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President's Corner Winter 2025



Hello chapter members!

Spring is finally here and so are chapter elections. Be sure to cast your votes when the ballot opens. Please watch your inbox for the voting email.

I'm really excited about NEC coming up in May in St. Louis. There is still time to register for SGMP's largest annual event. If you are planning to go, I want to remind you that the room block for the hotel closes soon.

Finally, our April chapter meeting next week will be on the ABC's of Meeting Planning. Our own Andrew Marks, CGMP, will be presenting. It will be a great meeting - I look forward to seeing you there!

Angela McGrath
President
Old Dominion Chapter

Committee Reports

Hospitality Committee
Maria Harless

Thank you to our members who step up to volunteer at the reception desk.
Who's going to join us?

If you would like to assist with welcoming guests and new members at our monthly registration meetings, please feel free to stop by and help at any meeting.

Membership Committee
Jeremiah Dillon, CGMP

Remember to keep membership information up to date. If you have a change in your contact information, you can go online at www.sgmp.org 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 Membership@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 February 2025

TOTAL CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP: 63

Total Planners 30

Total Suppliers 26

Retired 7

Current Ratio 48.00%

You can easily renew your membership online at www.sgmp.org by logging in the Members Only section.

Education Committee
Valerie Gardner, CGMP

We are always looking for new ideas for our chapter education program topics and event locations. We need your input for the next year.

Email Valerie Gardner, vgardner@ncsc.org.
Please let us know if you would like to host a program or present an educational topic at a meeting.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

December 2024 - \$12,230.99

January 2025 - \$12,650.08

February 2025 - \$14,641.25

Please note our Post Office Box below:

Charlottesville Albemarle CVB
c/o Teresa Lamb
P.O. Box 178
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Communications Committee
Andrew Marks, CGMP

Are you looking for a new way to be involved with the Old Dominion Chapter this upcoming year? Consider joining the Communications Committee.

Contact Andrew Marks for volunteer opportunities.

Please check to verify your email with SGMP so you can receive notifications from the chapter website.

Fundraising Committee
Jo Slack, CGMP, CTIS

The chapter has had several successful fundraising events over the past few months. Thank you to everyone that has supported the chapter.

December BIG 50/50 \$690.00

February Culinary Auction \$208.00

March LIVE Auction \$2,340.00

December 2024 Chapter Meeting

Valerie Gardner, CGMP

Travel Tips

In December, we had a great presentation from AAA regarding Travel Tips. Derek Lainhart from AAA provided 5 recommendations when traveling especially internationally.

1. Always purchase travel insurance
2. Share your travel plans
3. Protect Your Data/Finances
4. Utilize Reputable Travel Resources
5. Check Documents and Entry Requirements Early!

Important International Travel Considerations – whether domestic or internationally

1. Carry copies of important documents (and email them to yourself) in case of loss or theft.
2. Keep cash and cards separate.
3. Avoid public Wi-Fi if possible.
4. Save money on luggage fees by shipping luggage if possible (pre or post-trip). DHL is great!
5. Always pack two days of clothing and necessities in your carry-on.
6. If driving, secure an International Driving Permit (IDP) or Inter-American Driving Permit (IADP), depending on the country you're visiting.

December Meeting Continued

Did you know that AAA gives hotels their Diamond Ratings? Morgan Dean gave us all the inside scoop on how these ratings work and who has earned them in Virginia.

For more than 80 years, our unscheduled annual hotel inspections have included a detailed look at a property's quality, cleanliness and condition. Diamond inspections are conducted by trained experts who evaluate the guest experience with consistent, objective criteria. More than just a typical rating system, Diamond designations reflect the type of experience a property offers so you can choose the right hotel for every trip. Different than stars-Star reviews are subjective opinions, often left by guests motivated to leave a review because they were pleased or disappointed by some element of their stay. Any property can have stars, but Diamond designations hold hotels to a standard.

February 2025 Old Dominion Chapter Meeting

Is It Safe? Avoid Panicking in Emergency Situations

Andrew Marks

Lynchburg Office of Economic Development & Tourism

In a world where our day to day lives can be impacted by emergency situations, Suzi Silverstein from Virginia Department of Health taught attendees more about preparing for emergencies and how preparing makes sense.

Three basic principles of preparing for an emergency from the session:

- Know your risks
- Make a plan
- Take action

There are various hazards that can occur that we have no control over, such as active shooter, cyberattack, floods, hurricanes and even loss of water citywide. Suzi led us through risk assessment, basic protective actions for all disasters, and some of the benefits of planning.

March 2025 Old Dominion Chapter Education Conference

Wayne Callis, CGMP

Navy League of Hampton Roads

This year's chapter conference took place in the "Hill City" of Lynchburg, VA, at the historic Virginian Hotel, offering both a welcoming atmosphere and comfortable surroundings. The event kicked off with welcomes from Chapter President Angela McGrath, the Director of Lynchburg's Office of Economic Development and Tourism, along with representatives from the hotel.

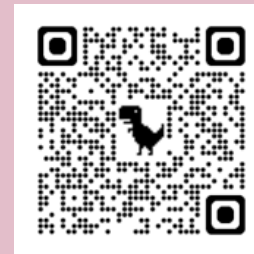
Attendees were treated to a diverse range of educational topics, including starting a non-profit 501(c)(3) and fundraising strategies to the art of Intentional Listening for Professional Excellence.

One of the highlights was the Wednesday morning keynote by Christine Kennedy, a Leadership and Life Purpose Coach with the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance. Her session was both engaging and energizing, focusing on leadership and the powerful impact of influence. Kennedy led participants through self-reflection exercises on their own leadership and influence styles, offering practical insights on how to become high-performing leaders. Her positive energy and thought-provoking approach made a lasting impression on the attendees, leaving them motivated and ready to enhance their leadership abilities.

Chapter Education Conference charity

Park View Community Mission serves individuals facing financial hardship, often due to crises like job loss or the loss of a spouse. Recognizing the cycle of poverty, they employ a holistic approach. Beyond providing immediate needs like food and clothing, they empower individuals through skill development and resource utilization, helping them build a better future. Guided by their motto – "Help. Healing. Hope." – Park View Community Mission aims to restore lives by fostering personal relationships and offering hope for a fulfilling life."

If you have not had the opportunity to donate to Park View Community Mission utilize the link or QR Code <https://www.parkviewmission.org/>



National SGMP Webinars Are Ready to Watch On-Demand

Missed the previous webinars?

Log in to the members-only site to watch at your own pace. You may view all SGMP recorded webinars on our video library.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- April 2, 2025
- No Meeting in May due to NEC
- June 4, 2025

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.

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.



Chapter Board & Events

June 2024-June 2025
Old Dominion Chapter
Board of Directors

President

Angela McGrath

President@olddominionsgmp.org

First Vice President

Valerie Gardner, CMP, CGMP

Programs@olddominionsgmp.org

Second Vice President

Andrew Marks, CGMP

Communications@olddominionsgmp.org

Secretary

Jeremiah Dillon, CMP, CGMP

Secretary@olddominionsgmp.org

Treasurer

Teresa Lamb

treasurer@olddominionsgmp.org

Planner Director

Wayne Callis, CGMP

Supplier Director

Maria Harless

Hospitality@olddominionsgmp.org

Supplier Director

Jo Slack, CGMP

Fundraising@olddominionsgmp.org

Immediate Past President

Joyce Fogg

PastPresident@olddominionsgmp.org

CommonwealthConnection newsletter



Nominations and Elections

Joyce Fogg

Nominations have been received for the Old Dominion Chapter elections. Watch your inbox for the email for voting from National SGMP.

Meeting Locations

Old Dominion SGMP is looking for locations for meetings. If you are interested in hosting a meeting in 2025-2026, please contact Joyce Fogg, Joyce.fogg@virginiaworks.gov.

Scholarships

Two scholarships were awarded to the March 2025 Chapter Education Conference in Lynchburg, VA. One awardee was not able to attend. The other recipient was Wayne Callis.

Two partial scholarships have been awarded to the May 2025 SGMP National Education Conference in St. Louis.

Valerie Gardner

Michelle Hawkins

ELEVATE

TAKE MEETINGS TO NEW HEIGHTS

SGMP Old Dominion Chapter Conference

The Virginian Hotel – Lynchburg, VA – March 4-5, 2025



OLD DOMINION CHAPTER
SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT MEETING PROFESSIONALS



Thank you to our Sponsors!

