

Report to the GLA Executive Board on GLA School Library & Media Division

GLA School Library & Media Division Revitalization Taskforce

Background

The School Library & Media Division has historically found it difficult to recruit new leadership or engage members in the development of programming for the division. The division either operates without leadership for significant periods of time or is led by an individual who takes on the role until they burnout or move on to other projects.

There are several reasons why it is in GLA's interest to maintain the School Library & Media Division:

1. GLA aspires to be an umbrella organization that serves the needs of all existing and emerging library and information professionals in Georgia.
2. Serving the needs of different types of library and information professionals increases the opportunity for cross pollination, information sharing, career development, and networking across different tracks of librarianship. There is no other organization in Georgia equipt to enable networking between such a diverse collection of information professionals.
3. The School Library & Media Division has 85 members, 47 of which are school librarians or media specialists who would have limited reason to join GLA without the presence of this Division. That would result in a loss of \$1645 in membership dues.
4. School library and media professionals in Georgia are required to join a library association. They want opportunities for professional development and networking, but they have limited time for leadership roles. If GLA is able to refocus the benefits of membership in this division away from leadership opportunities to the offering of programming and networking opportunities produced specifically for the needs of school library and media professionals, GLA could see an increase in membership.

Recommendations

1. Establish a new division leadership structure

- Focus on servicing school librarians, media specialists, and paraprofessionals in school libraries and media centers, rather than relying on leadership and program development from members within the division.
- Allow for the election of non-division members as division officers to be elected by members of the Division.
- Task the Elections and Nominating Committee with recruiting candidates for this division each year until the division is strong enough to appoint a nominating committee.
- At least two candidates should be on the ballot for the vice-chair position in each election cycle. These candidates can come from the general membership regardless of division. If a school library professional is interested they should be added to the ballot.
- Chair of the division will continue to have a voting position on the board.
- Create two new officer positions in the Division: Georgia Library Media Association Liaison and Georgia Association for Instructional Technology Liaison
 - These roles will be filled by a GLA member. Individuals may be appointed by the Division Chair.
 - Each liaison should receive a membership to the organization for which they are a liaison.
 - Each liaison should have the opportunity to receive funding to attend professional events hosted by that organization. A budget of \$200 should be set aside for each liaison. Liaison will need to submit a request for funding and provide a report to division members, GLQ news, and the GLA blog.

2. Offer 2-3 virtual networking and resource sharing opportunities targeted towards school library and media professionals in 2021

- The annual midwinter meeting and a division meeting at GLC should be two of these meetings and may be held virtually.
- Encourage GLA interest groups and other divisions to collaborate with the School Library & Media Division leadership to design virtual programs or networking sessions on Google Meets that are targeted towards an issue where the interest group or division intersects with the School Library & Media Division. Sessions should be scheduled after 2:30pm. Examples of programming could include:

- i. An information literacy meeting for high school and academic librarians to discuss how their approaches to information literacy are similar and different.
- ii. A meeting between public youth services librarians and school librarian / media specialists to discuss creative programming.
- iii. An event coordinated by the Special Libraries and Information Services Division that features a speaker talking about time management and prioritization in a small library or how to manage vendor relations in a small library.
- iv. Host virtual meet-ups for school librarian / media specialists in the following types of schools: Elementary, Middle School, and High School. The sessions should focus on networking and resource sharing.

3. Task GLA Membership Committee with redefining and marketing the benefits of GLA membership for school library and media professionals

- Identify and create goals for how GLA and the School Library & Media Division can differentiate itself from Georgia Association for Instructional Technology and Georgia Library Media Association.
- Create a marketing plan that includes:
 - Developing a flyer or website that can be distributed to the resource officers in every school district to present library and media center employees with a clear picture of what GLA membership means for them.
 - Recruiting existing members of the School Library & Media Division to promote GLA membership at one school district meetings each year.

4. Rebuild relationship with Georgia Library Media Association

Background: GLA used to have a strong relationship with Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA). At one point Georgia Library Media Association initiated a discussion to merge with GLA and Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT) but talks ended because Georgia Association for Instructional Technology was not interested. Georgia Association for Instructional Technology has a liaison position on the Georgia Library Media Association board, but GLA does not. GLA is not even listed as a Georgia Library Media Association partner.

- Appoint a GLA member or GLA Executive Board member to serve as a temporary liaison to Georgia Library Media Association to:
 - Meet with leadership of Georgia Library Media Association to identify an event that GLA could develop or co-sponsor to serve the needs of school librarians and media professionals throughout Georgia.
 - Explore requirements and benefits of becoming a Georgia Library Media Association partner or affiliate and determine if this is something that the GLA Executive Board would like to pursue.
 - Review GLA's requirements for partnership and affiliate with other organizations.
 - Present a plan of action for developing a relationship to the GLA Executive Board for consideration.

5. Create an award to be given to a school library or media center professional.

- Appoint a subcommittee of the Awards Committee to identify opportunities for creating or co-sponsoring an award for a school library professional.
 - i. Look at awards given by Georgia Association for Instructional Technology & Georgia Library Media Association to see if there are opportunities for co-sponsoring or creating a new award given by GLA at our conference or theirs.
 - 1. Possibly co-sponsor: Judy Serritella Exemplary Library Media Program with Georgia Library Media Association
 - ii. Develop a list of ideas for awards GLA could give:
 - 1. Award for collaboration with a different type of library?
 - 2. Best integration of open resources into K-12 curriculum?
 - iii. Identify what GLA can afford to give to honor the recipient
 - 1. Provide a plaque to recognize school library professionals?
 - 2. Free membership?

6. Identify solutions to streamline professional development offering to school library and media professionals in Georgia from Georgia Association for Instructional Technology, Georgia Library Media Association, and GLA.

- Identify ways to differentiate services between the three organizations so that school library and school media professionals have more robust opportunities for professional development.

- Find a way to make it easier for the individuals to join two or more of the organizations at a joint membership rate or discount rate so that school librarians and school media specialists do not need to limit participation to just one organization.