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From the President

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From the President #4-

It has been a real honor for me to serve as GLA President for 2015! I have had the privilege to work with so many amazing, talented and dedicated librarians this year.

2015 was truly a year of transition. We started off the year with three goals in mind:

- 1) To increase GLA membership.
- 2) To revise the current mission statement and strategic plan.
- 3) To incorporate new ideas and suggestions for COMO.

At MidWinter in January, we encouraged all attendees to give us suggestions for COMO and to network and share ideas during lunch and at committee/interest group meetings

As the year progressed, the conference planning committee started to incorporate member feedback into their plans. The GLA Executive Board discussed many different ways to encourage more participation in GLA. The Membership Committee and New Members Roundtable set out on a statewide mission to host a series of "meet-ups" and engage in networking and professional development opportunities.

Everyone worked hard to build bridges between academic, public, school, special libraries, paraprofessionals and anyone who was interested in improving Georgia libraries.

On a national level, the GLA Executive Board approved and sent a letter to President Obama in support of having a professional librarian named as Librarian of Congress.

Our annual State Conference in October, "Adventures in Libraries - The Quest for Success" was a joint partnership between Georgia Association for Informational Technology (w/ President Michelle Lenderman)and the Georgia Library Association. TEAM COMO did a spectacular job organizing the conference, there were over 540 registrations, 126 sessions and 53 vendors.

Joining us at the annual conference were former ALA President - Courtney Young, library leadership guru - George Needham, and creators of the UNSHELVED comic strip - Gene Ambaum and Bill Barnes.

For the first time we had official Gold, Silver and Bronze conference sponsors. A special thanks goes out to Georgia Center for the Book (Gold Sponsor), Turner Network Television (TNT) and Quality Books (Silver Sponsors), EBSCO, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Elarbee, Thompson(law firm) and Recorded Books (Bronze Sponsors) for their support.

Fundraisers for the Scholarship Committee raised a total of \$5,335 during the year. This included \$1,130 from the first Pat Carterette T-shirt Booster Campaign. As a result of their efforts we are able to fully fund the Hubbard and Beard Scholarships for 2016!

GLA Membership also increased during the year, at last count there were 771 members.

As the year ends we begin work on a revised strategic plan with a planning meeting scheduled for November 2015. Cathy Jeffery (2016 President) and Elizabeth McKinney (GLA President-Elect) will begin working on GLA events for 2016 and plans to host ALA MidWinter which will be held in Atlanta in January 2017.

The future of GLA looks bright as a result of all your work and support.

Many thanks to all of you for a wonderful year!