

GLA Professional and Continuing Education Interest Group (PACE)

GLA Midwinter 2021 Virtual Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2021 at 2:30-3:05 p.m. hosted on Zoom

Attending: Rebecca Ballard (Athens Regional Library System), Ben Bryson (Marshes of Glynn County), Danielle Costello (Valdosta State University), Mack Freeman (Gwinnett County Public Library), Angela Glowcheski (Sequoyah Regional Library System), Ashley Hoffman (Kennesaw State University), Adrienne Junius (Hall County Library System), Jean Mead (Athens Regional Library System), Angela Megaw (University of North Georgia), Katie Nelson (Cobb County Public Library), Rosie Robledo (DeKalb County Public Library), Kara Rumble (Sequoyah Regional Library System), Heather Salters (DeKalb County Public Library), Andrea Stanfield (University of West Georgia), Angela Thornton, Emily Thornton (GLA Interest Group Council Chair, Brenau University), Gail

PACE's officers for 2021 are:

- Rebecca Ballard, Chair
- Kara Rumble, Vice-Chair
- Heather Salters, Secretary

PACE's purpose is to promote and advance lifelong learning, professional development, and continuing education opportunities available to library staff across the state.

Rebecca encouraged those in attendance to join the group by selecting it in your GLA account if you haven't already. If you need to join the group, sign in to your GLA account, click on your profile (if not directed there after signing in), then edit your profile, check PACE in the Interest Groups section, and finally click Save at the bottom of the page. This will allow you to receive messages sent to the group.

Rebecca queried the group as to preferences for other forms of communication and for promotion of the group. There is the option of posting to the group's message board on GLA's website. Social media, like Facebook or Instagram, is also an option, but may not be endorsed by GLA; using these sites can also be problematic, because it requires transferring administrative privileges and/or sharing the account and password with new chairs each year.

Each year PACE supports and sponsors:

- Adult Programming Palooza
 - Angela shared that the next palooza is scheduled virtually for March 16. Shamichael Hallman, a librarian with Memphis Public Library, is keynoting the event, which will also include lightning talks for successful library programs.
- Georgia Library Conference Session
 - In 2018, PACE paid for a professional speaker to present on library security and active shooter situations. And, in 2019, hosted a lightning talk on leadership.

Members in attendance shared some positive learning experiences they had in 2020. These included:

- GPLS' virtual programming and marketing panels
- NNLM's series of webinars for health and consumer sciences
- Niche's tutorials, especially "De-escalating Difficult COVID-19 Customer Behaviors" and "#OwnVoices for All Readers"

The group brainstormed ideas for a session at the 2021 conference, which is currently being planned as an in-person conference (but may shift to virtual or a hybrid depending on health and safety guidelines in place). Suggestions for possible presentations include:

- Another lightning talk on a defined topic to be determined.
 - Many in the group feel this is a good way to quickly share ideas and information.
- Libraries in the post-pandemic world, specifically:
 - Learnings from library closures and curbside services - what services should we keep
 - Bolstering staff morale and staving off burnout and compassion fatigue
 - Bringing patrons back into the library
 - Marketing the library and its services
 - Serving older and/or stubborn patrons
 - Programming, including:
 - Maintaining and sustaining interest in virtual programs
 - Hosting in-person programming, like park or parking lot story times
 - Offering self-directed or take home activities, like craft kits
 - Creating escape rooms or mystery kits, like Hunt a Serial Killer, digitally or as a take home activity - paper and pen
 - Presenting socially distant local history programs, like a local landmark scavenger hunt

Other goals suggested for 2021 include:

- Building a relationship with Dorcas Davis, GPLS' Director of Continuing Education
- Sharing online and other professional development opportunities with members
- Partnering with other GLA Divisions or Interest Groups to maximize funding; for example, collaborating with the Public Library Division to sponsor the Outreach Bonanza