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From the President

Cathy Jeffrey

Georgia Library Association, cathy.gla2016@gmail.com

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From the PRESIDENT

I want to start with what is really important—the Joint Conference Committee has decided to repeat the delicious Mexican buffet at the All Conference Luncheon in October!

In addition to great food, Ru Story-Huffman, director of the Georgia Southwestern State University Library in Americus, has secured a terrific speaker for the luncheon. She met Jonathan Alter (<http://jonathanalter.com/>) when he was in South Georgia researching his new biography of Jimmy Carter. Ru persuaded him to speak at our conference and tell us more about his new book and his experience as an author and journalist. So make a note—this is an event that you don't want to miss. Watch for more information about the conference that will be coming to you soon.

Since the Georgia Library Association (GLA) Midwinter Meeting in January, work has begun on three projects that have the potential to impact our association greatly. The executive board has established a task force to oversee a web redesign project. This task force will develop an RFP to seek a vendor to help us redesign the website. Once the vendor is selected, the task force will work closely with the vendor to provide input on the final product.

A second task force was created to investigate the possibility of establishing regional chapters of GLA by partnering with existing local library associations that are active in different regions of the state. The executive board felt that this might be one way for the association to provide more support at the local level.

Finally a policy for GLA on legislative advocacy is being developed. Once in place, this policy will guide the association on when and how it should respond to legislative issues and allow the association to respond when appropriate in a timely manner.

Coming up in the next few months:

At its April meeting the executive board discussed amendments to the association's constitution and bylaws. Among other things, the proposed amendments will create a new vice president position that will oversee marketing and branding. The person in this position will focus on public relations, the association's web page, use of social media, and other things that have an impact on how our association is perceived by the public. Another important proposal is a revamp of the conference committee that will ensure continuity in our conference planning process. Please keep an eye out for a call for a vote on these amendments. It is important for every member to participate in the management of our association.

Conference preparations are well underway. The program proposal form has been released and the registration form will be coming soon. It is time to begin preparing for how you want to participate in the conference this fall.

I imagine that most of you know that the American Library Association (ALA) will hold its 2017 midwinter meeting in Atlanta next year. Amy Eklund is chairing the GLA planning committee for this event and she needs

volunteers! If you would be interested in helping Georgia shine during this national event in our state, please let Amy know. She can be reached at amypeklund@hotmail.com.

That's all for this issue. Next issue I will focus on plans for the conference in October and talk

about what is ahead for the 2017 and 2018 conferences.

Cathy Jeffrey
President, Georgia Library Association 2016
cathy.gla2016@gmail.com