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From the President

Elizabeth McKinney

Georgia Public Library Service, emckinney@georgialibraries.org

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From the PRESIDENT

It has been such an honor for me to serve as the Georgia Library Association (GLA) President for 2017 and such a privilege to work with so many talented and dedicated library staff. The year started with the goals of launching the newly named Georgia Libraries Conference, GLA website redesign and launch, cultivating relationships among all cross-sections of the library community, and knowledge transfer for sustainable ongoing association practices. What a year it has been!

For those of you who attended the Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC), I hope that you enjoyed the sessions and the new events featured this year. The GLC Conference Steering Committee did a fabulous job organizing the conference and creating an energetic environment for us to learn and network. There were over 480 registrations, 140 sessions, and 48 exhibitors. Thanks to all of our presenters. We have received great feedback on the sessions. Our keynote speakers, R. David Lankes and Siva Vaidhyanathan, gave on-target addresses about issues and opportunities that face our profession and society. The Scholarship Committee held another fun and exciting raffle, raising more than \$4,000 for the Beard and Hubbard scholarships. Linh Uong, Scholarship Committee chair, and volunteers did a fabulous job!

This year's Georgia Libraries Conference Steering Committee:

Eli Arnold (Treasurer and Exhibitor Team), Jean Cook (Program Chair), Angela Megaw (Registration Chair), Kat Greer (Technology Team), Rosemary Humphrey (Technology Team), Micki Waldrop (Catering), Ariel Turner,

Amy Burger, Sarah Gourley, Lisa Smith, Moira Blackflower, Lydia Hofstetter, Gordon Baker (numerous roles including Exhibitor Team, GAIT, GLMA, and Administrative Services), Stephanie Middleton, Beth McIntyre, Kelly Ansley, Jessica Garner, Pam Nutt, Laura Herndon, Dixie Johnston, Fred Smith, Carol Stanley, Jill Prouty and Kara Mullen (Administrative Services). Special mention to Columbus Area Library Association (CALA) and Stephanie Middleton's staff at Columbus Technical College. If you have an opportunity to thank these folks, please do. They spent many many hours working on the conference this year.

I also hope that all attendees took some time to provide feedback on your experience this year. If you missed the online survey, please feel free to contact the members of the Conference Advisory Task Force: Cristina Trotter (Chair), Casey Long, Swalena Griffin, Justin Nobles, and Eli Arnold. The task force will provide direct input and recommendations for future conferences as well as develop documentation for future conference committees. Your input is definitely needed to make future conferences a success!

Congratulations and many thanks to Sofia Slutskaya, GLA Webmaster, and team for implementing the new GLA website. The team worked with Heck Yeah! Studio Inc. and the GLA Marketing and Branding Committee to bring us the fabulous new website that launched mid-October. Committee members include Sofia Slutskaya, Christina Yau, Gerri Mullis, Jeffrey Mortimore, Kara Mullen, Ashley Dupuy, and Robin Fay.

It has been a very rewarding experience to work with the 2017 GLA Executive Board, the chairs of the divisions, interest groups and committees, and the GLC Conference Steering Committee. I would like to encourage you to become more involved in GLA. Please reach out to the 2018 leaders with questions or ideas for ways to help.

Please indulge me just a few more words. I must say a special thanks to Carol Stanley who served as advisor to the president. She provided advice from the perspective of an academic librarian, past president, and as a wonderful

human being. Lace Keaton, thanks for your input and encouragement. Thanks to Julie Walker, who nominated me for this wonderful learning experience. Thanks for the challenge and encouragement. Many thanks to my colleagues at Team GPLS for “having my back” this year. And a very special thanks to Gordon Baker for always being there and being so patient and kind all the while!

Elizabeth McKinney
President, Georgia Library Association 2017
emckinney@georgialibraries.org