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Georgia Library Association - New Members Round Table

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Library Association New Members Round Table

It's time to catch up on this year's New Members Round Table activities!

Meetups

A core value of the New Members Round Table (NMRT) is the importance of social gatherings and professional meetups for those new to the Georgia Library Association (GLA) and the library profession. To illustrate this value, NMRT has continued its support of the activities of the groups Atlanta Emerging Librarians and Coastal Georgia Library Collaborative, both of which have been very active during 2017. NMRT has also organized additional meetups with various partners both inside and outside of GLA. During the spring, the NMRT officers coordinated a meetup with the group North Georgia Associated Libraries (NGAL) in the beautiful city

of Dahlonega, Georgia. Members of both organizations met for lunch and after took a guided tour of the University of North Georgia's Dahlonega Campus Library. During the fall, NMRT and the GLA Interest Group Council also held their annual combined business meeting and social on Thursday night of the Georgia Libraries Conference at the Cannon Brewpub in downtown Columbus.

This year's Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL) planning committee, made up of Amanda Densmore, Holly Hampton, and Jherusha Lambert, has coordinated several social meetups around the Atlanta area, including a tour of the National Archives in Morrow, Georgia, and a professional development presentation at the Metropolitan Branch of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System. AEL also sponsored a panel presentation at the 2017 Georgia Libraries Conference. To close out the year, AEL is planning an escape room holiday



NMRT and Interest Group Council Social at the Georgia Libraries Conference

party as well as the annual “Mingle with the Admins” event, so be on the lookout for more information on the GLA listserv, Facebook, and Twitter.

Coastal Georgia Library Collaborative (CGLC), which initially formed in late 2015 with the aim of promoting more GLA involvement in the southern portion of Georgia, has held social meetups at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah State University, and Lane Library at Armstrong State University. The 2017 CGLC planning committee is made up of Janice Shipp, Brenda Poku, Kristi Smith, Vivian Bynoe, and Autumn Johnson. CGLC has an active blog at <https://glacoastal.wordpress.com>, and you may also follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Georgia Libraries Conference Buddy Program

Following the conference theme of “Different by Design,” NMRT decided to implement a new program this year at the Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC). Inspired by buddy programs organized by ALA’s LITA and GLBTRT, the GLC conference buddy program was designed to build connections among library professionals and ease newcomers into the sometimes-

daunting conference experience. The overall objective was to provide new conference-goers a mentor-like buddy to make connections with and to encourage their participation in various conference activities. Experienced conference buddies were asked to meet with their assigned buddy over the conference, introduce them to conference attendees and other GLA members, and offer suggestions as well as advice on

getting the most out of the conference experience and GLA membership. With less than twenty buddies this time around, the inaugural program was very small, but the aim is to grow this program into something valuable for new and experienced GLA members alike.



NMRT Officers, from left to right: Catherine Mancini, Emily Williams, and Holly Hampton

2018 Elections

NMRT held elections for the 2018 officers electronically during the month of September. As this year’s vice chair, Emily Williams (Kennesaw State University) will be moving into the chair position for 2018. A vice chair and secretary were elected to serve in 2018: Holly Hampton (Clayton State University) will take over the duties of vice chair, and Catherine Mancini (Savannah College of Art and Design) will take over as secretary. Congratulations to the new officers!