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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) president's year is badly frontloaded. The first few months of the year account for about two-thirds of the year's work. The Executive Board and I have been busy since last I wrote. A selection of our activities follows.

Mumford, a venerable library supplies company, went under. Mumford has for years paid for prints which are distributed to legislators. A frantic back and forth finally produced an agreement between GLA and the Georgia Public Library Services to split the costs. Next year the Georgia Public Library Services will handle it.

We managed to take the last of umpteen steps necessary to change the name of a couple of committees. The old Public Relations Committee is now Marketing and Branding. Governmental Relations is now Advocacy.

Conference planning began in earnest. Between the Conference Advisory Task Force Report and the three post conference discussions, I'm sure we had more information to go on than ever before.

A few highlights so far: the keynotes will be Loida Garcia-Febo, the incoming president of the American Library Association, and Christy Crouse, a speaker for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. It is hoped that Dolly will send along video greetings. We are going to try something different for the luncheon this year. Instead of a speaker, we will have tables for librarians of shared interests to get together. Wednesday night will feature a story teller who specializes in ghost stories about the Springer Opera House and the Linwood Cemetery, two local

Columbus, Georgia landmarks. Taking the advice of the Conference Advisory Task Force, we are going to try making use of tracks. In an effort to increase traffic at the exhibits, we plan to try Vendor Bingo or something similar. We have tweaked the poster sessions and have made sure there is a poster wrangler to coordinate the sessions on site.

As the planning has moved along, I have come to appreciate the work of Jean Cook more and more. She has been our program chair for some time, and I am lucky to have her this one last year. I hope she will continue to serve on future conference planning committees, because she knows a ton. Likewise, Angela Megaw has more than ably handled the registration chair position. We are all indebted to her and hope she will be heavily involved in conference planning next year.

Every other year we must select a site for the two years after the current year. The cities in competition will make their pitches on May 3, 2018, and we should have a decision soon after. In 2020, we will have a joint conference with the Southeastern Library Association and help them celebrate their centennial.

Wendy Cornelisen (Advocacy) brought to our attention that the Atlanta School Board was proposing the elimination of a number of school media positions. The Georgia Library Media Association was writing a letter of support to the superintendent and board, and we were invited to write our own. Which we did.

The Nominations and Elections Committee has proposed a new method of voting for offices. It has met with approval at all stages and is now

in its waiting period before a vote of the membership.

Mack Freeman proposed two needed new awards. One is an award for a librarian in mid-career. The other is a sort of commendation the president can use to thank people who have been particularly helpful in the past year.

Sofia Slutskaya monitors how many people read my column in the GLQ. After the last one, Carol Stanley emailed me to tell me she liked it. In doing that she also solved a curiosity I had had. Now I know who the other person who read it was.

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