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## From the President

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## *From the* PRESIDENT

COMO XIX was a successful conference, and the theme, "Beaches, Blogs and Books," set the tone for fun activities and a variety of educational programs. Wednesday night on the beach, the New Members Roundtable sponsored a low-country boil with delicious food, good music and a time to visit with colleagues. The exhibits and authors' reception gave attendees an opportunity to talk with authors and vendors about their books, information resources, products and services. The outstanding keynote speakers and more than 100 concurrent sessions offered a wide range of topics on current trends and issues for all types of libraries.

As you know, the responsibilities for the conference are shared between GLA, the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT) and the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA). GLA was responsible for the COMO XIX program, and JoEllen Ostendorf, 2007 GLA president, served as program chair. JoEllen did an exceptional job chairing the Program Selection Committee, scheduling the programs and making arrangements for the presentation equipment. Give kudos to JoEllen for all of her hard work in planning one of the best conference programs.

As we begin 2008, there are several dates to mark on your calendar. Jan. 25 is the date for the GLA Mid-Winter Conference. This is a meeting for all members. Network with colleagues throughout the state in division and interest group meetings and share your ideas, knowledge and expertise as program planning begins for COMO XX in Athens Oct. 15-17. Volunteer to serve on a committee by returning the committee preference form. Your talent and leadership are needed, and membership on a

standing committee is an excellent way to get involved in the association.

Plan to be in Atlanta on Feb. 14 for Library Day, sponsored by GLA, GAIT and GLMA. It is important for legislators to see a large contingency of library supporters and hear about library accomplishments in their communities. This is a time to thank legislators for their support and voice the need for their continued support. Encourage library trustees and friends to attend this event. Their presence and strong voice of support for libraries send a compelling message to legislators. GLA is the lead organization for this event, and Jim Cooper, director of West Georgia Regional Library, is coordinating the plans.

National Library Legislative Day 2008, May 13 and 14, is sponsored by the American Library Association, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, District of Columbia Library Association and the Special Library Association. The Georgia Public Library Service takes the lead for this event, and Julie Walker, GPLS assistant state librarian for support services and strategic initiatives, is the NLLD state coordinator for Georgia.

As the association begins a new year, invite colleagues who are new to the state or the profession to join GLA. Encourage colleagues who are not members of GLA to join. I am looking forward to working with you in 2008! ►►

— **Betty D. Paulk**  
*President*  
*Georgia Library Association*