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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

As I write this final column of my Georgia Library Association (GLA) presidency, the 2020 Georgia Libraries Conference with SELA (GLC) just wrapped up. What a wonderful virtual conference! Wendy Cornelisen graciously took over as conference chair and led a fantastic team in putting together what turned out to be a very successful event.

Melissa Dennis, Elizabeth McKinney, and Jackie Radebaugh led the proposal and scheduling, while Nicole Klein helped our presenters record and post their presentations. Thanks to Heather Hankins and Kennesaw State University for making the GLC Virtual Poster Sessions a reality!

Austina Jordan managed the registration process and Tim Daniels the sponsorships. Sofia Slutskaya was our website manager and entered every event into the online platform.

Stephanie Miranda and the Scholarship Committee kept our new virtual process legal and successful. Casey Long, Elizabeth McKinney, Melissa Dennis, and Angel Abounader made the conference fun with social events!

Jeanne Peloquin moved across the country but still handled all the email notices and social media for the conference.

Michael Holt and Valdosta State University helped us track your feedback and ideas for next year.

Thanks to our volunteer moderators for the GLC Bonus Pack Webinars and the GLC Sessions. And behind the scenes making sure the virtual event worked was the technology team of Micki Waldrop and Matthew Stembridge.

We were pleased to share this conference with SELA (Southeastern Library Association) and GAIT (Georgia Association for Instructional Technology) and celebrate SELA's 100th anniversary!

While we don't know what next year's conference will look like, the interactions and discussions in the virtual spaces show value in providing multiple modalities for conference attendees to interact and learn from and network with one another, whatever the conference format.

The conference will remain available to registrants on the Whova platform for three months. The GLC Slideshare will host the presentations.

As we continue implementing the changes to our administrative services infrastructure, our communications options are improving. Our association listserv is now transitioned to Google Groups and is limited to GLA members. We are in the process of creating listservs for committees, divisions, and interest groups. Additionally, forums are now active in the member section of the GLA website. These function as discussion boards rather than email lists.

If you are not a member of a division or interest group (or several), you can sign into the website at www.georgialibraryassociation.org and click on Edit Profile to select areas of interest.

Be on the lookout for information about GLA Midwinter 2021. Planning for the year will occur, and you can participate in developing programming for the groups you join.

In December, the Executive Board will receive a preliminary report from the GLA EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Task Force, chaired by Chaundria Campos and Robert Taylor. I am grateful to this group for volunteering to help GLA identify ways to address longstanding inequities in our association and profession.

Congratulations to our newly elected executive officers:

- Karen Manning, Vice-President/President-Elect
- Marquita Gooch, VP for Marketing & Branding
- Jean Mead, Secretary

Continuing Officers:

- Wendy Cornelisen, 2021 President
- Janice Shipp, VP for Membership
- Ben Bryson, Treasurer

The election approved numerous Constitution and Bylaws amendments that better reflect the association's operation and improve function. New roles include a conference chair and an administrative services liaison position.

This year has been unprecedented in many ways. I am honored to have led this wonderful organization this year and have such amazing people to turn to for support and assistance. The Executive Board, active committees, interest groups, and divisions, GLA membership, affiliated organizations, and friends and family have combined to make this challenging year fulfilling and successful.

I look forward to working with Wendy Cornelisen next year as she brings her energy, vision, and drive to GLA!

Laura Burtle
President, Georgia Library Association 2020
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