

7-1-2021

## Georgia Library Association - GLA Executive Board Officer Candidates for 2022

Jennifer Lautzenheiser  
*Henry County Library System, lautzenheiserj@biblib.org*

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### Recommended Citation

Lautzenheiser, J. (2021). Georgia Library Association - GLA Executive Board Officer Candidates for 2022. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 58(3). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol58/iss3/8>

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*People, Libraries  
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

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## **Georgia Library Association GLA Executive Board Officer Candidates for 2022**

### ***First Vice-President / President Elect***

#### **Michelle Bennett-Copeland, Fayette County Public Library**

Michelle Bennett-Copeland has 20-plus years of public service experience. Her work ranges from: public school sector, public library, academic library, the arts, health and wellness, and adult education. She is a native Atlantan who loves public service. She currently serves as library director of Fayette County Public Library, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Michelle served as a librarian for Fulton County Library System, Clayton County Public Library System, Atlanta Public Schools (media specialist), and Atlanta Technical College. She also served as an adult literacy teacher for Atlanta Public Schools, where she prepared students for the GED Exam. Michelle is a member of the Let's Move in Libraries Advisory Board and the John Maxwell Leadership Institute.

Michelle's work history displays a passion for service and education. She strongly believes in servant leadership and desires to meet citizen's needs through education as well as health and wellness.



#### **Jean A. Mead, Hart County Library**

Jean started her library career at Hart County Library as a part-time shelver in 2010 and realized what she wanted to be when she grew up. Jean received her MLIS from University of Alabama in 2014 and became the assistant director. After working at Hart County for almost nine years, she worked for two and a half years at Athens Regional Library System as the assistant director of regional services and outreach. Because of her love of small and rural libraries, she has returned to Hart County Library this year as assistant director. Jean has been extraordinarily fortunate to attend both the GPLS Pinnacle Leadership group in 2016 and Public Library Association (PLA) Leadership Academy in 2019. She was vice chair and chair of the Georgia Library Association's (GLA) Professional & Continuing Education (PACE) interest group and is currently the secretary for the GLA Executive Board.



## ***Vice President of Membership***

### **Rebecca Ballard, Oconee County Library**

Rebecca Ballard seeks the position of vice-president for membership of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) because she believes that membership is extremely beneficial for library employees and enriches libraries statewide. Many eligible individuals are unaware of the great value of GLA membership, and Rebecca hopes to change that. Rebecca is the children's librarian at Oconee County Library in Watkinsville, Georgia and has worked within the Athens Regional Library System in varied paraprofessional and professional positions for 15 years. While pursuing her MLIS, Rebecca was awarded the GLA Hubbard Scholarship in 2015 and was a recipient of the 2018 GLA Paraprofessional Grant.



Rebecca joined GLA in 2014 and is an active member. She has previously served in leadership positions in GLA's Professional and Continuing Education Interest Group (chair, 2020–2021; vice-chair, 2019–2020). She has served on the GLA Scholarship Committee, Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC) Committee, Membership Committee, and is active in several GLA Interest Groups. Rebecca has also served as a GLC "Conference Buddy" Mentor with New Members Round Table.

An experienced speaker and presenter, Rebecca has presented at conferences and taught workshops for librarians and teachers at the local, state, and national levels. She presented "Five Minute Self-Care Techniques for Librarians" at the 2020 Public Library Association Conference and was invited to present at both the 2017 Inaugural Governor's Summit on Early Language and Literacy and 2018 Georgia Public Library Services GLC Youth Services Pre-Conference on youth services topics. Rebecca has also presented several times at GLC and the Georgia Council of Media Organizations Conference on uniting generations in the library, music programming, and youth services. She regularly presents at the Georgia Conference on Children's Literature and at various Share-a-Rama events. Rebecca has taught workshops around the state for educators on incorporating music and the arts with literacy education.

Due to her own excellent experiences with the organization, Rebecca is excited to share all of the many benefits a membership in the Georgia Library Association provides with others. As vice-president for membership, she plans to increase membership and member engagement by reaching out to academic, public, and school library employees across the state. Rebecca loves helping her GLA cohorts in any way she can, and she is eager to get library employees around the state excited about GLA!

### **Kimberly Snoddy-George, Fulton County Library System**

Kimberly Snoddy-George is a Fulton County Library System Branch group administrator. She provides administrative oversight for eight of the 34 branches, system-wide programming, courier services, and HR Liaison and has served in that role for four years. Prior to that time, she held positions as the Milton Library branch manager, interim central library manager and as a law librarian for a few major Atlanta law firms.

Kimberly is a 2019 University of Georgia, Pinnacle Institute graduate. She enjoys working with staff in the areas of leadership, coaching, feedback, growth, and development. For the past three years, Kimberly has served as a committee member for the American Library Association (ALA) Library Leadership & Management Association's Mentoring Program. At the beginning of 2019, Kimberly implemented a manager/supervisor book club. Managers and supervisors read and discussed *Dare to Lead. Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts.*, by Brené Brown, PhD, LMSW. Kimberly also implemented an ALA Leadership Competency presentation and discussion during monthly manager meetings. In 2020, Kimberly participated in a six-session panel discussion with Fulton County's Office of Diversity and Civil Rights Compliance program: *I, Too, Am America – Diversity Dialogues*. Kimberly continues to seek growth opportunities in the area of equity, diversity, and inclusion.



She holds a bachelor of arts degree in communication from University of California, San Diego; a paralegal certificate from the National Center for Paralegal Training, in Atlanta, Georgia, and a masters of library and information studies from Clark-Atlanta University.

### **Secretary**

#### **Kelly Ansley, LaGrange College**

Kelly Ansley has worked in Georgia libraries for 14 years. Kelly began her career in public libraries before moving to academic libraries. She currently serves as director of the library for the Frank & Laura Lewis Library at LaGrange College and is the vice-chair for the Georgia Private Academic Libraries (GPALS) consortium. Over the years, Kelly has served as the chair for the GLA Awards Committee, chair for the GLA Marketing Committee, member of the GLA Conference Committee, member of the GLA Scholarship Committee, and a member of the Technical Services Interest Group (TSIG).



Kelly believes that academic libraries are more than just a place to do research. The library should be a place for students to hang out, have fun, and feel comfortable enough to ask for help. Kelly enjoys programming, helping students with research, instruction, and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the library. Kelly is an organized multi-tasker who looks forward to being a part of the GLA Executive Board as the secretary.

**Kelly Williams, Suwanee Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library**

Kelly Williams (pronouns: she/her) is a supervisory librarian at the Suwanee Branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library. She has worked in libraries for close to seven years. Kelly received her MLIS at Valdosta State University in 2020, and a bachelor's in business management from Georgia Gwinnett College in 2019. She is particularly passionate about bridging the digital divide, technology, makerspaces, and helping herself and others reach their advancement goals. She has developed programs that develop children's aptitude for STEAM skills, as well as various programs that make it easier for adults and teens to be technologically savvy. Kelly has served on the New Members Round Table as the secretary for the past two years, and she serves as a copy editor on the *Georgia Library Quarterly* editorial board. As a member of the Membership Committee, she is working to make the membership kit more user-friendly and to further extend its engagement potential. She lives in Gwinnett County with her husband, three children, and two dogs. In her spare time, she devours YA and romance novels, chases her children around, and crochets.



**Treasurer**

**Rosemary Humphrey, Kennesaw State University**

A GLA member since 2014, Rosemary Bilello Humphrey has embraced the learning and service opportunities the association provides to its members and the library community. She has been able to develop her leadership skills serving in various positions within GLA. She served as chair of the Interlibrary Loan Interest Group where she organized overview workshops. As a planning committee member of the Atlanta Emerging Librarians, she worked with the team to create learning and networking events for library students and new librarians. For three years, she served on the Georgia Libraries Conference Planning Committee as equipment chair, organizing and providing technology support for presenters. She achieved her MLIS from Valdosta State University and a BA in visual and media arts from Emerson College. Rosemary is currently the resource sharing librarian at Kennesaw State University. In this role, she has honed her organizational and detail-oriented record keeping skills. Rosemary feels honored to be nominated for the GLA treasurer position and would execute the role with accountability and transparency.



**Justin Nobles, West Georgia Regional Library System**

Justin Nobles is the assistant director of technology for the West Georgia Regional Library System, a five-county library system headquartered in Carrollton, Georgia. In his previous position of assistant director of materials management, he was actively involved in the budget and financial reporting process of the library system. He believes that the skills used in this position can be directly applied to the role of treasurer for the Georgia Library Association. Some of the duties of treasurer include creating financial reports, keeping accurate financial records, and preparing an annual report. These are all responsibilities that Justin has gained experience because of his work with the library.



His involvement in the Georgia Library Association has allowed him to expand his professional interests beyond his daily work in the library. It has also given him the opportunity to network with librarians and library workers throughout the state, helping to learn more about the field of librarianship and advancing his professional interests. He wants to serve in a larger capacity within the organization that has given him these opportunities, and he believes that the role of treasurer aligns with his skillset. Justin has served as the chair of the Professional & Continuing Education (PACE) Interest Group and served on the Conference Advisory Taskforce. His professional affiliations include the American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), ALA Learning Roundtable (LearnRT), and Georgia Library Association (GLA). Please consider Justin Nobles as the right fit for the role of treasurer of GLA.