The President’s Column

Crystal Gates
North Little Rock Public Library, president@selaonline.org

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln
Part of the Information Literacy Commons, Scholarly Communication Commons, and the Scholarly Publishing Commons

Recommended Citation
Gates, Crystal (2024) "The President’s Column," The Southeastern Librarian: Vol. 72: Iss. 1, Article 13.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.62915/0038-3686.2070
Available at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol72/iss1/13

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by the Active Journals at DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.
The President’s Column

The first regional meeting of southeastern librarians took place in November of 1920. That meeting was held to discuss issues and library development. This year marks 100 years of SELA’s professional development for librarians by librarians, i.e. a conference. How fitting that this summer is a solo conference rather than a joint conference! As we have seen, it is vital that we come together to share our struggles, our concerns, our strengths, and our successes. Just today, I shared with my state colleagues the value in face-to-face conferences and meetings. Technology is wonderful, and I love the accessibility it provides for members to communicate and participate. But nothing quite matches the connections and dialogue that come from being together in person.

It is exciting that 2024 is also an award year, so while we come together to learn from each other, we also come together to celebrate the amazing work that southeastern librarians and libraries do each and every day. I recently asked numerous colleagues what they would share with a library worker if they could share anything. The responses varied from a jokingly shared “RUN!” to the common “libraries change lives.” In each case, I immediately thought of how we all stand up for those who cannot stand alone. We stand united in our vision of a better tomorrow. We stand arm-in-arm with those defending our freedoms. And, with our summer conference, we stand together to celebrate the good work being done every single day in libraries all over the southeast.

Please join me and each other in visiting Huntsville, Alabama to Recharge in Rocket City. Join us as we explore better methods, commiserate, and learn from the hits that seem to keep coming, and recharge to return better than ever.