

## **A Tribute Resolution Honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA)**

Whereas libraries are best able to serve communities through sharing and collaboration;

Whereas the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) was conceived in 1920 when approximately 100 representatives from seven states met to address the general and professional issues concerning information professionals at the time rather than topics on administration and technique;

Whereas those who met in Signal Mountain, Tennessee on November 12-13, 1920 (known as the Southeastern Librarians' Conference) felt there was a professional need to organize a library association in the Southeastern part of the United States. Their goals were to promote the development and needs of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities to those in the Southeastern part of the United States;

Whereas this new organization understood the need for collaboration and to share ideas among library professionals;

Whereas at the 1924 Asheville conference, nine states — Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia — ratified the constitution. At this conference the first section programs were held. Although their names and composition may have changed through the years, five of the present sections were organized as early as 1922: the Public Library; School and Children's; Reference and Adult Services; Resources and Technical Services; and the College and University sections;

Whereas SELA became a concept and an organization of 12 state library associations with the addition of Arkansas, West Virginia, and Louisiana;

Whereas SELA became incorporated by the state of Georgia in 1950; and

Whereas SELA continues to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities through:

- Holding biennial conferences for members through the partnership with the different state library associations, providing members the opportunities to learn and view programs created and used in different library settings;
- Establishing a peer-reviewed journal (The Southeastern Librarian), first published in 1951, that offers librarians from SELA and other professionals, the opportunity to publish/convey/explain the research they are participating in;
- Establishing the biennial Southern Books Competition in 1952 to represent the Association's commitment to the book as a vital part of library service;
- Providing grants to support educational opportunities that include pursuit of a library-related course work, attending conferences or seminars, visiting other libraries for advanced training, or library related research projects;
- Offering information about online and free training opportunities; and
- As part of its overall goals, to have a variety of committees that represents the needs, wants, and interests of the SELA Membership; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the importance of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) through its work in supporting library services on a regional level;
2. congratulates and commends the Southeastern Library Association for its 100 years of supporting librarianship in its region and its ongoing support for furthering the goals set forth by the American Library Association; and
3. sends a letter acknowledging SELA's formation on November 12-13, 1920, and its 100th Anniversary on November 12-13, 2020, and its connection to the states it services to the SELA Administrative office

and the state Chapters in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**Mover:** Tamika Barnes, Georgia Chapter Councilor, 770 274-5084

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