

January 30, 2017

Annual Message from SAFG President

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This past year as the Foundation's President, I had the opportunity to spend time in the field with a number of SAFG officers, members, and leaders and members of our partner organizations. I deeply appreciate how committed you and they are to continue to support SAFG and our mission. I am grateful for the time they took to support SAFG by attending meetings and events hosted and co-hosted by SAFG. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2017, and attending your and SAFG's ongoing activities and events. I truly appreciate your dedication and support. In looking back to 2016 our objectives were achieved. In particular, we note the following highlights:

- We created new website and social media platform to improve our internal and external communication. As a result, we will use the social media in 2017 to communicate more effectively.
- We maintained and delivered strong media campaign, which has created more interest in SAFG program and meeting and events from individuals and organizations.
- We co-hosted and participated in Transatlantic Education Leadership Exchange (TELE) 2017 Summit in Atlanta, with State of Georgia Superintendent, Dr. Richard Woods as our keynote.
- We co-hosted and participated in Transatlantic Education Leadership Exchange (TELE) Helsinki, Finland, and brought a U.S. delegation to Finland, had a meeting at Finnish Ministry of Education.
- We co-hosted and participated in local events organized by our key partners, including cultural, educational, and government organizations, and Chambers of Commerce.
- As a result of the TELE, the first Educator from Finland will arrive in Georgia in April 2017. A high school student from the state of Georgia attended summer university study program in 2016 in Jyvaskyla, Finland. SAFG provided the student a grant of \$500.
- We participated in Women Speaker Series co-hosted by international Chambers of Commerce in Georgia, and will continue to participate during 2017.
- We created a NEW fundraising program for 2017. This will become our annual fundraising program, and we are excited to support this work for the coming year.
- We have published our 2017 Calendar of Events and Program in www.SAFGeorgia.com
- We will introduce a NEW travel program in 2017 to promote more cultural exchange between Georgia and Scandinavia. The program will launch in March 2017.

We have scheduled SAFG Annual Board Meeting, please join the *TELCON:

DATE: February 16, 2017 TIME: 7:00PM to 8:30PM

CALL CONFERENCE LINE: 712-4321690 Access Code: 340 568#

Please advise if you are NOT able to attend the call. We decided to have a *TELCON, to accommodate schedules of all Board of Governors/ Officers.

If you or if you know someone who would consider serving SAFG as an Officer/ member of our Board, please contact me by February 10th, 2017 by EMAIL: Info@SAFGeorgia.com

We have created and published a program for 2017 HERE: <http://www.safgeorgia.com/events.html>, and anticipate another rewarding year for SAFG. We will carefully review our current program and with an eye toward maintaining as much as possible our current mission priorities. We will expand our program this year by co-hosting events monthly with partner organizations.

In closing, I would like to once again thank all of our Officers/Board, Members and Volunteers for their support and work. I feel deeply honored to serve our community and to support your solid efforts. I am motivated by your selfless dedication to the causes that we mutually care so much about.

Minna LeVine
President, Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia (SAFG)