

4-1-2021

From the President

Wendy Cornelisen

Georgia Public Library Service, wcornelisen@georgialibraries.org

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cornelisen, W. (2021). From the President. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 58(2). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol58/iss2/5>

This Column is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.



From the PRESIDENT

Keeping people engaged and connected can be especially challenging when we can't be together in the same room. Georgia Library Association (GLA) leaders are working hard to make it easy for members to connect and share ideas.

I'm continually impressed by the efforts and length that the chairs of GLA's interest groups, committees, divisions, and round tables go to in order to build connections. Recently, two of GLA's interest groups (PACE and RAIG) hosted online meetings that showcased the resilience and creativity of librarians switching library programs and events to virtual environments. The New Members Round Table hosted an informal Brunch 'n Chat to give new members a chance to network with each other.

The Membership Committee also made it easy to celebrate National Library Week with our second annual Membership Campaign! During the week of April 4–10, 2021, the top three recruiters earned a chance to win gift cards or have their own annual membership dues covered. If you have any new colleagues, or colleagues who have not yet joined GLA, be sure to recruit them to join!

Get your presentation proposals ready! The Georgia Libraries Conference Committee, led by Kara Rumble, is making great strides in the planning for the 2021 conference, perhaps our best example of connection each year. This will be a virtual event again this year and is scheduled for October 6–8, 2021, on the familiar Wednesday–Friday timeframe. The theme for this conference is something we all have many months of practice doing: *Evolving & Enduring*. I'm thrilled that Tracie Hall, executive

director of the American Library Association, will join us as the keynote speaker.

The Georgia General Assembly meets in the first few months of every year, which means advocacy is on the calendar. In collaboration with the Georgia Council of Public Libraries and the Georgia Public Library Service, GLA once again celebrated libraries at the state capitol building this year. A small team of us, including State Librarian Julie Walker, Advocacy Chair Angela Glowcheski and Past President Laura Burtle, helped spread the word about the good work happening in Georgia's libraries. Thanks to Gale for their continued annual support of this event.

The Advocacy Committee has already had a very busy 2021. I'm so grateful for the leadership of [Angela Glowcheski](#), who keeps us all updated on the happenings at the Gold Dome. Between budget requests and censorship battles, this legislative session has been very engaging. Thanks to everyone who has been in touch with your elected officials already this year. Between state and federal funding efforts, there will be more opportunities! Be on the lookout for information on the Build America's Libraries Act and the annual Dear Appropriator letters for federal LSTA funding.

One of the most important ways GLA stays connected to our members is through the GLA website. Our long-time webmaster, Sofia Slutskey, has decided to give another GLA member a chance to fill this important role. Sofia is leaving giant shoes to fill and leaves with the gratitude of many GLA presidents, including me. Jon Bodnar from Georgia State

University has agreed to be the new GLA webmaster.

I also want to connect with you and am hosting an informal, virtual get-together. The second Cardigan Chat will be Friday, June 4, 2021 at

10:30 a.m. I hope we can all be together again in person someday soon!

Wendy Cornelisen
President, Georgia Library Association 2021
president@georgialibraryassociation.org