

Winter 2003

President's Column

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President's Column

I want to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated officers who served the SELA so effectively. We all owe Past President Barry Baker, Past Treasurer Glenda Neeley, and Past Secretary Sybil Boudreaux our sincere appreciation for keeping the association on course so that it remains both professionally productive and financially stable. That is especially commendable in such times of tightening budgets as occurred during their term of service. I would also like to welcome the new officers who will be serving with me as your Executive Board for the coming biennium. Vice-President/President Elect Judith Gibbons, Treasurer Diane Baird, and Secretary Faith Line have already been working with me as we plan for the future.

The 2003-2004 biennium for the Southeastern Library Association is off to a good start. Committee appointments are being made and the 2003-2004 Leadership Directory is being prepared. Individual groups will be working throughout the biennium to accomplish their goals - in whatever form they may take - to improve libraries and to increase the knowledge and resources of library workers and supporters of all types. If you are interested in serving on a committee or are interested in active participation in one of the sections or roundtables, be sure to let me know. It's never too late to become an active, contributing member of SELA!

The 2003 Leadership Conference will be held on May 16, 2003, at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. Hotel information and conference registration information have already been distributed. If you missed the deadline for registering at the Sheraton Colony Square, there are several other hotels in the area. If you arrive before the meeting or have time to stay after the meeting, there are a number of opportunities to enjoy the city of Atlanta. The High Museum is only about a block away, and there are exhibits entitled *Rodin and French Sculpture of the Late 19th Century* and *For This World and Beyond: African Art from the Fred and Rita Richman Collection* that will be on display through that weekend. There is a MARTA station behind the museum. From there you can visit shopping areas such as Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza. There are several restaurants within the hotel complex and in the surrounding area. One of my favorite Atlanta restaurants is about a block away.

The Leadership Conference is a planning meeting for all SELA sections and roundtables, committee members and other SELA members interested in participating. Sections, roundtables and committees plan their activities for the biennium during this meeting, including the 2004 Conference which is in the planning stages as a joint conference with the North Carolina Library Association to help them celebrate their one hundredth anniversary.

I am trying something different this biennium with committee chairs. During the 2001-2002 biennium, we appointed some of the newer members of the association as chairs of committees. To further expand that process of strengthening and expanding the SELA leadership base, I am appointing co-chairs for as many committees as possible. In that process I am trying to pair experienced association members with newer members. Ideally this will not only expand the leadership base but also make the work the chairing of a committee somewhat easier and less demanding because responsibilities are shared.

If for some reason you are unable to attend the Leadership Conference, you still have the opportunity to be an active committee member. Committees are finding it increasingly effective to do the majority of their work electronically. Please do not let inability to attend the conference keep you from being active for 2003-2004. This is your opportunity to contribute to your association.

-- Ann Hamilton