

Braille and Talking Book Library User Advisory Council

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Time: 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Minutes Draft 2.3

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Links have been added to assist with more information.

Audio time-stamps included.

Attendance

Richard Rueda, Chair, Sacramento
Lenore Presley, Sacramento
Arthur Sophus, Stockton
Hy Cohen, Stockton
Finley Lindberg, Davis
Alan B. Smith, Vice-Chair, Concord
Warren Cushman, San Leandro representing CCB

Telephone attendees

Roslyn McCoy, Mount Shasta, Secretary
Margie Donovan, Folsom
Karen Parsegian, Sacramento
Janet Snow, Redding representing NFB-CA

Staff:

Mike Marlin, BTBL Director, Ex Officio
Melissa Ribeiro, Reader Advisor
Donna Scales, BTBL Readers Advisory Supervisor

ACTION ITEMS:

- Mike will send out a link to the Marrakesh hearing.

- Mike will keep the Council updated on the Collection Development Advisory Group by providing BUAC members with annual CDAG minutes.
- Hy has volunteered to work on the outreach committee.
- Margie Donovan co-chair with Karen on the outreach committee.
- United States Postal Service Committee Chair Janet, ET. Al. will email their prepared questions to the entire group.
- Lenore will send information about Bard Express user group to Mike.

1. Welcome and self-introductions

Richard Rueda opened the meeting at 10:45 AM

2. Approval of agenda

Agenda was unanimously approved (moved by Hy Cohen, seconded by Arthur Sophus.)

3. Approval of minutes of January 28, 2018 meeting.

Minutes approved 10 approved and one objection(moved by Lenore Presley, seconded by Arthur Sophus).

4. Remarks from the Chair

Richard explained there were some telephonic technical difficulties and this was only his second meeting, but he would really like to start on time. He urged everyone to the extent possible to arrive by 10:15, assuring a prompt meeting start time.

5. BTBL Director's report, Mike Marlin

- Narration Studio, April 2, 2018 BTBL has a new Narration Studio Coordinator (Audio Visual Assistant) Christopher Duran. Formally worked at Cal-Expo 12 years. He is marking up audio-books, and Preparing Voter guide, newsletter, and catalog for 60 to 70 new descriptive videos.
- Open Library downloads part of Internet Archive, virtual library in San Francisco in collaboration with NLS. Control digital lending (CDL) digital scanning. openlibrary.org

- Patron centric cartridge (PCC) almost ready to go tech problems. Soon to be launched within the next few months.
- Collection Development Advisory Group (CDAG), minutes were provided for review. Many of the organizations Advocating for the blind are represented within this group. Make recommendations to NLS on book titles. NLS has been adding about a thousand commercially produced titles a year on top of the 2000 titles that contracted narrators provide. (Audio time Mark 1:28:41)
- Readers Technology Advisory Group, reviews NLS technology advancements. Melissa Ribeiro and Ivan Johnson braille Institute, represent the patrons in the West. Current projects:
 - Remote control for the digital talking book machine, each network library has received approximately 80 units, so at this time these remote controls are limited.
 - Beta testing Mobile cartridge (MOCA) a cellular tower delivery system compatible with cartridge. Enables the reader advisory to queue up books for the patron who will easily download onto their own cartridge.
 - Wireless delivery and Text to speech firmware is being considered for the next generation of digital players.
 - Exploring the possibilities to collaborate with Amazon Echo/Alexa product for delivering books.
 - Exploring braille displays manufacturers who can provide products which are reliable and cost-effective. NLS is putting out RFP to design a braille display. Lenora recommended to look into “braille me”
- Marrakesh, challenges being worked out ABC (Accessible Books Consortium) catalog, how to handle multi-language catalogs barriers. Beta testing and training sessions are beginning to take place. The Chafee amendment is the copyright law/authority that undergirds the United States ability to sign on to the Marrakesh treaty.
 - Chafee amendment –The United States recognizes and complies with the Copyright Law of the United States and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code Circular 92, as amended in 2004. <http://www.usimac.org/Chafee%20Amemdment.html>

- Partnership between BTBL and Society For the Blind and North State Assistive Technology Center, will be hosting a Resource and Tech Fair, November 3, 2018. Approximately 20 vendors with an emphasis on technology, and will be open to blind, low vision, and the disability community. BTBL will be presenting information about technology at the library and about their services in general. It will be held at 13th and “S” Sacramento California at 10am. to 2pm.(Audio time Mark 1:57:51)
- NLS and Book Share there are still some seats left. Funding for next year has been approved, for 500 seats.
- BARD EXPRESS found on the barred website can help with searching and delivers books in non-compressed/zip formats to help with downloading books. There is a user group that can assist with utilizing Bard express, Lenore Presley will send contact information to Mike.(Audio time Mark 2:02)
- Federal Funding for library services continue to be uncertain, but there has been great support in lobbying representatives which we will need to continue.
- There is a Book Share tutorial on our BTBL website

6. Presentation by Jim Fruchterman, CEO, Benetech (Bookshare) 11:00am to 11:51

- ~30 years in tech field
- Founder of Benetech <https://benetech.org/> Video: <https://youtu.be/vHZEtJElyCE>
- Discussed the history of providing literature on a mass scale for print, and braille readers.
- Audio and digital enhanced the accessibility to literature.
- Book Share library was at first filled by crowd sourcing, the scanned books individuals provided.
- George Kerscher - e-book revolution “ 1980 Computerized books for the blind(CBFB) ” There Daisy’s format. <https://www.ims.gov/about-us/national-museum-and-library-services-board/george-kerscher>
- Bookshare has ~600,000 titles
- Thousands of books are added monthly from publishers, these are publisher quality e-books.

- Book Share commitment to students, if Book Share does not already have a book a student needs for their class, then Book Share will go out and obtain it.
- 90% of the patrons are students, 80% learning disabilities, 15% visual disabilities, and 5% physical disabilities.
- Marrakesh revolution- human right to access information. Adopted by 36 countries thus far, and when European Union signs on there will be 28 additional countries. U.S. would make 29 additional countries!
- Book Share is a global library for the blind and print disabled individuals.
- Jim's future vision, Betsy Beaumon "If it's born digital, it should be born accessible." (<https://benetech.org/about/leadership/>) The last is "born accessible" this is the revolution of the future!
- **Merging the daisy format with the EPUB** was a George Kerscheris project. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EPUB> Book Share is now certifying publishers who meet an accessible EPUB standard.
- (Audio time Mark 1:00:24)

7. Action Item updates

- United States Postal Service Committee; Chair Janet, Alan, Margie

Meet and discuss options on how the Council could assist with mail delivery issues, Present at April meeting.

This group has prepared a number of Questions for the NLS liaison with the Postal Service.

This topic deals with the US Postal Service and its, sometimes, improper handling and inconsistent delivery of NLS packages containing

hard-copy books, or audio cartridge/cassettes.

1. If free matter for the blind is considered high priority or first-class mail, why does it take a week to ten days to reach the library? (We are able to track how fast each parcel arrives back to our library, by checking online, when it is taken off the list.)

(a question for library staff: once a parcel reaches the library, how long does it take to process the book back on the shelf?) We got the answer to that question, one day.

2. Why do some books get lost and are never delivered, where do they go?

3. Why is clear packaging shipment tape used to hold a stack of small cassette or cartridge containers together? (We must remove tape carefully or it will destroy the address label.)

4. How are the mail carriers trained in regards to the delivering and the priority of the free matter for the blind materials?

5. If we deliver our free matter for the blind parcels to the post office in person and the employee who is serving us behind the counter refuses to accept our parcel, what action should we take?

(This list of questions emailed out to everyone by Janet Snow.)

- Update Website with revised bylaws.
This task will be completed During/after website Update is launched, assignment Staff

(completed)

- Contact the California Foundation for Independent living Center in Sacramento, by Margie Donovan recruitment and education on and NLS services

(Ongoing)

- Contact potential speakers for the Braille and Talking Book Library User Advisory Council, Richard Rueda.

(The NLS liaison to the Postal Service, has been scheduled for July 28, 2018)

Mike will ask the Business Operations Office at West Sac postal center if she can join as well, or better yet national USPS rep

- Luncheon for volunteers—Staff would like to expand or change the format of the luncheon for the volunteers, so it is more fun and entertaining. They requested suggestions for Activities

(Mary Jane was on extended leave , so this was unofficially tabled)

- Mike will share Collection development advisory group reports with BTBL
(PROVIDED WITHIN THE AGENDA PACKET)

- Meetings for the upcoming year were decided:

- July 28, 2018
- October 20, 2018

(Mike Marlin, confirm meeting dates.)

8. Committee reports

A. Recruitment/selection committee, Margie Donovan

Mike has suggested to utilize an intern to help with this selection process.

Electing new Chair, Margie has withdrawn the request, but she will be finishing her term in November, so requests someone to step up to be trained and meant toward in this process.

(Hy has volunteered to work on the outreach committee.)

B. Outreach committee, Karen Parsegian, chair, just added to Margie Donovan. A co-chair was offered and Margie has stepped up to help Karen.

(Ongoing)

9. NEW BUSINESS

Marrakesh treaty (Alan Smith)

There was a hearing and Mike will send out a link to the Marrakesh Implementation Act hearing of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Contacting your Senate representative and express your support for the Marrakesh treaty. Publishers still have some hesitation, but at this time it appears to be receiving full support.

Details are being worked out and it is very close to completion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS SUGGESTIONS

- mail carrier recognition -Mike can provide examples of letters.
- Give a time for committee members to provide announcements of events. These announcements should provide details.