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From the President

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From the **PRESIDENT**

It is my pleasure and a great honor to serve you as the Georgia Library Association (GLA) president for 2017. As I have looked over the history of the Georgia Library Association, each president brought progress to the organization during their tenure, through his or her individual talents and interests. With too many to mention over the years, I would like to highlight my two most recent predecessors and how their contributions will significantly impact and pave the way for my time as president.

Lace Keaton (2015) coordinated an exciting and vibrant COMO conference, and membership reached an all-time high during her presidency. The GLA and COMO budgets left us in great financial standing for the year to come. She also conducted a Georgia Library Association strategic planning process, and the results gave us clear indicators of what the executive board should work toward for the next few years. As a result, we have started the website redesign and have clarified the GLA documentation.

Cathy Jeffrey (2016) spent her year as president working on GLA constitutional amendments and bylaws and on clarifying/documenting roles in the association. She appointed a committee to work on the GLA website redesign and moved forward with the name change for COMO, which will now be known as the Georgia Libraries Conference. During my term, I will continue building on the imperatives outlined in the results of the strategic planning process, with a focus on the newly named Georgia Libraries Conference, GLA website redesign, continued improvements to association infrastructure, and cultivating relationships among all cross-sections of the library community. Knowledge transfer will be an

important theme for us as we move forward, as some of the pillars of GLA have retired or are threatening to retire. I hope to facilitate this process to preserve the rich heritage of GLA.

It is also a pleasure and honor to have Carol Stanley serve as advisor to the president for 2017. As an academic librarian, she will help provide a balanced perspective and point of view as my advisor. She brings her knowledge of the association through many years of service. And, as we all know, she certainly brings a spirit of fun!

The 2017 Georgia Library Association (GLA) Midwinter Meeting took place on December 14–15 at Clayton State University. Yes, this meeting took place in 2016, and it was not even winter, much less midwinter. We scheduled the meeting in December to avoid competing with the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter and to give our ALA Councilor, Amy Eklund, time to enlist any help and time for additional work she may have needed to prepare us for ALA Midwinter.

The ALA Midwinter meeting was held January 19–24, 2017 at the Georgia World Congress Center, and Amy did a fabulous job developing and coordinating the plan of action for GLA as host chapter. Many thanks to the planning committee and all the volunteers that helped make the booth a success!

The contract for the website redesign has been issued to Heck Yeah! Studio Inc. The GLA webmaster, Sofia Slutskaya and committee will work with Heck Yeah! to implement the new website and with the community for feedback. Committee members include Hiu-Shan Christina

Yau, Gerri Mullis, Jeffrey Mortimore, Kara Mullen, Ashley Dupuy, and Robin Fay.

On a national level, the GLA Executive Board approved a contribution to ALA to support the National Library Legislative Day and will provide travel support for the GLA vice president/president elect (or their designee) to attend the ALA National Library Legislative Day in May 2017.

Library Day at the Capitol was held on February 8, 2017. This is also known as Hot Dog Day and is an important opportunity for the library community to speak with legislators about the impact of libraries on our communities. In addition, the Governmental Relations Committee distributed the Mumford Library prints to each of the legislators. We are always amazed and delighted at the reception we receive in distributing the prints. Many legislators have the series on display in their offices.

Mark your calendars for the Georgia Libraries Conference in Columbus, Georgia, October 4–6, 2017. What an exciting opportunity we have to launch our new conference name and brand. The Columbus Area Library Association (CALA) along with the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau are ready to roll out the red carpet for us. We look forward to enjoying the downtown growth since we last held our convention there with many restaurants and shops within walking distance and a wider variety of lodging at many price points. We also will enjoy shuttle service to major hotels in the area. Columbus offers a variety of museums, tours, and other attractions. It is always great to meet new librarians throughout our state and to visit with old friends. Stay tuned for further announcements about the conference!

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