



NASIG NEWSLETTER

Vol. 33, no. 2

May 2018

eISSN 1542-3417

President's Corner

Steve Oberg

Oh, Atlanta

I hear you calling

I'm coming back to you one fine day¹

I have a particular affection for this song, written by Mick Ralphs and most famously sung by Alison Krauss. I first heard it on her album *Now That I've Found You: A Collection*, and it has been on my mind ever since we made the decision to select Atlanta as our host city for this year's annual conference. I am so pleased that our conference will be held in this vibrant and multicultural city at a wonderful hotel, the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead.

A great deal of work goes into planning this annual event, far more than most people realize, and I am particularly grateful for the amazing volunteer efforts of those on the Conference Planning and Program Planning Committees to make it successful. Many other people are involved in various details up to and throughout the conference. One thing I highly recommend to everyone who plans to attend: when you encounter someone who is involved in any way in planning for and carrying out conference work, tell that person thank you. Unlike similar library events, we do not have the luxury of dedicated, paid staff to do most of the heavy lifting throughout the year. We pull this off with almost 100 percent volunteer effort, something that astounds hotel and local convention and tourism people with whom we interact. NASIG, as a non-profit organization, is committed to keeping costs low even as our own costs to host events continue to go up.

Turning to another important topic, the recent NASIG elections, let me offer warm congratulations to Kristen Wilson from North Carolina State University as our incoming vice president/president-elect; Beth Ashmore from Samford University as secretary; and new members-at-large: Lisa Martincik (University of Iowa), Marsha Seamans (University of Kentucky), and Steve Shadle (University of Washington). I particularly want to thank everyone who was willing to put themselves forward for consideration on this year's ballot and encourage those who did not win this time to consider running again in future. Your efforts and involvement in NASIG are valued and vital! On a related note, engagement of as many people within the NASIG membership as possible with the voting process is hugely important. An example of where we need more engagement is in ballot initiatives such as one relating to important bylaws changes. A standalone vote earlier this year failed to garner the necessary votes to pass, and we decided to then add it into the ballot for elections. However, it still failed to garner enough votes to pass, so we will vote on that measure in person at the upcoming conference during the members' forum (formerly known as the business meeting), which is scheduled for Sunday, June 10, at 4:30 p.m. If you are attending #nasig18, please be sure to attend this important meeting.

One of the most important things we do as an organization each year is to select award winners. This year the Awards & Recognition Committee chose **nineteen** award winners! [Warm congratulations to all of them!](#) I do not know of any other group or organization of our size and focus that gives more

awards than we do. As a former student grant award winner, these awards are near to my heart, and they have had an enduring impact on many. An example of this will be featured in Atlanta when Jeff Steely, dean of libraries at Georgia State University, will speak of his career experiences that began as a student grant award winner back in 1998 when the conference was at the University of Colorado Boulder and the conference theme was "Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground." Susan Davis was NASIG president at the time, and I was vice president/president-elect (my first stint in the role).

In closing, my sincere thanks and gratitude go out to NASIG members for a second opportunity to serve in

the role of president of this special organization. I encourage each of you to take up your part to help move NASIG forward into new directions, to volunteer for committee service whenever possible or to help out in any way you can. I am especially thankful that Angela Dresselhaus will be stepping into this role in June when I will retire to the sidelines once more. Angela and I have worked closely together throughout the past year and I know she will be a fantastic president. I hear Atlanta calling and look forward to going back one fine day in June. I hope you will join me there.

¹Lyrics © Warner/Chappell Music, Inc.