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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

This has been an extremely busy four months for the Georgia Library Association (GLA)! I am thrilled to be a part of this team and continually impressed by the dedication of so many individuals to make great things happen. I recall as a library student asking for clarification of GLA's function. The reply from an unnamed professional was that GLA put on a great conference every year. I hope and expect that we will do that again this year but can assure you that there is so much more happening in your association.

The Conference Committee has been working to deliver on the great conference reputation. The event will happen October 9–11, 2019 in Macon, Georgia. Our theme is Building Better Together. We are excited to share commitments from John Bracken, executive director of Digital Public Library of America, and Karin Slaughter, Georgia author, as speakers. Macon is where soul lives and was recently celebrated as the land of warrior librarians. We hope that your visit with us will speak directly to both of those! Our conference luncheon will be fun and educational delivered by Rock Candy Tours, a music history tour company that showcases Macon, Georgia's rich music history. From Little Richard, Otis Redding, James Brown, and the Allman Brothers Band, we expect there will be a little something for everyone. All of this fun will be kicked off with our social event—A Literary Ball. Literary costumes are encouraged, so consider this your official notice to start planning your attire. A special thank you goes out to Gottwals Books for their generous sponsorship of this event.

The Advocacy Committee has remained engaged and current on issues relevant to

library personnel in a variety of areas. We have lifted our collective voices at both state and federal levels. GLA issued a letter in support of the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA) in their desire to have school media specialists considered equally as other educators in the schedule pay increases. GLA also provided many letters of support for federal library funding to multiple representatives due to a concern in the proposed elimination of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL).

GLA's New Members Round Table (NMRT) remains a strong component of the future of our organization. This division consistently engages new members of our profession throughout the state. Activities stretch from Atlanta to coastal Georgia with plenty of options to connect and meet fellow members face-to-face. Additionally, there's an NMRT newsletter with information on upcoming events, opportunities to get involved in the association, and generally making professional connections. If you are looking for an inroad into GLA participation, consider this an invitation!

The Paraprofessional Division has also launched a newsletter to assist their members in staying connected and getting involved. In addition, they recently reported the results of their 2018 Paraprofessional Division Survey, which engaged both members and non-members of GLA. I was quite surprised by the result that nearly half of all respondents were unaware that GLA had a paraprofessional division. I conclude that there are a great number of library workers in our facilities that are completely unaware that our organization is

ready, willing, and able to provide them with support and development in their chosen career field. Hopefully, we can all take this as a push to share the association within our organizations.

Speaking of sharing our organization, the Membership Committee has been so successful in building an awareness and promotional kit that we've developed a bit of a demand issue. This is great news!! If you haven't heard, there's a membership kit that is available to travel throughout the state, thanks to the PINES system! Thanks, PINES! The kit includes a full set up for the promotion of GLA. There's some SWAG, a table cloth, button maker, and more. The intention is for this kit to be set up at all GLA events to make sure that we are sharing the association with all attendees. The kit can also be available for staff training events.

Finally, we continue the work of forging a new path in Administrative Services. After many

years of exceptional service to our organization, Gordon Baker has decided to retire from providing our administrative service support. Gordon and Kara Mullen provided considerable support and dedication to the success of GLA. It will take a team to provide similar. The Administrative Services Task Force has worked diligently to research, evaluate, and recommend a firm that can help keep our organization on the path to success.

I originally hesitated to share specifics about some of the good works in fear that someone would be offended by the work not mentioned. Rest assured there's more to list than there is room. For each of you working hard but not listed, know that your work is noticed and greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all in October if not before.

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