

12-22-2005

## Message from the President

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### Recommended Citation

Gibbons, Judith (2005) "Message from the President," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 53 : Iss. 4 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol53/iss4/2>

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# *The Southeastern Librarian*

*Volume 53, Number 4 Winter, 2005/2006*

## **Message from the President**

Welcome to the inaugural on-line edition of *The Southeastern Librarian*. Beginning with this issue, the association's newsletter will be available on your desktop winter and summer. The journal will be published twice yearly and mailed to you in the spring and fall. Thanks to SELn editor, Perry Bratcher for shepherding the organization through this cost effective change.

We are in the countdown phase for our joint conference with the Tennessee Library Association slated for Memphis from April 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. This strong conference has been planned by an energetic team of librarians from throughout the Southeast and I would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of the joint planning committee and in particular, SELA President-Elect Faith Line. This is the third consecutive SELA conference that has profited from Faith's involvement. She worked with exhibits in Charleston, the planning committee in Charlotte, and now is coordinating SELA efforts in Memphis.

Check out the newly designed Tennessee Library Association home page at <http://www.tnla.org/> to find the gateway to conference information. With over 100 programs, this will be an ideal venue for continuous learning and networking opportunities. Technology, E-Learning, Accreditation, Copyright and Marketing are a few of the myriad topics showcased.

The host hotel is the Memphis Hilton which has recently undergone a \$12 million renovation. The conference rate is \$99.00 per room. Conveniently located near I-240, the hotel also provides complimentary airport shuttles and a wide variety of amenities to accommodate the business traveler.

Advocacy is an ongoing conference theme and this is an opportunity to encourage you to join, sustain and lead advocacy efforts on the local, state and national level. Our joint conference is the site for the first American Library Association Regional Advocacy Institute and reinforces the strong connection between our various library organizations. This pre-conference and a keynote address from ALA Past-President Carol Brey-Casiano will remind us that grassroots advocacy is a key for developing strong libraries.

Located at the Memphis Public Library, the Advocacy Institute is the perfect venue to strengthen the voice of library advocacy nationwide by providing training and tools to help the library community speak out at a local level. This three and a half hour session will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Each participant will receive an action planning guide that will be useful in charting your course. The Institute is only \$25.00 and is open to all library staff, trustees, friends and community library supporters. It is helpful to bring your team to the pre-conference so that you can start working together to develop your action plan.

At the conference, the SELA board will be meeting on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. The SELA Luncheon and Awards presentation will be held on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This will also include the general membership meeting. A major topic of discussion will be voting on proposed changes in the committee structure and recommended changes for state representatives. A second board meeting will be held at 7:00 a.m. in the hotel restaurant. Watch for conference and association updates on the SELA web site at <http://sela.jsu.edu/>.

See you in Memphis,  
Judith Gibbons