

BRaille AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY USER ADVISORY COUNCIL
(Minutes approved at meeting of October 7, 2017)

Meeting Date: Saturday, July 15, 2017

*All cited "Action Items" will be listed at the end of the notes.

Attendance:

Gil Johnson, Chair, San Leandro
Alan B. Smith, Vice-Chair, Concord
Hy Cohen, Secretary, Stockton
Margie Donovan, Folsom
Finley Lindberg, Davis
Karen Parsegian, Sacramento
Roslyn McCoy, Mount Shasta
Janet Snow, Redding
Richard Rueda, Sacramento
Lenore Presley, Sacramento

BTBL Staff:

Mike Marlin, BTBL Director, Ex Officio
Mary Jane Kayes, BTBL Outreach/Reference Librarian
Donna Scales, BTBL Readers Advisor Supervisor

Guest Presenters:

Rebecca Wendt, SLS Bureau Chief, Ex Officio
Alex Vassar, Communications Director

Meeting Notes:

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 AM by Gil Johnson, Chair.

Approval of Agenda

Margie motioned to approve the agenda with Alan seconding. The meeting agenda was adopted with no changes.

Adoption of Minutes of March 4, 2017

Alan moved adoption, Margie seconded. Approval of minutes passed.

- Introductions of attendees and staff were made. New members were welcomed and encouraged to ask questions.

Gil announced that BUAC council member Shannon Ramsay passed away unexpectedly in April. Margie said she attended the memorial.

Remarks from Chair (Gil Johnson):

After going over ground rules/etiquette, Gil announced he will be moving in the next few months and will have to step down as Chair and as a member of the Council. CCB president Judy Wilkinson will be notified so that a new CCB representative can be appointed. He gave a reminder about discussing "Action Items" at conclusion of meeting.

SLS Bureau Chief Rebecca Wendt Presentation

Mike introduced Rebecca who then gave the Council an overview of her background, a brief description of how the library is broken down into 5 bureaus, and some of the challenges facing the state library and specifically BTBL. A lively discussion ensued. Gill recommended to Rebecca that she and all council members read *The Untold Story of the Talking Book* (DB 87099).

Recruitment Selection Committee

Margie acting as chair discussed the addition of Finley as the youth representative, in the same way Lenore represents the Deaf-blind community. The maximum number of Council members was discussed - max: 15, currently we have 10 members. Minorities and seniors were brought up as being important to recruit for the Council. Margie suggested Arthur Sophus of Stockton as a potential candidate for the council, duly noted for his intersectionality for the broader representation sought by BUAC. In addition to being a person of color and senior Arthur is a U.S. veteran.

Motion: Alan Moved and Karen seconded that the Council accept applications at any time of the year, such applications forwarded to the selection committee, that there be an electronic vote, and if confirmed mid-way through the calendar year, the new member's official term start the following January 1 for a 2-year term. Although prior to January 1 would be considered a provisional term, the new member would maintain voting rights once appointed. The motion passed.

BTBL Director's report:

- Mike recounted highlights from the NLS Western-Southern Regional Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico in the second week of May.
- A general discussion about future Talking Book players having Wi-Fi and text-to-speech, with the goal of the new player being out within 3-5 years.
- General discussion about the Orbit 20-cell braille display, and positives and negatives were discussed.
- BTBL hired a new staff member in the circulation unit.
- Free 1-year subscriptions to Bookshare through an IMLS grant was discussed.
- Status of the federal funding for the NLS libraries was summarized. To date, the funding has been restored by both House and Senate appropriations committees, but final votes in full House and Senate not yet achieved.

- Gill asked if Jim Fructerman, CEO of Benetech would give a presentation to the Council.

Committee Reports

A. Outreach Committee

Mike gave a debriefing on the legislative open house. 20 people signed the guest book. It was suggested by Gil to wait until 2019 for the next one.

B. Bylaws Committee

This new committee was established. Roslyn was elected Chair. Hy, Finley, Karen, and Janet volunteered to be on the committee.

Gil asked if the bylaws committee could examine a current provision that the chair is removed from Board after serving as the chair for 2 terms. Mike suggested that is not exactly how bylaws are written. Committee will investigate.

Alex Vassar, CSL Head of Communications/Preservation Presentation

Alex discussed ways to better communicate BTBL's services to the community, including Karen's suggestion about the possibility for a BARD party or "BARTY!", Suggestions included creating PowerPoint presentations, a monthly email update, participating in the Society for the Blind's event on October 14th, YouTube, and more.

NEW BUSINESS

Janet informed the council about the National Federation of the Blind's annual Washington Seminar, and their support for NLS distribution of refreshable braille displays that will save money over costs of embossing, storing, and delivering braille as a physical book.

Next Meeting Date

Motion: Alan – Moved for the next BUAC meeting be set for October 7, 2017.

Janet Seconded.

Motion passed

Action Items:

- Mike will contact Jim Fructerman at Benetech about a future presentation
- Bylaws Committee will investigate a variety of potential procedural updates.
- Outreach Committee will meet prior to next BUAC meeting.

- Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

