

Fall 2007

## From the President

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## From the President

I've recently been invited to join a group called Clemson Community Fellows, a subgroup of STRONG COMMUNITIES. Their vision is for every child and every parent to be confident that someone will notice and someone will care whenever they have cause for joy, sorrow, or worry. Strong communities support strong families and vice versa, and they recognize that both are necessary for healthy development of children and youth.

What does this have to do with libraries? A great deal! One of their premises is to use community organizations to reach out to families and to be a safe place for families to congregate. And isn't that what we try to do every day? To reach children and adults of all ages and give them a place to meet safely and securely, a place where they can come for information, recreation or just a place to sit and read. Libraries are truly the heart of the community.

Where does SELA come into this? SELA is also a community - a community of librarians working together. Wouldn't it be great if someone noticed and cared whenever we have cause for joy, sorry or worry? SELA strives to be like that. We celebrate when our members do amazing things - our awards program recognizes outstanding Southeastern Authors, books, programs and librarians. Our legislative committee lets us know when we need to talk up libraries and what's going on in our different states. Our membership and mentoring committee works to bring new and experienced librarians together, giving them another method for growth. Our web site and journal celebrate our successes and triumphs, as well as our sorrow when we lose a librarian and keeps us informed on what's going on in our world. We collectively care about libraries and librarians and work to build relationships.

As you begin looking forward to 2008, consider how you can become more involved with SELA so that you can share and connect more fully. Become a member of a committee, section or round table - or even chair one of them. When Kathleen Imhoff puts out a call for volunteers for committees, speak up and agree to help. Make sure you're on our e-mail list so you can find out what's going on in our region. Get involved with SELA! That way our community will continue to be strong and our joys, sorrows and worries will be noticed and we'll know someone cares.

Have a wonderful holiday season and don't forget October 1-4, 2008 will be here before we know it. I hope to see you in Louisville!

Faith Line