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## From the President

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## *From the* PRESIDENT

**G**LA is all about connections. Connections with colleagues, connections among libraries, connections with new technologies — these are the relationships that make our organization vibrant!

I have just finished my 22nd year as a public librarian in Georgia, and I am amazed at how many people have gone out of their way through the years to offer advice to me or to provide a helpful connection in some other way. My late friend Charles Beard comes to mind as one of the relationships that began through my involvement in the Georgia Library Association.

On Dec. 5 at our Midwinter Leadership Conference, the 89 people who met once again formed new connections throughout the state and renewed old acquaintances. We listened as our outstanding speaker, Karen Schneider, spoke about the power of connecting to our library users — especially in difficult economic times.

I urge each of you to maintain the relationships that you developed at our Midwinter Conference. If you serve as the chairman of a committee or interest group, please make a special effort to contact the members of your committee throughout the year! Those of you serving as members on these committees and interest groups will

cultivate relationships and connections that will follow you throughout your career.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this year's Library Day at the state Capitol on Feb. 26. We must communicate to our elected officials the importance of library services — especially in times of economic hardship. Our legislative committee chairman for this year is Chris Huff of the University of West Georgia, and we look forward to another successful Library Day.

Finally, as we look toward our COMO Conference in Columbus, to be held Oct. 7-9, I urge each of you to consider submitting a program proposal that will enhance connections among our library colleagues. Your knowledge and experience may provide just the right information that other librarians need to provide better service to their library users. Please make the effort to respond to our call for program proposals in May of this year.

We are well on our way to a GREAT year in 2009! ►►

— **James C. Cooper**  
*President*  
*Georgia Library Association*

### ***The GLA Division for Library Trustees, Friends and Advocates needs you!***

*Under the leadership of Dr. Wallace Koehler, director of the Valdosta State Library School, the Georgia Library Association hopes to collaborate with the Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) this year to provide even more continuing education and networking opportunities for those who love libraries. Won't you add your voice to our chorus in support of Georgia's libraries of all types? For more information about GLA, please visit <http://glg.georgialibraries.org/>. For more information about FOGL, visit [www.georgia-friends.org](http://www.georgia-friends.org).*

