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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT



Karen Manning

I am honored to serve as the 2022 president of the Georgia Library Association (GLA). It is with alacrity that I begin this presidency. Leadership involves facilitating individual and collective efforts to accomplish shared objectives. In this essence, I follow the

lead of my immediate predecessor, Wendy Cornelisen, and past presidents. Their guidance has been exceptional, and I am grateful for their continuing support.

As we enter 2022, it is important to reflect on GLA's successes in 2021 and look ahead to another successful year. The challenges presented by the pandemic continue to impact us all. However, we will continue navigating the future with optimism and adaptation.

Our immediate Past-President Wendy Cornelisen initiated a five-year strategic plan for GLA. Strategic planning gives us the opportunity to assess our current state, envision the future, and broaden our horizons. A major task for 2022 will be focusing on key initiatives and action items provided in the strategic plan, based on survey responses from GLA members.

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Task Force, led by cochairs Robert Taylor and Chaun Campos, completed a report that informs GLA on essential components that will be progressive in cultivating a more inclusive community. I commend the efforts and diligent work of the task force members to bring forth this important report. The new strategic plan also includes an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

I am proud to be a part of an association where members lead and direct activities to help achieve group or association goals. The willingness of our members to consistently support and offer their time to GLA speaks volumes about the greatness within. I want to thank all who accepted or transitioned into leadership roles for committees, divisions, interest groups, and other singular roles. Your "call to action" is commended and appreciated. I am especially grateful to Angela Cortellino and Kara Rumble who stayed the course for another year of advocacy and conference leadership! Linh Uong accepted the very important role as our new administrative liaison. I am deeply grateful that her predecessor Ashley Dupuy will remain as a "consultant" throughout the transition. I am confident that our members will support the chairs and contribute to the endeavors that will be put forth this year. We can build on our myriad of interests and demonstrated strengths. I look forward to progressively working with all.

The Columbus Area Library Association (CALA) is on track to become an external affiliate of GLA. An ad hoc group was formed to finalize the process of incorporating new groups and affiliates into GLA. We are excited about welcoming CALA and expanding our membership.

Midwinter planning is the opportune time to get involved with GLA. The first meeting day was filled with enthusiastic energy. The various ideas and creativity for activities and events flowed faster than I could keep up with! I was thrilled to meet and greet members, especially our first-time attendees! GLA has a strong history of involvement and commitment to the community through active engagement. Let's continue building on this great foundation!

Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC) will be hosted in person this year and held in Macon, GA. The Macon Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to our return and has reached out to offer cultural and entertainment opportunities for GLA. Despite some concerns, there is enthusiasm about being back together in this manner. We will stay optimistic and hope for the best!

Libraries continue to face intellectual freedom challenges. As GLA leans into the issues when presented, we will continue to support efforts to provide access to information.

Being a part of the Georgia Library Association is a great opportunity to connect with others

and make a substantial impact on our growth and continued development. Be inspired, motivated, and collaborative to create transformational experiences both personally and professionally. It truly takes a village and we all can be the catalyst that enriches the Georgia Library Association. My heart is filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve with you. I will expand my reach and hope you will do the same. It is YOU that makes GLA great!

Please reach out to me or any board member with additional ideas, suggestions, or comments.

Karen Manning is the president of the Georgia Library Association and can be reached at km17@mail.gatech.edu