties.

#### **Old Dominion Society of Government Meeting Professionals**

#### **Meeting Locations 2021**

January 6<sup>th</sup> Hilton Downtown Richmond

February 3<sup>rd</sup> Holiday Inn Downtown Richmond

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Education Conference \_ Holiday Inn North Beach

April 7<sup>th</sup> Delta Downtown Richmond

May 5<sup>th</sup> Hilton Short Pump

June 2<sup>nd</sup> BANQUET (location TBD)

#### **Professional Development**

October Chapter Meeting October 7th, 2020

**Education Topic: Inclusion and Unconscious Bias** 

By: Wendy Evalle, Hilton Garden Inn Virginia Beach Oceanfront

With so much going on in our world, it was nice to see the Old Dominion Chapter of SGMP conducting in-person meetings while practicing social distancing. The Sheraton Four Points at Midlothian Richmond hosted the meeting and did a great job of having health guidelines in place to help keep everyone safe.

Our education topic, Inclusion and Unconscious Bias, is something that everyone has had to work through at one time in their career. Johnathan Zur, President and CEO of Virginia Center of Inclusive Community, explained that unconscious bias is defined as the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. Most people do not realize they are doing it; it can develop over the course of a lifetime and is activated involuntarily.

"...the human brain takes in 11 million bits of information every second, but it is consciously aware of only 40." --Timothy Wilson, University of Virginia

Some examples of unconscious bias:

Affinity bias: Warming up to people like ourselves.

<u>Halo Effect:</u> Thinking everything about a person is good because you like that person. <u>Perception bias:</u> Forming stereotypes and assumptions about certain groups that make it impossible for you to be objective.

What can we do?

- Examine your lens.
- Ask and encourage tough questions.
- Acknowledge institutional bias.

#### Reflection Questions?

- Does it need to be said?
- Does it need to be said right now?
- Does it need to be said by me?

"The problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete.

They make one story become the only story" --Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

#### 2021 Chapter Education Conference



The Old Dominion Chapter Education Conference is scheduled for March 2-3, 2021 at the Holiday Inn North Beach in Virginia Beach. The program's content is still being created for this event. We will also have virtual sessions available for those unable to travel to events.

Watch for details!

#### From the National SGMP Headquarters

#### **SGMP Event Calendar**

(National Headquarters)

**Government Connections Magazine** 



\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **SGMP Mission & Objectives**

Our mission is to enhance and promote the knowledge and expertise of government meeting professionals. Our objectives are to improve the quality of, and promote the cost-effectiveness of, government meetings. SGMP was founded in 1981 and is the only national organization in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to government meetings.

## 2019-2021 Old Dominion Chapter Board of Directors

President
Angela McGrath
President@olddominions

President@olddominionsgmp.org

First Vice President
Joyce Fogg
Programs@olddominionsgmp.org

Second Vice President Chris Bunting, CGMP Communications@olddominionsgmp.org

Secretary
Tishaun Harris-Ugworji
Secretary@olddominionsgmp.org

Treasurer Andrew Marks treasurer@olddominionsqmp.org

Supplier Director Charles Waddell, CMP, CHSP Hospitality@olddominionsgmp.org

Planner Director Karen Sullivan, CGMP Membership@olddominionsgmp.org

Supplier Director
Amy Overstreet
Fundraising@olddominionsgmp.org

Immediate Past President
Marilee Tretina
PastPresident@olddominionsqmp.org



#### **Certified Government Meeting Professional**

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. Below are the next courses scheduled. New courses are added periodically, and the information can be found on the SGMP website <u>HERE</u>.

#### Watch for information on online classes

#### SGMP Webinars Are Ready to Watch On-Demand

Missed the previous webinars? Log in to the <u>members-only site</u> to watch at your own pace. You may view all SGMP recorded webinars on our video library. If you need hours for recertification, contact Garland Preddy upon completion.

August 25, 2020: Antwone Stigall, CMP, DES - Rebroadcast on Inclusive Meeting Design

August 13, 2020: Debra Burton Brown - Marketing: It Doesn't Have to Break Your Budget

July 30, 2020: Sharon Delvisco - Recognizing the Impact of Unconscious and Implicit Bias

July 14, 2020: Ron Rosenberg - The Meeting Industry Survival Guide: How to Transition from In-Person

Meetings to Virtual Events

June 24, 2020: Kathleen Ryan, CGMP & Brittany Callahan, CGMP - Back to Face-To-Face Protocol

April 28, 2020: Shakira M. Brown - Conversations that Convert: Strategies to Influence and Persuade

April 23, 2020: Darrell Hammond, Sr. - Staying Productive and Effective in a VUCA World

March 19, 2020: Antwone Stigall, CMP, DES - Inclusive Meeting Design

February 25, 2020: Lindsay Martin-Bilbrey, CMP - Event Technology Trends in 2020

## Fall 2020 Meetings Gallery



Volume 24, Issue 3