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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

As I write, registration for the 2018 Georgia Libraries Conference on October 3–5 will open any time now.

We have as one of our keynotes Loida Garcia-Febo, the incoming ALA President. Our speaker from the Dolly Parton Foundation backed out, but we have replaced her with a speaker from a similar, albeit home grown outfit—the Ferst Foundation. Betsy Wagenhauser, president of the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy, will be our second keynote. As a profession, we are highly dependent on having a literate public. Whether you prefer science journals, romance novels, digital, paper, blogs, whatever, reading is the common denominator. Ferst is, in a sense, a partner with libraries. From their web page:

Ferst Readers was founded in 1999 to address the growing problem of children from low-income communities entering kindergarten without basic early literacy skills and school readiness, a preventable problem that has far-reaching impacts throughout students' lives. The recipe for early school success is simple: start school with strong literacy skills.

We also have a number of interesting preconferences and a tour of Ft. Benning on Wednesday of conference week. An authors' scavenger hunt will add to the always fun and rewarding Author's Reception. We think we

have a really exciting conference for you, so fill out those registration forms!

The 2019 and 2020 conferences will be held in Macon. This was a very difficult decision. All of the competing sites had positive things to offer. But looking at the whole picture, Macon won out this time.

In the works for next year is a special President's Award. There is no money involved; the winners will receive a plaque or certificate. The GLA president is to give these out to anyone who was particularly helpful to him or her during the presidential year. In one mood I wish this had already started, but in another mood I am glad it hasn't. That's because I would not know where to stop. And I would be sure to leave someone out who was really deserving. I think everyone on the Conference Planning Committee would get one. And the Site Selection Committee—fun and hard working group of people. But two would go to Gordon Baker and Elizabeth McKinney for sure. I seldom have any GLA question Gordon can't answer. Elizabeth told Jennifer Lautzenheiser and me that she intended to be an active past president, and she has been just that. I can always count on her to guide me through the difficult decisions.

Fred Smith
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