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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

This column is being written one month before the COMO conference. I hope you are participating on the GLMA-sponsored Ning, the social network where members can share conference information and discuss program topics. COMO offers a wide variety of programs, exhibits of products, services and technologies for all types of libraries and time to network. Carolyn Fuller, chair of the Public Library Division, is doing a tremendous job in planning the Authors' Reception and book signing that will have over 40 authors in attendance.

In July the GLA board approved the Award Committee's recommendation to establish the Library Support Services Award. This award recognizes someone employed in a library support profession who has furthered library development or who has made outstanding contributions to Georgia libraries as part of his or her job or business. The award winner could be a vendor employee, an employee of an office or department that supports library services or an employee of an individual institution. The individual must not be a practicing librarian, and GLA membership is not required. The first recipient of this award will be recognized at the 2008 COMO conference during the GLA Awards Banquet.

The Beard and Hubbard Scholarship winners are also recognized at the Awards Banquet. The Scholarship Committee members and other volunteers work tirelessly during the conference setting up raffle tables, selling tickets and sponsoring the raffle drawing that is enjoyed by everyone. The record number of raffle donations and ticket sales, in addition to contributions made directly to the association, make it possible to award a \$3,000 Hubbard Scholarship and a \$1,000 Beard Scholarship. Thank you to all who contribute in so many different ways in making these two scholarships possible.

There are many opportunities to serve in GLA. Plans are already being made for the GLA Mid-Winter Conference. This is the time members meet with their divisions, interest groups and committees to begin planning activities for 2009. GLA needs all members including our new members to attend this meeting. Be thinking about how you can serve GLA and plan to volunteer for a committee and attend the division and interest group planning meetings. After COMO, Jim Cooper, the incoming president of GLA, will be sending information about the Mid-Winter Conference.

This is the last column I will write as president. I want to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as the GLA president and recognize the GLA board members for their support, commitment and contribution throughout the year. GLA is extremely fortunate to have the administrative service responsibilities carried out by two dedicated members, Gordon Baker and Bob Fox. Their knowledge of the association and guidance make the GLA operations run smoothly. Another group of tremendously dedicated individuals includes Susan Cooley, *GLQ* editor, and the editorial board members. Take the time to read the page listing the *GLQ* editorial staff. Each one commits countless hours to our association producing a journal of the highest quality.

There are many opportunities to serve in GLA. I challenge each one of you to take an active role in 2009. ►►

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