



Melanie Huggins  
Candidate for SCLA President

Melanie Huggins is the executive director of Richland Library in Columbia, SC, which received the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor. Richland Library has been designated as a 2020, 2021 and 2022 State of SC "Top Place to Work."

Melanie is widely recognized for her contributions to communities through the platform of public libraries. She is a recognized leader and global speaker in the library profession having held trustee positions with both the Urban Libraries Council and the Public Library Association, where she served as President from 2021-2022.

Melanie has been a member of SCLA for thirteen years, presenting at SCLA conferences and playing host to all SCLA members at Richland Library's popular Happy Learning Hour event. Melanie was honored to be SCLA's 2012 Librarian of the Year. She is a past-president of the SC Association of Public Library Administrators and has served on their public relations and continuing education committees. She is a past-president and current board member for TogetherSC, a membership organization of over 800 nonprofits in South Carolina.

Whether helping other organizations lead with an equity and social justice focus, improve customer experience, design impactful spaces, or being part of an entrepreneurial city, she is led by her belief that libraries are uniquely positioned to make communities more livable, resilient, and inclusive.



Jimmie Epling  
Candidate for First Vice President

SCLA has passed through an extraordinary time none could have foreseen. We saw two virtual conferences due to the pandemic, sections and round tables wondering how to restart after two years of dormancy, and the loss of the President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in the same year. SCLA can recover from those extraordinary times as we saw with the 2022 Conference.

For SCLA to become an active and vibrant organization that meets the needs of its members across the state, it needs leadership that will look forward. It must shake off the constraints of the past to become a dynamic, inspiring, and, most of all, relevant organization for the state's library community.

This is the time to "Take Action" to move forward toward a new vision of SCLA and its future. I want SCLA to become the professional organization its members can turn to for insight, encouragement, and support. This is where I see SCLA going and will work as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President to make it happen.



Kelly Jones  
Candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership Chair

Kelly Jones has worked as the Location Manager of Richland Library Ballentine since 2013. While at Richland Library Ballentine, she oversaw the planning and move to a new building in 2017. More recently, she has coordinated a number of projects to add nature-focused features to the location. She is a graduate of Richland Library Leadership.

Kelly is an active career-long member of ALA, PLA, and SCLA. She recently served on the 2021 PLA Annual Conference Program Subcommittee. Previous involvement with SCLA includes serving as Chair of the Editorial Committee, serving on the Annual Conference Planning Committee, and planning the SCLA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Columbia Museum of Art.

Kelly received her MLIS from the University of South Carolina and her BS in Theatre Studies from the University of Evansville.

Statement of Interest:

When attending the 2022 SCLA Conference recently, I was reminded of the power and energy that happens whenever librarians get together. The last few pandemic years have been challenging, but I believe it is time to reenergize SCLA and get SC library staff excited about joining and getting involved in their association. As 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, I would work towards increasing membership numbers, identifying opportunities to make the association more responsive to member needs and interests, and helping to build excitement and engagement amongst existing members.



Tomeka Jackson  
Candidate for Secretary

Tomeka Jackson is a Library Resident at Clemson University Libraries. Before her residency, she worked at Kennesaw State University as a Cataloging and Metadata Assistant from 2018-2022. In addition, she has held positions at the Smyrna Public Library in Smyrna, Ga., and the Cobb County Public Library in Marietta, Ga. She also worked as a project archivist for the Atlanta History Center and volunteered at the Delta Flight Museum in Hapeville, Ga. She was named an Emerging Leader by the American Library Association in 2022. Jackson earned her master's in library and information science from the University of South Carolina and a master's in heritage preservation and a bachelor's in history, both from Georgia State University.



Sarah Schroeder  
Candidate for ALA Councilor

I have been a librarian at Richland Library for fourteen years. I have attended the SCLA conference and presented in years past but have otherwise had little involvement with the organization. My peers feel that this would be a great opportunity for me to share my skills and experience with SCLA while networking more at the statewide level.

I am a member of the Events and Experience department, which oversees system-wide programming for children, teens and adults; program and event training; special events; meeting rooms and rental spaces; and more. I work specifically with special events and special projects, including event planning and project management.

I am currently a member of SCLA, ALA, PLA, and APALA. I was the Event Coordinator for Richland Library's Overdue at PLA in March 2022, served as Library Coordinator for the 2019 LJ Design Institute and was on the Planning Team for 2018's ULC: Lessons from the Field. I also had the pleasure of serving on the 2020 Together SC Nonprofit Summit Planning Committee and will be working with them again for the 2023 Summit.

I have worked with library organizations on the national level and feel comfortable being a representative to ALA on behalf of SCLA. I do not hesitate to ask questions in meetings, and I have a strong sense of organization and attention to detail.



Joshua Greer  
Candidate for ALA Councilor

Now is the time to bolster the reconnection of libraries to each other and our communities as we continue to emerge from pandemic protocols and uncertain futures. As ALA Councilor, Joshua would strive to connect the amazing work being done in South Carolina libraries to the large network of libraries across the nation.

Joshua joined the Beaufort County Library system in 2017 as a reference librarian at the Hilton Head Branch Library. He enjoyed connecting with the public in this front-line position before being promoted to Library Operations Manager in 2019 when his primary role shifted to managing library finances as well as promoting continuing education opportunities for staff. In July of 2021, Joshua was named the library Deputy Director. In this role, he works on long-range planning and vision work, as well as working with colleagues to improve library services to the community.

Joshua has worked over 10 years in academic and public libraries. These experiences have taught him that ideas and solutions can come from anywhere within the organization, so it is important to listen and watch for them.

Joshua is a member of SCLA, ALA and PLA and is excited to see the library field rejuvenated and reignited after some most trying years.



Jana L. Stevenson  
Candidate for ALA Councilor

I recently returned to Charleston SC after living and working in Rhode Island for the past 10 years. In RI, I worked as the assistant director then director of a medium sized library with 52 employees, four locations, and a recently acquired mobile library. While working in RI I became an active member of the Rhode Island Library Association and sat on the RILA Legislative Action Committee. This was an eye-opening experience for me, and I loved working with local government officials to gain support for RI Libraries.

I now work at the Cynthia Hurd/St. Andrews Branch of the Charleston Public Library as the branch manager. I also am a member of the ALA Committee on Legislation. I recently returned from Washington D. C., where the committee met to decide on the action plan ALA will take in the coming legislative session. This was an informative process and we are excited to follow along with the session in 2023.

As a librarian, I consider myself to be an outreach focused leader who befriends local agencies, neighborhood associations, and individuals who may benefit from our services. My favorite response from a new partner is “I didn’t know libraries do that” when I offer a service that they have struggled to find in the community.

It would be an honor to represent South Carolina Libraries as an ALA Councilor. I am deeply committed to supporting libraries and librarians. I have experience in leadership and serving at the state and national level. I have a network of peers at the national level as well.