

# PARAPRO DIVISION NEWS



VOLUME 1

JANUARY 2019

NUMBER 1

## FROM THE CHAIR:



Greetings & Happy New Year to Everyone!

My name is Janice Shipp. I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as the 2019 Chair of the GLA Paraprofessional Division. I would like to welcome our new Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Rosa Robledo, and Awards Chair, Kaitlin Dodd who will be serving as well.

I would also like to thank our outgoing Chair, Amanda Roper for all the contributions she made and accomplished in 2018.

As we begin the New Year we have the opportunity to make plans for the future of the Paraprofessional Division!

I hope to see you at the GLA Midwinter Meeting Friday, January 11th at Middle Georgia State University, Robert F. Hatcher, Sr. Conference Center, 100 University Parkway, in Macon, Georgia. We will be discussing our goals and plans for the year.

As the incoming Chair of the Paraprofessional Division I would like to say I look forward to working with all of you!

Together, we can make the Paraprofessional Division grow and thrive this year and beyond!



## 2019 DIVISION LEADERSHIP

Chair: Janice Shipp,  
Savannah State University

Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect:  
Rosie Robledo, Dekalb  
County Public Library

Awards Chair: Kaitlin Dotson,  
University of Georgia

Secretary: VACANT  
Interested in serving as  
secretary? Contact Janice  
Shipp @  
[janicemshipp@gmail.com](mailto:janicemshipp@gmail.com)

## BECOME A MEMBER

Membership to the Georgia Library Association is \$12 a year for paraprofessionals. Your membership in GLA will also give you discounted rates to the annual Georgia Libraries Conference.

To learn more about becoming a member, please visit: <https://gla.georgialibraries.org/membership/member-ship-form/>



## WANT TO HOST A PARAPRO MEET-UP?

This year the division is interested in facilitating informal and fun meet-ups for Georgia paraprofessionals. Location choices will be based on the most geographically accessible area for interested paraprofessionals. If you are interested in hosting a meet-up, please contact Janice Shipp at [janicemshipp@gmail.com](mailto:janicemshipp@gmail.com).



## 2018 PARAPROFESSIONAL GRANT WINNERS

The following GA paraprofessionals won grants to attend the 2018 Georgia Libraries Conference in Columbus, GA, and received a free one-year membership to GLA.

Rebecca Ballard, Athens Regional Library System

Kaitlin Dotson, University of Georgia

Lavonna Moore, Okefenokee Regional Library System

Belinda Outwater, Auburn Library

Shannon Terral, Augusta University

## 2018 SURVEY RESULTS

The 2018 Paraprofessional Division Survey asked members and non-members of GLA who are working as library support staff for feedback. The goal was to truly listen to Georgia paraprofessionals to ensure that this division is actively working to support and engage library support staff.

There were 125 respondents to the survey. 60% were from non-GLA members. Approximately 58% of respondents were from public libraries and approximately 40% from academic libraries. School and special libraries made up the final 2% of survey respondents.

- Nearly half of the respondents were unaware that GLA had a paraprofessional division.
- GA paraprofessionals really desire a division that facilitates sharing ideas and networking.
- 85% would love to see a paraprofessional email newsletter.

In response to the results, the GLA paraprofessional division leadership team is working on an email newsletter (hey, you're reading it right now!) to increase communication. In addition, the team will be looking to facilitate meet-ups for paraprofessionals across the state.

Thanks to all who participated in the survey!