

1-1-2020

From the President

Laura Burtle

Georgia State University, lburtle@gsu.edu

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Recommended Citation

Burtle, L. (2020). From the President. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 57(1). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol57/iss1/8>

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From the **PRESIDENT**

I am looking forward to serving as the Georgia Library Association (GLA) president in 2020 and continuing the strong year of growth under my predecessor Jennifer Lautzenheiser. I spent the last year learning all the things the GLA president does, and while I still have a lot to learn, Jennifer helped me prepare for the year ahead.

Last year Jennifer and the Executive Board worked on two major initiatives. First, GLA transitioned to a new administrative services company, Impact Visual Services. Thanks to Jennifer, Eli Arnold, Mack Freeman, and Ashley Dupuy for serving on the task force. Following the selection of Impact, the board selected Wild Apricot to handle the membership database. A lot of time and effort has gone into the transition. If you have not yet logged into the site and updated your membership profile, please do so. Just click on "Forgot Password" to set up your account.

Second, a Conference Planning Task Force led by Mack Freeman and Kimberly Boyd presented the board with a plan to restructure the way GLA partners with other organizations on the annual conference. The board accepted the task force plan, and the new structure will be implemented in phases over the next few years. The board affirmed the goals of the annual conference:

- Adding value to association membership
- Generating revenue for the association
- Promoting libraries and related professions
- Providing a forum for discussing issues relevant to the profession

- Providing professional growth opportunities
- Providing a space for GLA's constituent parts to meet and work on behalf of the association

One initiative the board will be working on this year is a process for incorporating or affiliating with other library groups in Georgia. Several groups have expressed interest in associating with GLA, and we are eager to develop a good method of working with other library groups to strengthen our memberships.

The board will also be working early this year to select a site for annual conferences for the next two years. We will be issuing a request for proposals soon.

The annual Midwinter Planning Meeting was on January 10, 2020 in Macon, Georgia. The meeting was a great success, and we had a wonderful turnout with a large number of first-time attendees complementing our loyal regulars. Every division and committee met, and several new chairs held their first meetings, and our newest interest group, the Gender and Sexuality Diversities Interest Group, met for the first time. We held a GLA 101 session in the morning, where attendees heard about the GLA organization, social media channels, interest groups, and how to get and be involved in GLA. During the day, the different groups made plans and brainstormed events for the year and possibilities for programs for the annual conference.

This year's annual conference theme is Everyone In! This theme reflects our desire to encourage new and existing members to

become engaged with GLA, either through presenting at the conference or working behind the scenes. It also reflects the important roles libraries play promoting participation in the 2020 census, the election year, and the work we all do in our communities. It also recognizes our colleagues in the Southeastern Library Association, who will be joining our conference this year!

The Georgia Library Association is an all-volunteer organization and relies on its

members to keep it active. If you have ideas and suggestions, please reach out to me or any board member. If you don't belong to a division or interest group, you can join by logging into your profile on the website. Reach out to the chair with your ideas! GLA is YOU!

Laura Burtle
President, Georgia Library Association 2020
lburtle@gsu.edu