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From the President

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From the **PRESIDENT**

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend the 2021 Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC)! It was truly a wonderful event, expertly produced by the GLC Conference Committee. My appreciation to that entire team, led by Kara Rumble, for making it a success! As we look forward to seeing you in Macon on October 12–14, 2022, the goal is to keep the best parts of the virtual experience as we transition back to in-person conferences next year.

At the conference, I was able to present the Presidential Commendation to two of our association's shining stars: Benjamin Bryson and Angela Glowcheski. Given annually at the discretion of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) president, the commendation is a way to recognize excellent service to the association over the previous year. In both cases, these individuals have demonstrated great commitment to GLA over several years.

Benjamin Bryson has served as treasurer of the Georgia Library Association since 2019. When he was first elected to the role in 2018, none of us knew what the world would look like three years later. He has deftly navigated these changes, making sure the budgets stayed up to date even when the conference was switched from in-person to virtual last year. He has been such a great support to each of the presidents he has served; Ben's calm demeanor and clear understanding of the financial picture of GLA gave us all a great deal of confidence in the future of our association.

Angela Glowcheski has served as chair of the Advocacy Committee for the last two years and is also serving the first of three years as American Library Association (ALA) chapter

councilor. Her advocacy work has built bridges with our sister association, the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA) and led to several inroads with other state and national organizations. In a world where our combined voices make a stronger case, Angela has forged a path for strategic collaboration. She'll continue to make us proud as she represents GLA on the ALA Council.

Congratulations to our newly elected 2022 officers! Michele Bennet-Copeland will be the vice-president/president elect, with Rebecca Ballard stepping up for a two-year term as vice president of membership, Justin Nobles will begin his three-year term as treasurer, and Kelly Williams will be the next secretary for GLA.

Starting January 1, 2022, they join our incoming President Karen Manning and vice president of marketing and branding Marquita Gooch-Voyd on the GLA Executive Board.

Rotating off the Executive Board are Janice Shipp, the current vice president of membership, and secretary, Jean Mead. Janice has overseen one of the largest increases in GLA membership, thanks in no small part to her tireless efforts. I can only hope that she'll stay involved with GLA in the coming years. Jean Mead has been a great help as secretary this year, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

ALA Councilor Tamika Barnes is also completing her second term in that role for GLA, with the thanks of several GLA presidents. Angela Glowcheski will be taking over these duties next year, after shadowing Tamika this year.

We're also saying goodbye to the long-time editor of this publication: Virginia (Ginny) Feher. Ginny has decided to retire from both her fulfilling library career and her *Georgia Library Quarterly (GLQ)* role. She has molded and shaped the *Georgia Library Quarterly* for the better part of a decade, having served in every capacity, starting as associate editor and peer-review coordinator and quickly moving into the editor role. In an age of dwindling association publications, her tireless work has kept *GLQ*

relevant and timely. We wish Ginny all the best in her next chapter!

GLA is strengthened by the efforts, time, and attention of its volunteers. This association works because they do!

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