

2015 Annual Report

National Braille Association



NATIONAL BRAILLE ASSOCIATION

95 Allens Creek Road, Building 1, Suite 202, Rochester, NY 14618

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President's Message

Dear NBA Members and Friends,

Now in its 71st year of service, the National Braille Association is the only national organization that exclusively provides continuing education to individuals who transcribe braille. We are honored to have this distinction. Braille is the medium that allows an individual who is blind to have access to the same reading materials as their sighted peers. The work of a transcriber is a crucial link between print and braille, for it is the transcriber who ensures that the braille is an accurate representation of the print. Accurate and properly formatted braille helps individuals who are blind achieve success in their education, their career, and in their daily lives.

As many of you know, implementation of the new Unified English Braille (UEB) code took place in the United States in January of this year. This has created a challenge for teachers of the blind and visually impaired, braille transcribers, braille readers, and anyone else involved in the braille industry. Learning a brand new code is a monumental task. The National Braille Association continues to be impressed by the resolve of transcribers who are dedicating so much time to learning this new code.

As an organization dedicated to the training of braille transcribers, the National Braille Association has spent much of its time over the past two years preparing people for the transition to the new code. But our work is far from over. Even though we are six months into the implementation of UEB, we are still learning about how it impacts the work of the transcriber. We are responding to the ever-changing information by developing and offering new educational opportunities.

In the fall of this year, we will be hosting a professional development conference in St. Louis, Missouri, where transcribers can attend three days of classes on various aspects of the new code. We will be continuing to respond to technical questions through our Ask an Expert Forum; and our professional journal, *The Bulletin*, will remain informative with new skills articles to provide clarification and recommendations based on the many new guidelines. Additionally, we are excited to announce that we will begin offering webinars this summer as another avenue for obtaining instruction.

Although transitioning to a new code is difficult, the National Braille Association is excited about the opportunity it has given us to serve our purpose. But we cannot do it alone. The cost of providing training to transcribers, especially during this time of change, exceeds the income it generates. It is through the generous donations of our members and friends that our work is possible. By supporting the National Braille Association today with a charitable gift, you will be helping to ensure that the critical work of providing training to transcribers on this new code will continue. I'd like to thank you, in advance, for any contribution you can make.

Sincerely,



Whitney Gregory

President



About Our Board of Directors

The National Braille Association, Inc. is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors which formulates the policies and procedures needed to implement NBA's programs.

All members of the Board are involved in services which promote braille literacy. They are braille transcribers, teachers of the visually impaired, braille production facility supervisors, coordinators of volunteer groups, rehabilitation teachers, and retired professors. The Board meets twice a year to conduct the business of the organization.

Board members are nominated by the NBA membership. A nominating committee is then responsible for recommending candidates for officer and director positions. Elections are held at the annual membership meeting.

What is truly unique about this board is that it is a working board.

Each member volunteers not only the time needed to attend the meetings, but also performs the tasks his or her position requires. Board members chair administrative committees that oversee fund development, public relations, and the production of the *Bulletin* and other publications. A Board member is NBA's meetings planner.

A Board member may also chair one of the skills committees. It is the responsibility of the skills committees to develop and lead workshops and write articles for the *Bulletin* in the various braille specialties: literary code, textbook format, mathematics and science, music, tactile graphics, computer-assisted transcription, and foreign language. The result of these efforts provides training for transcribers so that they can produce quality braille for the blind and visually impaired.

NBA Board Roster

Executive Committee

President

Whitney Williams
Houston, Texas

Secretary

Cindi Laurent
Edina, Minnesota

Elected Member from the Board

Robert Beaton
Flat Rock, Michigan

President Elect

Heidi Lehmann
Castorland, New York

Treasurer

Diane Spence
Houston, Texas

Vice President

Jana Hertz
Aliso Viejo, California

Immediate Past President

Jan Carroll
Louisville, Kentucky

Directors

Wendy Benckhuysen
Alberta, Canada

Carol Greer
Federal Way, Washington

Kyle DeJute
Louisville, Kentucky

Betty Marshall
Alberta, Canada

National Office Staff

Executive Director

David Shaffer
Rochester, New York

Operations Manager

Christopher Clemens
Rochester, New York

Bookkeeper

Marty Soderlund
Rochester, New York



Balance Sheet

December 31, 2015

National Braille Association enjoys the participation of many volunteers who donate their services in a variety of ways. These volunteers assist NBA by serving on its Board of Directors, its Committees and at the National Office in Rochester, New York. Because of the unique quality of the work involved, no objective basis is available to measure the value of donated services. Therefore, no amounts for donated services have been reflected in the accompanying financial statement.

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	70,253
Investments	1,226,192
Accounts Receivable	2,575
Inventories	2,965
Prepaid Expenses	2,565
Fixed Assets	
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	91,641
Master Volumes	1,972
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(91,724)
Net Fixed Assets	1,889
Total Assets	1,306,439

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	2,169
Accrued Payroll Taxes	--
Deferred Membership Dues	9,880
Deferred Subscriptions	770
Total Liabilities	12,819
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Operating	518,761
Board Designated	
Archer Fund	3,408
Special Projects	--
Total Unrestricted	522,169
Temporarily Restricted	102,190
Permanently Restricted	
Alice Mann Endowment	669,261
Total Net Assets	1,293,620
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,306,439



The NBA Roll of Honor

NBA is grateful for the monetary and in-kind gifts received from the following individuals and organizations in 2015.

FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2015

AmazonSmile	Sally Hering Trust
Braille Publishers	Impact Devices
The Community Foundation	The Manny Fund
Desert Volunteer Braille Guild (Phoenix, AZ)	Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund
ExxonMobil	Visual Aid Volunteers (Garland, TX)
Bette Fritz Bielefeldt Living Trust	Visually Impaired Partnership
GE Foundation	

FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2015

Rita Abrams	Patricia Hunt
Erma Akey	Margaret Jackson
Olga Baron	Helen Jacob
Elaine Betschart	David Jenson
Andrew Biles	Anne Katlic
Mary Blakemore	Ann Kelt
Bonnie Jean Bolsen	John Koning
Peter and Allison Burrows	Lynne Luxton
Barbara Busboom	Jean Macco
Mary Daniel	Karen Malver
Sheila Gales	Kathleen McGrath
Maureen Gillespie	Marion Merrill
Howard Goldstein	Robert Miller
Wendy Hardy	Ralph and Mary Lou Penner
Herbert and Sandra Harrison	Diana Pollack
Martha Herting	Andre Pritchett
Judy Hornsby	Edgar and Ruth Riehl

FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2015, CONTINUED

Edith Riehl	Kirk Smith
Bonnie Rothman	Lois Spritzer
Sandra Rowley	Russell Steedley
Ann Schlosser	Michelle Sterner
Mary Shafer	Dick and Sandy Wood
Brian Shaffer	Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Zordan
Jim Shaffer	

MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2015

Nancy and James Amick	Priscilla Harris
Lois Andersen	Elizabeth Hazen
Reeva Anderson	Patricia Herrling
Charlotte Arnstein	Fred and Mildred Irwig
Lois Arntzen	David Jordan
Karin Auckenthaler	Lucy Killeen
Susan Baker	Linda Kirchgessner
Robert Beaton	Judith Kramer
Deborah Brown	Marjorie LaBella
William Buending	John Lampert
Jessie Buzawa	Sarah Lappe
Kathleen Cantrell	Carol Lawrence
Lynn Carroll	Debra Leff
Rebecca Cator	Donna Marhoun
Jo Ellyn Cohen	Keitha Martin
Webb Comfort	Jean McNamara
Dorothy Davis	Jane Minnick
Marilyn Dickey	Virginia Molinaro
David Goldstein	Jean Moritz
Wendy Gosselin	Dr. Kimberly Morrow
Leon Harkleroad	Donald Moser



MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2015, CONTINUED

Laurie Moynihan	Kathleen Talley
Patsy Neustadt	Janice Taylor
Edith Nicholson	Theresa Thorpe
Jane Perry	Fred Van Ackeren
Susan Rothman	Robert Wegner
Sally Saunders	Diana White
Russell Steedley	Jacqueline Wise
Susanne Suchan	

LIFE MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2015

Kathleen Bloden	Ellen Kimbrough
Janice Brewer	Kiko Kimura
Jessie Buzawa	Lucinda Kuiper
Jo Cassidy	Shelley Mack
Angela Coffaro	Judy Matsuoka
Lucinda Collins	Sheila McCain
Karen Cossman	Linda McGovern
Elizabeth Doane	Beverly McKenney
Bettie Downing	Lily Meiners
Janis Falk	Nan Mills-Smith
Cynthia Fastman	Carol Morrison
Nancy Fosdick	Marie Nysten
Alfred and Mary Jo Gilbert	Darlene Plante
Carmen Gilchrest	Barbara Rudin
Carol Greer	Adam Ruschival
Dawn Gross	Rodney Rynearson
Debbie Haberkorn	Dr. Lawrence Smith
Helen Hendrickson	Carol Snyder
Mary Hubbard	Karen Stowe
Peggy Jackson	Judy Strauss-Schwartz

LIFE MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2015, CONTINUED

Barbara Taffet

Lisa Vervena

Joyce Van Tuyl

Dorothy Worthington

GIFTS-IN-KIND IN 2015

Robert Beaton

Cindi Laurent

Wendy Benckhuysen

Betty Marshall

Saralyn Borboa

Robinson and Gordon, CPA

Jan Carroll

Diane Spence

Kyle DeJute

Joanna E. Venneri

Carol Greer

Dorothy Worthington

Whitney Gregory

Jana Hertz



How to Make a Gift to NBA

Since National Braille Association's inception in 1945, individuals, corporations, and foundations have made contributions of all sizes to provide the resources needed for achieving and maintaining our goals. The need for financial and volunteer support continues as we strive to provide for growth, change, and the future.

There are many ways to support NBA:

- **Annual Gift**—Contributions of any size are welcome in cash or securities. Cash gifts may be sent to the National Office at any time or charged to a credit card. Gifts of common stock and other securities may be transferred electronically into our General Investment Fund. It is suggested that you contact the Executive Director to obtain the correct routing numbers before making such a transfer.
- **Bequest**—Designate the National Braille Association, Inc. as a beneficiary of a portion of your estate. You or your attorney may contact the Executive Director for appropriate wording to incorporate into your will.
- **Insurance**—Designate NBA as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- **Memorial or Tribute**—Pay tribute to a living or deceased person with a donation to NBA. Celebrate a birth, wedding, graduation, anniversary, or other special event in the life of someone you know.
- **Employee Matching Plan**—Your employer may have a policy of matching employee contributions to nonprofit organizations. NBA qualifies for most such programs.
- **Loyalty and Credit Card Rewards**—Many Loyalty and Credit Card Reward companies allow you to use your reward points towards a donation to the National Braille Association.

Although unrestricted contributions to the general fund provide National Braille Association with the flexibility to use your gift in the area of greatest need as determined by NBA's Board of Directors, you have the option to designate your gift to the following special fund:

- **Mary Archer Scholarship Fund**-- The purpose of the Mary Archer Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships equal to the amount of the cost of registration to those attending an NBA conference for the first time.

Every contribution is deeply appreciated as we work together and share our resources with others.

National Braille Association is a nonprofit educational organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Our Federal Identification Number is 22-6064715.