

Greetings everyone. I, for one, cannot believe that it is already December. It felt like the year would never end and then at times the time flew by. I hope that you were able to find some joy throughout 2020.

I am happy to say that SLA staff, the Board and committees continue to do wonderful work for you. I am excited to welcome a new board member: Megan Ashcroft. Megan comes to us from the University of Regina and we are very excited to have her on board. I am a little sad to see Marina leave the office staff, but I am excited for her to pursue her studies. This leads me to being excited again – we are welcoming Leslie Charlton to the SLA office staff team.

In other news – I am looking forward to working with the team from the Manitoba Library Association to develop a joint virtual conference in 2021. Keep your eyes and ears open for news about that and for ways you can volunteer to help with the planning. It will be a different type of conference than we have had in the past, so there are new and creative opportunities for volunteering that comes with that.

Dorothea and I met with the Partnership yesterday. It was great to see everyone and to hear their voices. Like at the last meeting, it feels like most associations are in the same boat. There are concerns about finances, membership and value to members. Everyone is planning virtual conferences for 2021, except for Alberta. LAA has decided to postpone to 2022 in the hopes that they will be able to host theirs again in person. There are some great ideas that are coming out of everyone's planning and we have an excellent opportunity to continue to learn from each other.

I am pleased about the work that is coming out of the SLA committees this year. I won't steal their thunder, but keep an eye out for announcements and news from many of them. It is not too late to volunteer with any of the committees. Are you interested in looking at the bursary for Indigenous students (raised at the AGM)? If so, consider joining the Education Committee or reach out with ideas, thoughts, etc. Are you interested in working with the membership? Consider joining the Engagement committee. There are so many roles for you to play – big or small. It is a great way to stay engaged and interact with people, which is even more important these days.

I hope you have a safe and healthy holiday season. Take care of yourselves!

Amy Rankin

President, SLA