

Braille & Talking Book Library
User Advisory Council
Meeting notes, October 7, 2017

In Attendance:

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

Staff:

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

Absent:

Finley Lindberg, Davis

Guest:

Warren Cushman (incoming representative for California Council of the Blind)

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Meeting Action Items:

The following lists out our “action items” discussed throughout and at the end of the meeting.

- BTBL UAC member representatives will discuss with their respective consumer organizations (CCB & NFBC) the concept of drafting a resolution dealing with inefficiencies with the US Postal Service and improper handling and inconsistent delivery of NLS books on cartridge/cassette. With the nature of this

topic, Mike Marlin has requested that he be kept in the loop on this thread.

- Arthur, new member (Blind Veteran) to consider informing BTBL in 2018 perspectives on Blinded Veterans engagement and interactions with NLS/BTBL resources.
- Discussion ensued on Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) grant programs knowing more about BTBL/NLS services and perhaps additional/ongoing outreach to these organizations.
- Outreach Committee will work on central talking points that all BUAC members can use and reference when talking up BTBL & NLS. Additionally, Mike was encouraged to lean on Outreach Committee to aid in this completion.
- Bylaws Committee will revisit proposed language and refresh some wording based on feedback during 10/7/17 meeting and send out next draft for comment and then proceed accordingly
- Mike Marlin will contact Greg Lucas, inviting him to a meeting with the UAC at one of our scheduled 2018 meeting dates.
- Mike Marlin will contact Jim Fructermen, inviting him to come and speak at an upcoming meeting.
- Meeting dates for 2018, except autumn were scheduled and are Jan 20, April 28 and July 28.

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Gil Johnson opened the meeting at 10:42 AM with opening remarks including:

- Finley L, will be out due to illness.
 - Welcomed new member Arthur Sophus, who is representing Blind Veterans.
 - Noted Hy Cohen's resignation as Secretary.
 - Richard agreed to take notes.
- **October 7 Meeting agenda approved:
Margie moved, and Hy seconded approval of agenda.**
- July meeting notes approved with spelling correction.
Alan moved approval motion, Karen seconded.
- **Minutes of July 15 passes,**
 - **Gil noted that as he intends to move south in a few months, that this will be his last meeting with BTBL and as**

Chair. He also noted that chairing the BTBL has been a high point for him.

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Director's Report:

- **Mike Marlin next gave his Director's report:**
- Provided a brief history and background on the dynamics of BTBL, its mission, staff roles and who BTBL serves. This also was intended for newer members and guests attending for their first meeting. Discussion also included why "Physically Handicapped" has not been removed from NLS name, without an act of Congress.
- **Sub-regional libraries, smaller, intimate, 2 in CA, SF and Fresno,**
- **Early 70s boom with emergence of more libraries,**
- **Circulation hub, Warehouse**
- **Supervisor plus 5.5 Readers Advisors, .5 is retired annuitant**
- **+ other duties as assigned,**
- **65 - 70K calls annually,**
- **Various behind the scenes duties, tech, registration, enrollment, handling accounts, magazine facilitation, account management, BARD, tech support, Bookshare as well**
- **Multi-talented, multi-faceted**
- **Circulation staff, 1 supervisor, 5 office assistant staff, 2 to 3K items sent out daily.**
- **Machine triage**
- **Librarians do all. Above reference questions,**
- **Outreach,**
- **Revised agency collection development plan,**
- **Based on Collection development building model by NLS**
- **National scale, reader count is down,**
- **NLS served half million at one point, and now 3 to 400K.**
- **Competing services, literacy rates, disability services at colleges making things available**
- **Median age of users has increased from 71 to 73 , baby-boomer users are beginning to retire,**
- ****View from members that TVI's are not aware/sharing BTBL***

- **Mike provided meeting updates since July,**
- **Grant received from IMLS, for Bookshare pilot project,**
- **BTBL has used 100 license seats so far, of 140. May look at other funding to offer more seats from other funding source.**
- **Bookshare Seats costs for BTBL is \$35. \$50 for individuals,**
- **Patient centric cartridges, PCC**
- **PCC = cartridge with name on it, put 10 books on it at once**
- **Reader advisors load executable files**
- **Rating unrated books, NLS commercial books, not rated, volunteer project in network to have them rated. This is being held up by language needing to address state employee telework criteria, so it takes into account impact on volunteers and worker's compensation.**
- **Recording studio = AV Assistant = rosters of qualified classification = vacancy for BTBL. Currently there is a similar position in the Franchise Tax Board and BTBL is hoping to use same description to announce job posting.**
- **From Mike's vantage point, BTBL staff really values advisory council feedback and Mike validated / verify genuine belief in this group,**
- **Gil asked Mike what UAC can do to help BTBL thrive.**
- **> Responses: get member bios to Mike, bylaws, help with membership.**
- **Mike noted that state library web page is frozen for new content as revised web site is under construction.**
- **Mike also informed BTBL UAC members that they were invited to the BTBL & state library holiday party on Friday, December 7 in the afternoon. No expenses would be covered but if members are in town, are welcome to attend.**

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Old business,

- **Alan discussed ongoing issue with cartridges mailings, missing cassette's, and account surrounding missed, lost and delay of books. Several comments and insights were discussed. See "action item" above surrounding recommendation and outcome.**

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Committee Reports:

Member Selection and Recruitment Committee:

*** Margie noted recent additions to BTBL as work done by Recruitment Committee: Arthur was reintroduced. Warren is to be an appointment from the California Council of the Blind effective January 2018. It was noted that there still is a need for a Parent and or Teacher representative.**

Outreach Committee:

- Karen reported looking into Arizona state library services for the blind materials. Some of their talking points are on target with what we want/need in California. This will help us all speak with one voice when doing outreach. See “action item” at beginning of document surrounding developing materials to address this. Mike can also assist in the development of strategizing on “talking points”.**
- There was also discussion on BTBL having a top priority to draft 3 paragraph brief for state legislator local/regional newsletters going to their constituents.**
- There was a brief mention about a BTBL write up on KCRA.com.**

Bylaws Committee:

- Discussion surrounded the proposed new bylaws document and several questions were raised and clarification sought.**
- Margie made a motion to table the bylaws discussion and to have the committee continue to work on language and to circulate via email for discussion. Hy seconded the motion. Motion passed.**
- Ultimately, the bylaws to be voted on need to be circulated 14 days prior to final discussion and casting of votes**

Elections:

- **Gil as Chair announced the slate candidates for the next term.
Slate was, Chair, Richard Rueda, Vice Chair, Alan Smit, Secretary,
Vacant.**
- **Elections were opened and the position of Chair was asked for nominations. Hy Cohen self-nominated himself. There were no other nominations from the floor. Brief speeches were made and after votes were tallied, Richard Rueda was elected in as incoming Chair.**
- Elections for the position of Vice Chair were opened. Hy Cohen nominated himself. Alan was also nominated as was Margie. Votes were casted after a brief speech and Alan Smith was elected Vice Chair.
- After discussion on the vacancy of Secretary, Roslyn McCoy accepted a nomination and was voted by acclamation, of which Hy Cohen moved.

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New Business:

- **Discussion on future agenda items / topics included (see “action items”) inviting back Greg Lucas and inviting Jim Fructermen himself to come and speak.**
- BTBL user Advisory Council meeting dates were agreed upon for 2018 including
 - > Saturday, January 20, 2018
 - > Saturday, April 28, 2018
 - > Saturday, July 28, 2018
 - > Autumn meeting date will be discussed at January meeting.
- **Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.**