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## From the President

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## *From the* PRESIDENT

Before I look forward, I would like to spend a little time looking back. Folks, I am following a class act in Elizabeth McKinney!

Not long after the Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC), Elizabeth took the time to meet with Vice-President Jennifer Lautzenheiser and me and go over the president's duties with us. She explained that most presidents have a theme or major project, and hers was the upgrading of the web site. And as we know, with great work from Sofia Slutskaya and others, that was accomplished. But that was only one aspect of what made her year so successful.

She commissioned a conference planning task force and asked Cristina Trotter to lead it. The result was an amazingly helpful report. Because of their work, we now have access to all kinds of data on what makes a conference successful.

To a certain extent, all Georgia Library Association (GLA) presidents are judged by the success of their conference. Feedback in its many forms makes it clear that this past conference was a smashing success. The addition of a fun event on Wednesday evening was her idea from the start. It began with Elizabeth's observation that there is a "spooky room" at the Columbus conference facility, and we needed to find a way to make use of it. The cost of the wine she paid out of her pocket, and I can say firsthand that added to the enjoyment. So much went right at the Columbus conference, and we also gained a lot of funding from it.

I loved the way Elizabeth ran the meetings. Always calm and poised, she listened for whether consensus was building for a particular action. If it didn't, she quickly took a vote and let the majority decide.

So what does 2018 hold? As always, the first order of business will be to plan another successful conference. We will need to carefully examine possibilities for the next conference site and make a decision on where it will be.

Sofia and Elizabeth accomplished the main goal with the upgrading of the GLA website, but there are a number of enhancements which could take it further. I would like to see as much of those happen as reasonable. These things cost money, of course, but also they cost time. We have to be careful not to overload the GLA people involved in this work, and Sofia in particular.

And lastly, there is the implementation of some or all of the Conference Planning Task Force recommendations. In my view, what would be a really significant accomplishment this year would be the writing of a conference planning handbook. It would be fantastic if we could present to next year's officers and members a guide to conference planning.

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