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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

While 2020 has been described in many ways, it was also a year that showcased the leadership skills the Georgia Library Association (GLA) has at its disposal. My predecessor, Laura Burtle, helped GLA navigate the twists and turns that were thrown at us, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn from her example and serve as the president of the Georgia Library Association for 2021.

Several of the challenges of 2020 will be with us for a while longer. This year will be one of transition and change on many fronts.

As the pandemic persists, GLA will continue to advocate that everyone who works in a library be included in Phase 1B of Georgia's COVID vaccination schedule. All of Georgia's libraries play an essential part in fighting COVID-19 by supporting critical front-line services that can help the whole community slow the spread of the virus, such as facilitating vaccine appointment registration and finding accurate vaccine information. Library services will be safer for library workers, and the public, when library workers who have direct contact with their community are vaccinated.

GLA's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce started their work in 2020. Their initial charge is to make specific recommendations for GLA and its units to address issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the organization, in libraries in the state, and in the profession. Be on the lookout for the survey of GLA membership in the coming weeks. Many thanks to co-chairs Robert Taylor and Chaun Campos for their forward progress in this work.

The list of unknowns for 2021 includes the format of the Georgia Libraries Conference. The conference planning committee, led by Kara Rumble, is investigating all of our options for a safe conference experience this fall. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

As we get ready for another year that will certainly be different than any other, it's good to have connections in place. I've already had conversations with leaders of the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA), the Georgia Association of Instructional Technology (GAIT), and the Society for Georgia Archivists (SGA). Connecting and collaborating with our peers makes us stronger.

Speaking of collaboration, GLA's School Library Division Revitalization Taskforce has an impressive multi-year plan to further strengthen ties with GLMA and create more opportunities for GLA members who are school library media specialists, or who want to support their important work. I'm grateful to Casey Long for her leadership and creative thinking.

The virtual annual GLA Midwinter Planning Meeting was another shining example of GLA's talented (and all volunteer) leadership coming together. Every committee, division, and interest group was able to make the switch to a virtual meeting, with each group making plans and brainstorming options for the coming year. As I stopped by each division meeting, I was struck by the focus on support for GLA members during this time.

I look forward to working together over the coming year. Please reach out to me or any

board member if you have any ideas or suggestions for strengthening GLA.

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