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## From the President

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Rebecca Ballard

Hello, everyone! I am extremely honored to serve as president for the Georgia Library Association (GLA) for 2023, and I am looking forward to working with you this year. My hope is that this year can be a year of advocacy for libraries and that we can all work together to help each other. I hope that GLA can be a voice for those who need one.

I would like to thank Karen Manning for her leadership over this past year, and I am thrilled to have an amazing team on the board to work with this year. I am grateful for Karen and our other past presidents' guidance and support. Under Karen's leadership, we have made great strides to improve the accessibility of both our website and webinar videos, and we are close to completing adding captions to all of our archived webinars.

It was wonderful to see so many people in person last October at the Georgia Libraries Conference in Macon. I loved learning from and getting inspired by you. I want to especially thank Kara Rumble for all of her hard work as conference chair and for enabling attendees to participate both in person and virtually! Be sure to mark your calendars because the next conference will be October 4–6 in Athens, Georgia. Our 2023 conference chair is Ben Bryson, and I am already excited about the creative ideas and plans the conference committee is working on!

An exciting development: the merger of the Trustee, Friends, and Advocates Division with the Advocacy Committee has been completed to create our new Advocacy Division. Please check it out; the Advocacy Division is a great way to get information on current library issues and will help give all Georgia library employees a voice. The more GLA members involved in advocacy, the stronger we will be.

The 2023 midwinter meeting was held virtually again this year, and it was wonderful seeing GLA's leadership come together to plan, brainstorm, and chat about ideas for this coming year. If you were unable to attend, I recommend you investigate the many divisions, committees, and interest groups we have in GLA—there truly is something for everyone, and there are a multitude of ways to get involved and make connections.

I know that together we can help support each other, learn from each other, and navigate these times of unprecedented challenges in libraries. If there is anything I can do to help you, or if you have any ideas or suggestions for GLA, please feel free to contact me anytime at [president@georgialibraryassociation.org](mailto:president@georgialibraryassociation.org). I want to be available to support you.

*Rebecca Ballard is the 2023 president of the Georgia Library Association*