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## From the President

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## *From the* PRESIDENT

We are entering election season—and I don't mean for the US Presidency. In this issue you will find nominations for GLA's 2017 officers. Included in the list are the first nominations for our new vice president for marketing and branding position that was created with the recent approval of amendments to our constitution and bylaws. All of those nominated have expressed a willingness to serve our organization in a leadership role. We owe them our gratitude—and our votes! Please be an active participant in our association and cast your vote when you receive your ballot. And I encourage you to vote this fall in the local, state, and national elections as well!

Registration is now open for the 2016 GaCOMO Conference. The Program Committee had a great response to the call for proposals, receiving more proposals than could be accommodated on the schedule. This year will be a joint conference with SELA, which always brings new faces and more diverse programming to the conference. It will be an exciting year. I hope that you will plan to join me and the rest of the Conference Planning Committee at the Classic Center in Athens, October 5–7, 2016. More information about GaCOMO 2016 and the registration form can be found at:  
<http://www.georgiacomo.org/>

Meanwhile—the Conference Site Selection Committee has been busy reviewing proposals for the 2017 and 2018 conferences. We have found that we can get better pricing if we make a two year commitment to the sites that we select for our annual conference. The Site Selection Committee, with the help of

interested members, was able to get two additional sites to match the price that we have had in Athens for the last two years making it possible for the committee to base its selection primarily on the venue rather than the price.

As I write this we are still waiting for contracts to be signed to make it official but I will tell you that the venue preferred by the members of the Conference Site Selection Committee was the Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center (<http://www.conventiontradecenter.com/>). Let me tell you why. Columbus, like Athens, is a college town. It is the home of Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College, and the Columbus Campus of the Georgia Military College. Two blocks from the convention center and the conference hotel you will find the center of town with a variety of shops, restaurants, and other attractions for post meeting activities. In addition to restaurants and shopping, there is a frozen yogurt shop and a microbrewery, as well as coffee shops. Near the convention center you will find museums, a river walk, theaters, an opera house, and whitewater rafting (maybe a little too cold for that in October!). The convention center itself is located in the Historic Iron Works, which was built in 1853. For more information see: <http://www.conventiontradecenter.com/history.cfm>. It will provide a unique meeting space for our 2017 and 2018 conferences.

That's all for now. See you in Athens in October!

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