



The role of the Nominating Committee is to identify candidates who are the best fit for leadership roles within the association, and to present them to the SCLA membership for a vote. The Committee is proud to present these outstanding qualified candidates for the SCLA Executive Committee to begin their terms in January 2025. The election will be online and will open at the SCLA Annual Conference in Columbia on October 31, 2024. All active members of SCLA will be sent a ballot via email on October 31.

Respectfully,
SCLA Nominating Committee

Melanie Huggins, Immediate Past President of SCLA
Matthew Smith, SCLA Public Library Section Chair
Tracy Elvis, SCLA Management Section Vice Chair
Stacy Winchester, SCLA Colleges and Universities Section Chair
Leigh Ramey, SCLA Youth Services Section Chair

SCLA President

Kelly Jones

Current Position:

Ballentine Library Manager,
Richland Library

Work/Leadership Experience:

Kelly Jones has worked as the Location Manager of Richland Library Ballentine since 2013 and oversaw the planning and move to a new building in 2017. Recently, she coordinated several projects to add a nature-focused features to the location. She is a graduate of Richland Library Leadership. Kelly received her MLIS from the University of South Carolina and her BS in Theatre Studies from the University of Evansville.



SCLA Involvement:

1st Vice-President and Conference Chair
2nd Vice-President/Membership Chair
Chair of the Editorial Committee
Planning the SCLA 100th Anniversary Celebration with the Columbia Museum of Art.
2021 PLA Annual Conference Program Subcommittee

Other Memberships/Activities:

ALA, PLA

Personal Statement:

The last few years have been an exciting time to be involved with SCLA. We have increased our membership and piloted a new institutional membership model, returned to in-person meetings and conferences, and begun the serious work of rebuilding after the years of the pandemic. It has been an honor to contribute during this important time in our organization’s history and I hope to continue that work next year as your president. If elected here are some of the areas where I hope to focus:

Membership Growth and Development: Continue to grow SCLA membership and find new and innovative ways for members to connect and engage with each other and the organization.

Organizational Excellence: Develop a Strategic Plan for SCLA; Continue to refine processes and procedures to ensure success and growth in the future; Capture and codify institutional knowledge and memory to ensure future continuity.

Leadership and Development Opportunities for Members: Encourage and recruit volunteers for leadership positions from different parts of the state, types of libraries, and job functions; Provide guidance and support for volunteer leaders.

1st Vice President and Conference Chair

Tiffany Hayes

Current Position:

Education Design & Development Manager
South Carolina State Library

Work/Leadership Experience:

Library Development Director, SCSL, May 2021 – February 2024
Continuing Education Consultant, SCSL, July 2017 – May 2021
Library Learning & Innovation Manager, Cumberland County PL, 2011 – 2017
Information Services Manager, Cumberland County PL, 2010 – 2011
Information Services Librarian, Cumberland County PL, 2005 – 2010



COSLA Continuing Education Forum Planning Committee, 2019 – 2024
Southeast Collaborative Online Conference Co-Host and Planning Committee, 2020 – 2024
Committee Leader, Librarian II Trainers, Cumberland County PL, 2011 – 2017
North Carolina Library Association Leadership Institute Planning Committee, 2016
North Carolina Library Association Leadership Institute Mentor, 2014

Personal Statement:

I am honored to be nominated as the First Vice-President and Conference Planning Chair in 2025. We’re off to a great start with the increase in membership and this year’s exciting conference, and I look forward to keeping the energy going.

I've been working in libraries for almost 20 years, and I can honestly say library people are some of the best, kindest, and most interesting of all. I got my MLIS in 2005 from UNC-Chapel Hill and began my career at the Cumberland County Public Library in Fayetteville, NC. I was there in multiple roles, including the Library Learning and Innovation Manager role for six years before moving to Columbia, SC. At the State Library I've been involved with continuing education and support for public libraries in all my roles, including my current position as Education Design and Development Manager. My goal for SCLA is to offer relevant, high-quality professional development opportunities to the library staff of South Carolina.

Second VP/Membership Committee Chair Candidate

Shamella Cromartie, Ed.D.

Current Position:

Associate Dean for Organizational Performance and Administration, Clemson Libraries



Work/Leadership Experience:

- Associate Dean for Organizational Performance and Administration, Clemson Libraries, Clemson University, 07/22- Present
- Associate Dean, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina 11/2019 – 5/2022
- Head of Public Services, Chesnutt Library, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, North Carolina 07/2017-10/2019
- Librarian, Ann Moss Biggs Library, Robeson Community College, Lumberton, North Carolina 01/2012- 07/2017
- Weekend Reference Librarian, Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina 06/2011-1/2019

Personal Statement:

I am honored to be nominated for 2nd Vice President of the South Carolina Library Association (SCLA). My passion for libraries and extensive experience across various library settings will bring even more perspective to this important association and dedicated group of leaders. I am deeply invested in the South Carolina library landscape and believe my diverse skillset aligns perfectly with SCLA's needs. I am excited about the opportunity to lead and engage with all types of libraries across the state. My vision is to see SCLA flourish as a vibrant organization that empowers libraries of all sizes.

My career encompasses government documents, interlibrary loans, reference, and leadership roles (Head of Public Services, Associate Dean). And I remember fondly my 12 years in public libraries; working as a library page and then in outreach, driving the Bookmobile around my home county. Currently, I serve as Clemson University Libraries' Associate Dean for Organizational Performance and Administration. Beyond my institutional experience, I have been involved with the North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) for many years and I am more than ready to commit to the South Carolina Library Association as my new home. My previous association leadership contributions include being

conference programs co-chair, executive board member and chairing the Roundtable for Ethnic Minority Concerns.

Building upon my experience as the current Chair of the Roundtable for African American Concerns, I am eager to champion inclusivity and engagement within SCLA. Furthermore, my expertise in conference planning assures our ability to create engaging and transformative professional development offerings, membership initiatives and conferences that will resonate with SC librarians and even attract participation from beyond our state borders. I am confident that I can contribute to SCLA at a high level as it continues to evolve into a premier library association, fostering collaboration, innovation, and advocacy for libraries throughout South Carolina.

Secretary

Valerie Byrd-Fort

Current Position:

Instructor, University of South Carolina
School of Information Science

Work/Leadership Experience:

Fifteen years as elementary school librarian in SC
Past President of SCASL
Co-Chair of School Age Programs and Services for ALSC



SCLA Involvement:

Current Secretary and member for many years

Other Memberships/Activities:

SCASL, AASL, ALSC, and IFLA, Board Member for Richland Library, Girl Scout Troop Co-Leader

Personal Statement:

I have been a part of the local library community (professionally) since 2002. I am an advocate for all library workers and really enjoy having an active role in our library ecosystem. During my time as secretary for SCLA, I have enjoyed learning more about this organization and hope to continue learning and engaging in this wonderful library community.

Southeastern Library Association (SELA)
Representative Candidates (Two) *Amber Conger*



Current Position:

Deputy Director of Operations
Lexington County Public Library

Work/Leadership Experience:

- 2018 – Outstanding Librarian, SCLA;
- University of Tennessee
Alumni Innovator’s award
- 2014 – ALA Emerging Leader
- Director, Kershaw County Library
- Business and Job Center Librarian, Richland Library
- Library Assistance, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Library
- Intern, Knox County Public Library; Social Services Director, Briarcliff Health Care; Social Services
- Director, Life Care Center of Jefferson City

SCLA Involvement:

2018: Executive Committee, Immediate Past President

2017: Executive Committee, President

2016: Executive Committee, 1st Vice-President and Conference Chair

2015: Executive Committee, 2nd Vice-President and Membership Chair

2011 - 2014: New Members Round Table Chair, Executive Board Member, Conference Volunteer,
Conference Presenter

SCLA project participation and/or leadership includes website redesign team, mentorship program implementation, statewide networking brunches (organizer), new officer guide (author), bylaws revision, membership drive

Other Memberships/Activities:

Project Advisor, Practitioner Guide Contributor, Workshop Presenter: ALA Media Literacy Education in Libraries for Adult Audiences Initiative; 2019-2021

ALA Chapter Leaders Forum, SC Representative; 2017

ALA National Library Legislative Day, SC Representative, Washington DC; 2017, 2018

ALA Public and Cultural Programs Advisory Committee; 2014-2018

SC Association of Public Library Administrators: Treasurer; Legislative Committee; 2018-2019

SCLENDS Board of Directors; 2015-2019

Prior community volunteer commitments include Board Member, Girls on the Run of Columbia; Circles Lexington County; Rotary Club of Lexington; Rotary Club of West Wateree - Lugoff; United Way of Kershaw County; Mission of Hope; Group Facilitator, Alzheimer's Association

Personal Statement:

I am enthusiastic and well-prepared to join the Southeastern Library Association's board and would be delighted to serve as a strong voice representing South Carolina's librarians. SELA's power rests in the ability of its state representatives to identify and share areas of opportunity and potential challenges with each other, and to use this information to collaborate on potential legislation and positive actions

that would affect libraries nationwide. I have been grateful for, and have truly enjoyed, the experiences throughout my library career where I have been part of the political process and/or collaborated with librarians representing various states and perspectives.

From meeting with our state and federal representatives at their offices in Columbia and Washington, to presenting to the local County Council, to participating in legislative training or strategy sessions through National Legislative Day or the county library directors' group, I am confident in my ability to listen, research, and then propose reasonable solutions. Through ALA, I have represented South Carolina in national collaborations through the ALA Chapter Leaders Forum, Emerging Leaders program, the Media Literacy for Adult Audiences initiative, and through the Public and Cultural Programs Advisory Committee.

Lastly, I have a lengthy and dedicated history of leadership and service to SCLA, both to the organization itself and to my librarian colleagues. I truly care about our impact and the legacy that we will leave our communities, and I am ready to offer my best efforts in this new role to continue advocating for South Carolina libraries.

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Adam Johnson

Current Position:

Learning Technologies and Data Library,
Coastal Carolina University

Work/Leadership Experience:

Adam Johnson is the Learning Technologies and Data Librarian at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC. Originally from South Carolina, he first fell in love with libraries while working as a student volunteer in his high school media center. Adam recently returned to the state in 2023 after serving as the Emerging Technologies Librarian at Valencia College in Orlando, FL. Prior to that role, Adam also served as a librarian at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, and as a tutoring center and writing center supervisor at several institutions across the Southeast. He holds an M.A. in English from The College of Charleston & The Citadel (joint degree) and a Master of Library and Information Science from Valdosta State University. He is an active member of ALA (including ACRL and the Rainbow Round Table) and SCLA, and he was previously involved in several initiatives for open educational resources through the FLVC Library Services Division (formerly FALSC) and the Florida Library Association. One of his major areas of scholarship is encouraging open access, and he is proud to have completed the rigorous Creative Commons Librarian Certification. Adam is also a strong advocate for public/academic library partnerships, having produced a successful slate of technology workshops for the entire community at the Winter Park Library in Florida. You can learn more about Adam's career history and connect with him at adamthelibrarian.com.



Personal Statement:

I am interested in joining SCLA Leadership as the SELA representative because I have a passion for furthering connections between libraries throughout the southeast. As someone who has worked with academic and public libraries across the region, I feel confident that I would be able to represent SCLA's interests and find new avenues for collaboration. In these challenging times for all of us in libraries, it would be my goal to be a positive, engaged, and committed voice that spreads the message of libraries as hubs of intellectual, economic, and creative energy that are crucial to the lives of everyone in our region.