

Braille and Talking Book Library  
User Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes April 27, 2019

Location: Braille and Talking Book Library, 900 N Street,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

1. Welcome and introductions

a. Members present

Richard Rueda, Sacramento, Chair

Roslyn McCoy, Mount Shasta, Vice Chair

Gayle Miller, Winton

Lenore Presley, Sacramento, representing Deaf Blind

Alan Smith, Concord

Andy Anderson, Cottonwood

Janet Snow, Redding, representing NFB

Shannon Dillon, Folsom

BTBL Staff

Donna Scales, Readers Advisory Supervisor

Mary Jane Kayes, BTBL Outreach/Reference Librarian

Phone attendance

Warren Cushman, San Lorenzo, representing CCB

Maile George, Concord

Mike Marlin, Director

2. Agenda Approval

Agenda approved- moved by Alan Smith, seconded by Roslyn McCoy

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved – moved by Alan Smith, seconded by Maile George

4. Remarks from the Chair

- BUAC members reminded to complete the BTBL Volunteer Emergency contact form

- BUAC members are encouraged to add their Statement of Interest to the BUAC web page
- Arthur Sophus has resigned from the BUAC and should be removed from the Listserv (ACTION ITEM)
- February Action Items – handled through emails by Mike, except microphone during meeting not yet provided

#### 5. Advisory Council Panel Discussion (California, Washington, and Massachusetts)

Callers included Daniele Miller (Washington Talking Book & Braille Library WTBBL Director), DeAnn Elliott (former Consumer Advisory Board Chair for Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library in Watertown, MA), Frank Uda [sic] (WCB representative on WTBBL Patron Advisory Council or PAC), John Buckmaster (Vice Chair, WTBBL PAC),)

- Roslyn McCoy shared several outreach and advocacy activities
- Alan Smith spoke of funding for BTBL, legislator open house at library and at Capitol, and his local Board of Library Supervisors contacts made and presentations given to state legislators. He recounted advocacy toward NLS re QA process for defective cartridges.
- Richard Rueda gave a brief outline of Sacramento BUAC meetings and the types of disabilities and organizations represented

#### A. Washington TBBL Shared

15 Member Council with similar representation to CA BTBL, including youth or parent of a youth.

Advocacy for funding especially when WTBBL budget is threatened. Much effort is put into reaching legislators by phone or letter, arranging bus trips to Olympia (Capitol), celebrated Louis Braille Bicentennial with National Braille Press exhibit setting up at State Capitol (CA BTBL displayed it in our rotunda back in 2009), braille fortune cookies delivered to legislators' offices, WTTBL Friends Group funds a Youth Services librarian position, council members are given id cards with a packet of outreach materials, an "outreach" email account is established for members to share outreach opportunities. They try to pair up WTBBL staff member with a PAC patron at outreach events. Email account established: [outreach@wtbbl.org](mailto:outreach@wtbbl.org)

Their greatest challenge is reaching new patrons. TBBL staff has targeted groups they will focus on (youth, Latino community, Activity directors, older adults, veterans, etc.)

PAC members surveyed 30-40 other advisory councils at network libraries around the country. Summer programs at school systems. Sec State candidates come to PAC meetings every four years to tout their platforms and how they will serve library services for the blind five WTBBL staff members are doing different areas of targeted outreach, i.e. youth, older adults, veterans, independent living and activities director, latino community, quarterly volunteer orientations inspire additional outreach connections. WTBBL application has question about where did they hear about the library and place for outreach ambassador to mark what event they are at (highlighter colors). . Q&A: Where did WTBBL get braille fortune cookies? They will provide contact info. CSB in Fremont can customize fortune cookies with braille messages.

#### B. Perkins BTBL in Watertown/Boston shared

Their council has 15 members representing various constituencies including a member of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, BVA, and a Center for the Blind, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, MA Rehabilitation Commission, the Carroll Center for the Blind (rehab agency). They meet quarterly on a Wednesday from 12pm to 3pm with first hour a networking luncheon. Perkins serves 22-23,000 patrons. Community Health Survey indicates there are 100,000 eligible MA residents. Because of their affiliation with the Perkins Library they do not do direct outreach. Friends of the Library is the source of funding for Council activities such as prizes for summer reading programs, transmitter and headset/receivers to distribute to local theater groups for providing audio described theater performances. Perkins staff regularly presents new outreach materials and videos seeking the council's feedback. Working with the blind organizations within the council an event is held each March, which recognizes an outstanding senator or House of Representatives member. "Blind Legislative Day" at the State Capitol from Noon – 2pm draws 200 patrons and award is presented to the legislator of the year and then patrons make the rounds to lobby for one or two items to targeted reps. This advocacy has resulted in increases in Perkins budget! Perkins Friends also funds some memberships at local area museums, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Aquarium, Historic Gardner Museum, and patrons can sign up for passes throughout the year. Q&A: Legislative Day logistics? Legislator of year is given a plaque and all legislators in the audience are recognized after they have reported to a library rep (volunteer?) on the floor of the chamber. When patrons sign up for legislative day they provide their zip code, card provided with their unique reps, volunteers give sighted guide assistance to take them around to their legislators. To choose the winner a vote is taken within the committee. Consideration of nominees starts in summer, names will be floated based on voting record re blindness but also disability in general. Politics sometimes involved, i.e. if funding issues forthcoming then perhaps nominate the chair of Ways and Means Committee! WA did a PSA (public service announcement) on their local NPR station. Spanish outreach person has been interviewed on a Spanish tv/radio station. Sponsored a children's hour on the Spanish station with a PSA. WA SRP participants receive certificates but no prizes. Final thoughts many rewards but the challenges are logistical, i.e. funding to meet in person quarterly, travel logistics, etc. Everyone agrees conference calls are useful but not as satisfying as in person. Great conversation!!!

## 6. Committee Reports

Recruitment/Selection Committee – no report, no recruits

- Make an effort to recruit a Veteran for the council. (ACTION ITEM) People such as Scott Keys, Alice Turner, through email, newsletter, BVA, VA in Martinez, CA
- Explore Blind Field Services and DOR representative recruitment, or invite DOR rep to join or present at a BUAC meeting and vice versa, BUAC rep could go to a DOR consumer committee to present
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Outreach Committee

- Richard Rueda attended the **CTEBVI** conference where he was able to promote BTBL at the Society for the Blind exhibit table
- Andy Anderson promoted BTBL on Well Connected monthly telephone forum (formerly Senior Center without Walls)
- Mike Marlin was interviewed on KPFA Pushing Limits program on February 1 (<https://kpfa.org/episode/pushing-limits-february-1-2019/>)
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Alan Smith and fellow Contra Costa County Library Board of Commissioners met with U.S. Congress members Jerry McNamara and Mark DeSaulnierto discuss literacy and library's role in promoting it via IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) getting IMLS on their radar with tangent to BTBL funding.

- Request for BTBL to put together a calendar of annual outreach events. That will be a task for the next Library Technical Assistant (Reader Advisor) being actively recruited.
- Maile suggested we participate in the Braille Challenge (?) CCB event at San Francisco Public Library in the first week of February.
- A motion to form a Legislative Outreach Committee, which would bring legislation information to the BUAC, was made by Lenore Presley and seconded by Roslyn McCoy. Alan Smith was nominated and accepted leadership for this committee.
- Gayle has created a low vision support group through Los Gatos Elks Club. For COVE events we can mail outreach materials as we can for anyone on the Council. Gayle is willing to travel to help with other Northern CA BTBL outreach events!
- Discussion of how to track large print applications so BTBL staff knows where or which event an applicant learned about BTBL. Very difficult to do this as applications move around a lot, but BTBL staff will review and determine how to reinvigorate such a process.

## Director's Report

- Steps are still being taken for hiring the new Library Technical Assistant.
- Phillip Carbo from NLS will be training studio staff and volunteers April 30-May2. Studio has completed 12 titles that are now up on BARD. Discussion of the art of matching the right book with the right narrator.
- There is a need for Latino/Latina and African American narrators.
- Due to large amount of audio books being donated from commercial publishers, not all can be processed as cartridge books so NLS has made some of these available only through BARD. Alan Smith volunteered to contact a congressional representative to champion funding to make these audio books available through other avenues, i.e. possible augmentation of NLS funding to produce the books they are presently unable to put on cartridges. Alan asked for answers to the following questions: 1. How many books are available only on down load but not

on cartridges?, 2. How many such books are added each month?, 3. What is the full cost of producing one cartridge? How many are made for each book to cover the country?, 4. How much of an augmentation would it take to catch up in a year? How many more FTE are needed? Ditto computers or whatever equipment is used?, and 5. Do they have the room to add FTE and equipment?

- NLS is working with LC and members of Congress to update its enabling legislation to allow it to loan books to non-U.S. residents so that it can participate fully in the Marrakesh Treaty.
- There was concern expressed about the low volume of braille books being produced. This is due to problems with braille contractors and cost of production. With proposed 2020 pilot to test braille eReader and subsequent distribution of braille eReader devices, NLS can move toward a braille on demand model, which will shift resources and ideally streamline braille circulation.
- BookShare pilot will continue for a third year (September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. There are still memberships available.

#### 7. Old Business

#### 8. New Business

- The July BUAC meeting will have two speakers, Neil Bernstein and Don Olson. Questions about BARD 2.0 can be addressed then.
- Fines and fees were discussed, i.e. we do not have any! However, the 0 fines shows up in the OPAC record in a patron's account.
- It was noted to have a thorough conversation with your Reader Advisor about preferred books and the handling of book sequence in a series.
- There are no term limits on BUAC representatives for NFB and CCB. A suggestion was made to amend the bylaws to add Northern California Deaf Blind as a represented organization. This discussion will continue as a New Business item at the next meeting. Lenore agreed to research the bylaws for the discussion.
- Braille, audio, and large print music resources are available through NLS. The NLS headquarters music department can answer necessary questions and requests.
- Alan Smith suggested the July BUAC agenda to include discuss developing an award for the best Senator and best Assembly member, which will increase publicity for BTBL.

#### 10. Member Updates

- Janet Snow and Shannon Dillon will bring BUAC updates and news about NFB when available and make an effort to reach out to blind veterans. 2019 NFBC Convention Nov 7-10 in Milpitas.
- Richard Rueda stated Society of the Blind will have their Technology and Resource fair November 2.
- Lenore Presley requested BTBL applications to distribute at events she attends.
- Mary Jane Keyes mentioned Mueller Report on Bookshare and soon to be available via NLS BARD and cartridge for patrons who do not use computers, iPads, etc.

- Warren reminded BUAC that the CCB convention will be in Fresno June 5 - 9.

#### 11. Action Items Review

- a. Remove Arthur Sophus from the List Serve
- b. Recruit blind veteran representative to BUAC

\*Via Blind Veteran's Association

\*Via newsletter

\*Via email

\*Scott Keys

- c. Contact Blind Field Services for possible representative to BUAC

#### 12. Meeting Adjourned