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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Sirius the Dog Star—as well as the satellite radio station—is high overhead. That means the dog days of summer are here! Although summer officially started just over a month ago, and fall doesn't officially start until about six weeks from now, students are already back in school and an autumn mindset is beginning to take hold.

Fall is a new beginning of sorts—new bookbags, new classes, new faces. In anticipation of this new season, I would like for us to **THINK V.I.P.** While I believe that all GLA members are already VIPs, please let me explain:

V means Vote. Your next set of candidates for GLA leadership has been announced. The nominating committee, led by Casey Long, did a great job assembling a slate of stellar candidates. This year, for the first time, we will have the ability to vote electronically, thanks to the hard work of Kara Mullen. Information about the candidates is already on the GLA Webpage at:

http://gla.georgialibraries.org/election_2015.pdf

This information is also in this very issue of *GLQ*. And, finally, when you receive your e-mail notification to vote, candidate information will be on the ballot too. So you have many, many places where you can study the candidates' qualifications, think about your choices, and then vote!

And while you are at it, keep up the impetus and vote in the Georgia election in November! We will be living with whoever is elected

governor for the next four years and US senator for the next six, not to mention the various local and state officials who are up for election. In today's complicated world, the decisions that our elected officials make may have not only an immediate impact on our local libraries, but a more far-reaching and serious impact on all aspects of our lives. Consider decisions made concerning the vital flow and management of information. Consider the debate going on right now on network neutrality.

I means Investigate/Initiate/Innovate. This is what we as librarians do for a living, so this should not be too tall an order. Public service staff looks for answers, material, and new paths to information for our users all the time. Technical service staff investigates incoming resources and decides best how to describe and catalog them so users can find them. Investigate what sorts of new initiatives and techniques you can implement this fall to aid in your mission of getting your users what they need. Revisit Ranganathan. Put your own twist on his five laws with an innovative eye looking at the place where you work and the people you serve.

P means Participate. In the immediate future, mark your calendar for COMO in Augusta, October 1-3. Come and participate in this all-encompassing gathering of librarians and others who specialize in the sharing of information and knowledge. Some of you who are reading this, as well as a number of our SELA colleagues, may have contributed to the ninety-plus programs to be presented. There will be three nationally recognized keynote speakers, as well as a Movie Night (with a new twist, we hope) and the Authors' Reception (with wine, we know).

Registration should be open by the time you read this message, so please come, network with your colleagues from all types of libraries, take away new ideas, and have fun!

In the longer run, don't just stop your participation with COMO. GLA's next annual cycle will be revving up shortly after COMO. Volunteer to be truly active on a GLA Committee next year: Do you have ideas on how to increase membership? Do you believe that we should go to the Georgia and US capitols to bring library and information concerns to our legislators? Would you like to see GLA bring specialized workshops to different parts of the state for library staff who

cannot attend COMO? While GLA plays a major role in COMO, GLA does not stop with COMO. So participate for the longer run—you will find working with your colleagues around the state and outside your home institution on a regular basis most rewarding.

Well, GLA VIPs, that's all for now. Don't just think about taking the three broad steps above, but act on them as well. Stay cool through the dog days. See you in Augusta and beyond.

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