

Braille and Talking Book Library User Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 2, 2019

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Attendance

Richard Rueda, Sacramento, Chair

Roslyn McCoy, Mount Shasta, Vice Chair

Gayle Miller, Winton (acting Secretary)

Lenore Presley, Sacramento, representing DeafBlind

Connie Baitman, Sacramento

Alan Smith, Concord

Maile George, Concord

Ervin Andy Anderson, Cottonwood

Oswaldo Martinez, Merced

Janet Snow, Redding, representing NFB

Shannon Dillon, Folsom

Phone attendance

Arthur Sophus, Stockton, representing veterans

Warren Cushman, San Lorenzo

BTBL Staff

Mike Marlin, Director

Donna Scales, Readers Advisory Supervisor

Mary Jane Kayes, Librarian

Guest

Jessica Knox-Jensen, Assistant Chief, State Library Services Bureau. Jessica wants to learn more about BTBL and what it does, to advocate for resources on bills, support programming and functions, to advocate more for BTBL to help move it forward.

2. Agenda Approval

Agenda approved- moved by Alan Smith, second by Maile George

3. Approval of Minutes for October 27, 2018

- a. No Braille minutes will be prepared unless requested
- b. Minutes approved- moved by Roslyn McCoy, seconded by Arthur Sophus

4. Remarks from the Chair

- a. This is one of the largest meetings held with many new members in attendance. Thank you to the Recruitment and Selection Committee for all their work.
- b. The List Serve will be BUAC main communication portal.
- c. Secretary position still open. Recommended that a rough draft of the minutes be sent out to various Chair persons for corrections and Action Items should be sent out as soon as possible to facilitate in the action being taken.

*BUAC has a webpage at www.btbl.ca.gov. BUAC can be found in the Get Involved tab. Members are encouraged to add, or revise, their testimonials. (Also see <http://www.library.ca.gov/btbl/advisory-council/>)

*BTBL also has a Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/BTBLSacramento/> . Members are encouraged to share posts. Most popular being those about blind success stories, technology, and employment related topics.

*CSL has a YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CSLmultimedia/videos>

*Assistive Technology Resource Fair held November 3rd at the Society for the Blind was a big success. This event was cohosted and advertised by the BTBL which contributed to the overall success of the event. Mike will see about making his presentation "Reading in the Cloud" available to members.

5. BTBL Director's report, Mike Marlin

*Welcome to new members

* BTBL history, locations, service area, users served,

* KPFA 94.1 Pushing Limits interview with Mike Marlin to be available via podcast at: <https://kpfa.org/episode/pushing-limits-february-1-2019/>

* BTBL and Braille Institute Library directors gave joint presentation to approximately 40 librarians at the California Library Association annual conference on November 11 entitled: Best in New Tech for the Blind and Print Disabled. We received many positive comments.

NLS will allow sending of multiple BRF files on various media when the circulating braille e-reader is implemented in a few years, possibly as soon as 2020

* A tour of the BTBL recording/narration studio will be conducted at the end of the meeting

* New /future Innovations from the library

1. Digital Talking Book Machines – potential a locked smart phone model being developed by NLS (streaming, voice dictation a la Amazon Alexa model, Text to Speech option, wireless and cellular delivery, self-service in addition to reader advisors pushing out titles, all being explored)

2. Patron Centric cartridges available through BTBL.

These cartridges can be uploaded by readers advisors with the readers titles of choice. Future model will be Duplication on Demand whereby cartridges are not tied to a specific

patron but operate with ability to upload customized single or multiple titles

3. Refreshable braille display (braille eReader)

*How is service going to change? With audio, braille, service provision, staffing for circulation paradigm could change with more electronic circulation including talking books as well as braille titles

New and improved version of BARD is planned as well with better searching capacity

Restrictions on organic reading disability certification will be lifted when all the innovation technologies are ready to officially roll out

*Outreach will become even more vital

*Readers Advisors, reference, summer reading club

*Want to do: online or telephonic book club, more programming in reading room, show descriptive movies, more staff for tours of school children, outreach ambassadors, kits on wheels,

*Goals of the BUAC

*Get Judy Dixon, Consumer Relations Officer at NLS as a speaker

* High participatory group

* Other committees can be formed by members

*Contact List

* Share names and numbers, encourage collaboration, cohesive group

* Conference call number can be used for official committee meetings.

*Reimbursement Procedure

* Provided by endowment to cover travel expenses for BUAC

Members

- Paper receipts can be given to Donna or Mary Jane

Electronic receipts can be sent to Mike, Donna, or Mary Jane

Receipts can be emailed, snail mailed, faxed

Expenses covered can be bus, train, Uber/Lyft, mileage, hotel, dinner,

6. Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Made up of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Director

Meets weeks in advance prior to BUAC to discuss agenda, previous agenda and what to put on upcoming agenda.

Recruitment Selection Committee, Alan

January meeting: A vetting process draft has been drawn up. There was discussion as to what information to release regarding BUAC applicants. The draft will be revised to send out

only a summary and name and city of perspective BUAC member (applicant) to members.

We currently have 12 BUAC members. The bylaws specify a maximum of 15. The application process is a year round process.

The committee will discuss whether they want to interview applicants over the phone or not and report back.

After the welcome letter has been sent out a phone call will be made to welcome new members.

Outreach Committee- Roslyn, Janet, Gayle

Roslyn has been presenting and handing out applications to Eastern Star.

It was decided to put a sticky label on the first page, top left corner, of applications when handed out at events to track the efficacy of the event

Electronic signatures are not yet accepted on BTBL applications for service, applications can be downloaded from BTBL , it was suggested to add "where did you hear about us " on the application.

Alan Smith did outreach at the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, on December 11.

Items available to hand out when doing outreach are brochures, Applications, Braille alphabet cards, book marks, chip clips, bracelets, nail files, Posters. A digital machine can also be loaned out.

Roslyn suggested putting together a box for presentations containing necessary items. Kits on wheels is on the wish list.

*ACTION ITEM, Mike - have a record player available for Roslyn.

Gayle or Janet (?) Volunteered to be the Chair of the Outreach Committee

Old Business

By Alan Smith-

*Transition from tapes to cartridges- there are 5 or less patrons using cassette books only.

*Relocation of old cassette books - because they are federal property they cannot be given to anyone. Library recycles old equipment through NLS contractors.

*Downloading- can be frustrating for some. Library should remind patrons that even though advances are being made that the current materials/equipment will also be available.

9. New Business

* Remaining 2019 BUAC meeting dates are April 27, July 27, and October 26 (Elections on October 26)

- Broadcasting/Streaming/Remote audience participation- because we are not mandated by the state, we are privately funded, we are an advisory committee and do no policy making, etc., we are not required to make meetings public.

Newsletter Recipients- has there been a survey to see which formats BUAC members are receiving????

Bookshare Grant- we have 370 subscribers out of the 500 licenses, the grant ends Aug 31, 2019, negotiating with Library Development Services Bureau and the State Librarian to extend

at least another year, more permanent grant funding is being researched.

Reader Advisor (Library Technical Assistant) position is open and hopefully will be filled by the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS (5)

- *ACTION ITEM, Mike to request Microphone from I T Dept.
- * ACTION ITEM, Mike -BTBL webpage address
- * ACTION ITEM, Mike -FB name for BTBL
- *ACTION ITEM, Mike - have a record player available for Roslyn.
- *ACTION ITEM, Mike- where are the out dated tapes going and what will be done with them.

[Mike on 4/8/19: I think these have all been answered and are thus moot except we still need to find a phonograph for Roslyn]