

Braille and Talking Book Library User Advisory Council meeting

Date: August 28, 2021 10AM to 12 noon (Held using Zoom)

Roslyn called the Meeting to order at 10:04 AM, and welcomed newest member, Maria Gabriela Smith
In attendance:

Connie Bateman-CCB liaison, Member at Large; Shannon Dillon- Member at Large; Maile George-
Secretary; Jana Litrelle- Member at Large; Roslyn McCoy- Chair-representing the Dyslexic community;
Richard Rueda- Member at Large; Alan Smith- Member at Large; Maria G. Smith-Member at Large; Janet
Snowe, Vice Chair, NFB liaison*

Absent: Lenore Presley, represents the deaf/ blind community.

BTBL Staff:

Laura Kellen- Reference and Outreach Librarian; Mike L. Marlin- Director, BTBL patron; Donna Scales-
Readers Advisory Supervisor

Roslyn welcomed all and reviewed Zoom courtesy guidelines

Approval of agenda Richard made the Motion to approve/ Connie seconded/motion
carried

Note on agenda: Mike announced that he was unable to secure a speaker for today's meeting from our
state library administration; however, Michelle Alvarado, Assistant SLS Bureau Chief, agreed to speak at
our next meeting.

Approval of minutes of June 5, 2021 was conducted via email - Richard moved to
approve/ Roslyn seconded/ Motion carried

Report from the Chair

Welcomed the council's two newest members: Jana and Maria

Next BUAC meeting will be held via Zoom, not in person due to rise in Covid cases in California.

Moved that, if needed, today's meeting run past 12PM, but several members objected; as an alternate,
Roslyn offered to give final speakers 15- and five-minute warnings.

BTBL Director report

Mike will send an overview of his talking points in a separate email

BTBL Updates

New Program Manager at the subregional San Francisco Talking books and Braille Center: Michelle
Waddy

California State Library is still closed to the general public for walk-in traffic due to Covid, but reading
rooms are open by appointment; BTBL Reading Room is open by appointment, see

libraryca.libcal.com/reserve/btbl .

Statistics: Total patron base of active users has remained static; book Downloads have increased

Studio status: Analog to Digital conversions of older titles is constantly in process with many titles
uploaded to BARD; No new Californiana books being actively recorded due to pandemic restrictions and
therefore State Library inability to accommodate volunteers for now.

Election guide is available as a talking book cartridge via mail or can be found on the BTBL web site for
download; BTBL formatted the files narrated by California Secretary of state agency contractors.

Duplication on Demand (DoD); soon to be Books on Demand (BOD) delayed due to supply chain issues; Should be available in November.

If patrons get a message saying they are not authorized to use a cartridge, advise them to flag the cartridge container by checking the checkbox on the return side of mailing card before returning it, and also contact the BTBL library.

Assistive Technology project to be rolled out in the 2021-22 fiscal year: 375 hot spots will be available for loan to patrons who lack internet capability; 500 portable book players; 500 electronic magnifiers.

NLS Updates

Increased availability of collection of large print music, foreign language books (direct result of Marrakesh Treaty), remote control devices, specialized talking book players for patrons with hearing impairments: High Volume Player (HVP) has amplified headset, must be signed by medical release before issuance.

NLS staff still teleworking and not fully back in their offices yet

Accessible/ voice activated Smartphone pilot concluded; a broader pilot to be conducted late 2021/ early 2022.

Smart Speaker- being tested internally at NLS (Hoping to have enough internal testing done to start broader testing in 2021- 2022)

Janet asked about BTBL piloting New Braille eReaders. Answer: pilot has been delayed. Mike hopes they'll start at end of 2021. Janet and Jana are both on the list to pilot.

BARD operations team seeking feedback on 6-month inactive accounts policy. Laura reported that she gets at least a few calls about inactive accounts each day.

NLS Consumer Relations Officer Judy Dixon retired after 41 years. She will work as a retiree part time for NLS in FY22. New NLS director: Jason Broughton- starts October 20.

Old Business

Roslyn announced that the BUAC will return to approval of minutes during council meetings, rather than through email.

New Business

*After Janet Snowe introduced herself, she asked for a volunteer to take over her role as NFB liaison. Mike reviewed the responsibilities of community representatives, which include foster information sharing, bring library concerns and questions forward, and when an opportunity for Mike/BTBL staff to present to the respective consumer groups arises, keep him informed. He then reviewed Bylaws: there are No term limits for the consumer blindness or veteran representatives, ideally, the BUAC has representation from multiple communities, including CCB, NFB, Veterans, people with dyslexia and other print disabilities, youth/ parents of youth, Deaf-Blind. Jana volunteered to serve as NFB representative and Mike advised her to check with Tim Elder, NFB of California President.

Committee Reports

**Recruitment / Selection- no updates * Chair Alan, Janet, Connie, Maile

**Outreach (*Chair Roslyn, Janet, Laura

Updates from Laura:

Laura.kellen@library.ca.gov

Because CCB affiliate, CLUA, requested titles pertaining to nature, the following titles will be included in the California talking book collection when the studio opens again

1. Birds of Northern California

2. Golden Gate Gardening

3. California Master Gardner handbook

north State assistive technologies partnership was created resulting in 1000 library outreach packets being sent to doctors' offices; including BTBL brochures

1174 pieces of outreach materials were sent to California Department of Corrections - brochures, posters

Laura has presented for both Chico and Redding disability action centers, non-profits. Highlighted that a person with any print disability qualifies, don't have to be blind or low vision

Presented to Passages- a nonprofit in Chico-Spanish outreach materials were sent

We reached out to Calix (an email list serve for the California library community) to solicit interest in large print bookmarks; sent bookmarks and other free stuff

Laura is willing to present to any public library in California to raise awareness; so far, 43 libraries have requested information (Successful project) 9000 bookmarks were requested, and due to low stock, only 1000 were sent, all brochure requests were fulfilled)

Upcoming: live presentation to Carlton Senior Residences. After 10 months, this will be her very first live presentation.

Soon she will present for the Staff of the Alameda County library, Alpine County library and probably Baywood court in Castro Valley- presentation at senior center

Postcard mailing (NLS)- intended to get students pulled in to NLS services; special education. Laura sends at least a few in the mail each day, and postcards for Veterans community will be available soon.

Laura also reaches out via phone call to those who fill out a "Helen" form. Result: 16% of Helen notification form initiators sign up for BTBL service

**Legislative- Chair Alan, Shannon)

Update from Mike on Legislator of the Year- California Research Bureau's Tom Umber the person responsible for the Braille Institute Library \$500,000. line item in the state budget,

Recommended that we recognize a legislator who helped propose or passed legislation benefiting the blind and print disabled population but even more generally benefiting Californians with disabilities.

The award does not need to be presented at a specific time of year. Shannon will research the recent education bill the legislature passed, and which legislators authored it. (Mike and committee will meet prior to December meeting and report back)

[Miscellaneous Concerns/Questions/Announcements/Discussion Points](#)

Elections will take place at our next meeting (Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary). Roslyn's term will be ending. action items- Legislative committee to meet and report back during next meeting (Mike, Shannon, Alan)

Next meeting date: Saturday, December 4, 2021 10:00 to 12:00 (Alan's birthday)

Roslyn adjourned the meeting at 12noon

Submitted by Secretary Maile George
September 2, 2021