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President's Column

Tim Dodge
Auburn University

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

President's Column: Summer 2019

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy” according to the lyrics of “Summertime” by George Gershwin. In regard to SELA, I would suggest the “livin’ is busy” - which is not a bad thing.

Several Sections, Roundtables, and Committees are either gearing up or are already actively involved in plans for everything from organizing webinars to programs for the forthcoming joint conference with the Arkansas Library Association. Don't forget to register for that joint conference taking place in Hot Springs September 27-29 (see <http://www.selaonline.org/sela/conferences/2019.html>).

I'd like to thank Michael Hooper, Co-Chair of the Website Committee, for addressing an important problem that came up recently. Because of some policy changes regarding the hosting of “outside websites” on the Austin Peay State University Library server, it was necessary to locate a new home for the SELA website. Michael worked competently and rapidly after getting SELA Executive Committee approval, and the SELA website now resides in the GoDaddy cloud. Everything is functional and looks good. As a very non-technological relic (MLS, 1980), I am most appreciative of Michael's good work in making this important transition since so much SELA business is done online and via the website.

You may recall I have an interest in having SELA become more involved in the area of library advocacy whether it's on behalf of libraries in general or library employees. The SELA Board generated 19 advocacy ideas, I am happy to report. I boiled these down to what I hope is a manageable six. Several Board members (including myself) have come forward to work on at least several of these ideas. Even if the end product is fairly modest, I feel encouraged, since some advocacy efforts are definitely better than none. I believe the development and implementation of these advocacy ideas will better help fulfill the objectives stated in the SELA Constitution: “to promote and foster library and information services in the southeastern region of the United States through cooperation, research, and the encouragement of staff development.” (See Article II, page 7 of the *SELA Handbook* at http://www.selaonline.org/sela/contacts/SELA_Handbook.pdf .

Tim Dodge
Auburn University