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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

In this issue, you will meet the candidates for election for the Georgia Library Association (GLA) officers and divisions. Please read about the candidates and be sure to vote when you get your ballot link!

Oscar Gittemeier, who was serving as the 2020 vice president/president-elect, accepted a new position out of state. I am pleased to announce that Wendy Cornelisen, assistant state librarian at Georgia Public Library Services, assumed the vice president/president-elect position for the remainder of 2020 and will serve as GLA president in 2021.

Throughout this challenging COVID-19 public health crisis, Georgia libraries are supporting their patrons however they can, with virtual services, hotspots, and e-books. As Governor Kemp lifts shelter-in-place orders in Georgia, libraries are slowly working towards reopening, with curbside pickup services in many areas, reduced and reconfigured seating, enhanced cleaning, Plexiglass barriers, and other modifications to allow for distancing. Our colleagues and patrons are managing changing childcare schedules and school schedules, mask requirements, waiting periods, and other restrictions. Flexibility, ingenuity, good humor, and understanding are essential.

This year, anger at the endemic racism in our society exploded following the shocking murder

of George Floyd, which followed an equally shocking murder of Ahmaud Arbery here in Georgia. Libraries shared reading lists to help us in our paths toward antiracism, and library associations issued statements. <https://gla.georgialibraries.org/georgia-library-association-statement-against-racism/>. A collection of library association statements condemning systemic racism is available at <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/ala-chapters-condemn-systemic-racism/>. The Georgia Library Association is convening a task force to seek ways to expand our educational and scholarship programs to support inclusivity and racial diversity in our profession.

Planning for the Georgia Libraries Virtual Conference is underway, and more details will be forthcoming. Our keynote speaker will be American Library Association President Wanda Kay Brown!

GLA has a new Instagram site. Follow it @GLAEmpowers.

Thank you for supporting each other, your communities, and your GLA president during what has been a genuinely extraordinary 2020!

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