

Georgia Library Association (GLA)
Special Libraries and Information Services Division (SLIS)
Annual Business Meeting
Virtual, via Cisco Webex
4:00pm
October 13, 2020

MINUTES

Text in brackets - recorder's notes, for added clarity and context.

Attendees: Andrea Atkins ; Sheila Devaney ; Ernie Evangelista (Chair) ; Bette Finn ; Edna Foxhall ; Patricia Kenly (Secretary/Treasurer) ; Cynthia Kutka (Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect) ; Stephen Sherman ; one attendee by telephone

The meeting began with the Chair, Ernie Evangelista, welcoming next year's newly-elected officers [election was held online, separate ballot from main GLA ballot] :

Stephen Sherman (Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect), from the Southeastern Council of Foundations
Sheila Devaney (Secretary/Treasurer), from the University of Georgia

The Chair then introduced next year's Chair, Cynthia Kutka, from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Typically, the business meeting of the Division is held during GLC, the Georgia Libraries Conference. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, GLC was virtual (online), and the schedule was a keynote speaker, selected programs, and a virtual author event. The event app for GLC, from Whova, has been used by more than 1300 attendees. Divisions and interest groups were to hold virtual (online) business meetings in October. Also of note: GLC was to have been a joint conference with SELA (Southeastern Library Association). GLA's "Midwinter", with Division and Interest Group meetings, will be virtual in January.

Announcements: The Chair said that *Georgia Library Quarterly* (GLQ) will feature libraries monthly on its website – as well as in the regular "spotlight" feature in GLQ. If you are interested in your library being highlighted, please contact Sofia Slutskaia at Emory University (sofia.slutskaia@emory.edu)

Program – The Chair had made preliminary plans to organize a focused program at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, GA, for late spring 2020. Due to COVID-19, it was cancelled. And, the Division leadership explored a possible Carterette Series webinar. Due to several factors, that was not possible.

Yet, SLIS will have programming this year. The Chair turned the meeting over to Cynthia Kutka, Vice-Chair, to highlight the upcoming program (virtual - via BlueJeans Events ; free) on Friday, November 6th, from noon to 1:00pm – featuring Kendra Albright. Topic: The Current State of Library School Education. Dr. Albright's extensive experience has included working at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and being a tenured faculty member at the University of South Carolina. She is currently the Goodyear Professor of Knowledge Management in the School of Information at Kent State University.

Ernie noted that another focus of Dr. Albright is how to communicate our value to stakeholders. Cynthia also noted that Dr. Albright was a panelist for the second general session, the Fireside Chat, during the SLA (Special Libraries Association) annual conference in Cleveland in 2019. That topic was the Information Professional of the Future.

Registration information (online form) will be sent to Division members and to the GLA email list. We'll also invite other association members (Society of Georgia Archivists; ALLA (Atlanta Law Library Association), and to librarians in SELA states [as GLC was to have been a joint conference with SELA].

Topics of Interest: Staffing during this pandemic: Cynthia noted that at the Georgia Tech Library, librarians and Public Services are onsite different days. Sheila said it was similar at the University of Georgia's main library; and, many instruction sessions are online. Circulation is 75% of last year's usage. At UGA, about 300 are taking part in the voluntary retirement early incentive program.

Each attendee then briefly noted their job title and library or institution name:

Andrea Atkins – ILS Administrator, Chattahoochee Valley Library System, Columbus
Sheila Devaney - Research & Instruction Librarian for the Grady College of Journalism
and Terry College of Business, University of Georgia
Ernie Evangelista - Senior Knowledge Management Specialist, Federal Reserve Bank
of Atlanta
Bette Finn – Electrical & Computer Engineering & GTRI Librarian, Georgia Tech Library
Edna Foxhall - Cataloging & Metadata Librarian, Alabama State Library, Montgomery
Patricia Kenly – Business Reference Librarian & Government Documents Coordinator,
Georgia Tech Library
Cynthia Kutka – Business & Entrepreneurship Librarian, Georgia Tech Library
Stephen Sherman – Director of Research & Data, Southeastern Council of Foundations

News about other associations and conferences:

Special Libraries Association (SLA) - Stephen noted that the SLA conference is going on now – virtual, and Ernie noted that Stephen is moderating two sessions. SLA's Divisions have been reorganized as "Communities" [<https://www.sla.org/get-involved/divisions/>]

SOUCABL [pronounced "sociable" – Southern Academic Business Librarians - <http://soucablconference.mozello.com/>] – 2020 was in Athens, GA in mid-March; the 2021 conference will be held in, and virtual, per Sheila. [*after this meeting, date confirmed: April 23rd*]

Entrepreneurship & Libraries Conference (ELC) -- mid-November. Sheila is going to attend.

Several attendees shared details about their jobs and career history. Stephen noted he started out at Georgia Perimeter College, part-time, when he moved to Georgia, and has been a GLA member since 2008. The Southeastern Council of Foundations has 10 employees, and is located in the Equitable Building in downtown Atlanta. This year, he implemented OverDrive [ebook database], and started a virtual book club. He's working virtual. Ernie noted that the original Federal Reserve building was on Marietta St. And, its Research Division used to be at the Equitable Building, on the 30th floor. Cynthia is a new member of GLA; active for many years

in SLA. About a fourth of her time is with GTRI [Georgia Tech Research Institute], and its grant on quantum computing.

A few attendees reminisced about downtown Athens, the location of the first two SOUCABL conferences. Sheila updated us that one block of College Avenue is now pedestrian-only, for a six-month trial. Picnic tables have been set up on the street for outdoor dining.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Kenly, Secretary/Treasurer