



CATALOG OF AVAILABLE TRAININGS

NATIONAL **BRAILLE** ASSOCIATION

On-Site Training

A service provided by NBA's Training Bureau





NATIONAL BRAILLE ASSOCIATION

equal access to print through excellence in braille

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FOUNDED IN 1945

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Switzerland, Florida

Dear Friends and Prospective Customers,

National Braille Association, Inc. (NBA) has been providing professional development training to braille transcribers for over 60 years. We are the only national organization solely dedicated to this purpose. Our ultimate goal is to teach individuals how to produce high quality, uniformly formatted braille materials so that individuals who are blind can have access to the same reading materials as their sighted peers.

For years, NBA has limited its professional development training to its semi-annual conferences. Although these conferences provide a great forum for learning and networking with others in the field, we realize that for a multitude of reasons, many individuals and organizations are unable to attend. We are very pleased to now offer onsite training as an alternative to our conferences.

Enclosed, please find a listing of the workshops that are currently available for onsite training. This listing will grow over time as new materials are developed. If you don't see what you're looking for, we encourage you to contact us. We'd be happy to create a training to suit your specific needs.

If you are interested in utilizing this exciting, new service, please contact David Shaffer at the NBA National Office at (585) 427-8260. We look forward to working with you.

The National Braille Association Team

Meet Your **NBA** Trainers



Whitney Gregory is the Executive Director of Visual Aid Volunteers, Inc. of Garland, Texas. She is certified as both a literary braille transcriber and textbook formatter. Whitney has served on the National Braille Association (NBA) Board of Directors since 2007. She is the author of several NBA training publications and has presented numerous workshops at NBA Professional Development Conferences on textbook formatting and using NIMAS files. Whitney is the current Chair of the NBA Training Bureau Committee and is largely responsible for the development of NBA's onsite training service.

Whitney Gregory
Garland, Texas
wgregory@vavtx.org

Cindi was certified in literary braille in 1997 and immediately began braille for Minnesota State Services for the Blind as a volunteer. She has been the Coordinator for Volunteer Braille Services (VBS) in Golden Valley, Minnesota, since 2005. VBS does transcription work for individuals and agencies. They also maintain a braille library of both print/braille books (for younger readers) and novels for young adults/teens. Cindi coordinates the assignments (and works on them) as well as overseeing the volunteers that are currently working with VBS. Cindi has been serving on the National Braille Association Board of Directors since 2008. She has served as the Chair of the NBA Computer-Assisted Transcription Committee and is the current Chair of the NBA Braille Formats Course Committee which oversees the certification program for braille textbook formatting.



Cindi Laurent
Edina, Minnesota
cindilaurent@yahoo.com

Meet Your **NBA** Trainers, cont.



Betty began her career with Alberta Education in 1991 as a braille transcriber. There she is part of a team that produces textbooks and examinations in braille for Alberta students. Through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, she earned the Transcriber's, Nemeth, and Proofreading Certificates. She has served as the chair of NBA's Tactile Graphics Committee since April 2008. She enjoys the detail work of creating tactile graphics and teaching others how to improve their skills in this area.

Betty Marshall
Sherwood Park, Alberta, CANADA
betty.marshall@shaw.ca

Joanna was certified by NLS in literary braille in 1980 and by NBA as a textbook transcriber in 2004. She is chair of these NBA committees: Foreign Language Braille, Formats/Textbook, and Publications. She is a member of the NBA Computer-Assisted Transcription Committee and the NBA Formats Course Committee. Joanna is the present editor of the NBA *Bulletin*.



Joanna E. Venneri
San Francisco, California
jvenneri@aol.com

Meet Your **NBA** Trainers, cont.



Dorothy has served as Chair of the National Braille Association Math and Science Braille Committee for 7 years. She has been on the NBA Board of Directors since 2003. She holds certifications in Literary, Nemeth, and Braille Formats Codes, and has been an active volunteer brailist since her original literary certification in 1988. After working for 13 years as a professional braille transcriber for a school district, she retired from that position in 2006. She is currently the President of Volunteer Braille Services in Minnesota, where she conducts literary braille classes and workshops relating to the codes in which she is certified. She is Chair of the BANA (Braille Authority of North America) Math and Science Technical Committee, and Consultant to the BANA Braille Formats Technical Committee.

Dorothy Worthington
Minnetonka, Minnesota
dworthing@comcast.net

AVAILABLE TRAININGS

How Many Words Is A Picture Worth

This half-day workshop will explore several parts of Rule 17, concentrating on writing good descriptions of illustrations and cartoons. It will also address the problem of how to handle graphic novels and plays which have become very popular. All levels of textbook transcribers will find pertinent information in this presentation.

Literary Braille Refresher Course

This one-day workshop will utilize the *Literary Braille Refresher Course for Teachers and Transcribers*, written by Constance Risjord, as a comprehensive review of the Literary Braille Code. Each participant will receive a copy of this valuable resource, which includes numerous exercises, self-tests and a complete answer section. *NOTE: This course is not intended for use as a means of initial braille instruction; rather, it is a review for those who need to re-acquaint themselves with the braille rules.*

Overview of Braille Formats

This two-day workshop will provide a general overview of *Braille Formats: Principles of Print to Braille Transcription*, including the *BANA Braille Codes Update, 2007*. Students will explore each rule that supplies the foundation used when formatting braille educational materials.

Overview of Nemeth

This two-day workshop will provide a general overview of the *Nemeth Braille Code for Mathematics and Science Notation, 1972 Revision*, including the *BANA Braille Codes Update, 2007*. It is intended for any and all persons who transcribe mathematics and science educational materials whether experience or inexperienced, certified or non-certified. The course is based on *Learning the Nemeth Braille Code, A Manual for Teachers and Students*, adopted by BANA in 1987 and written by Ruth H. Craig.

Tactile Graphics Using CoreIDRAW X4

Even if you can't draw a straight line or a round circle, CoreIDRAW will enable you to unlock your inner artist, and assist you in creating tactile graphics suitable for printing on an embosser or developing on microcapsule paper. This two-day, comprehensive course is perfect for beginners, but those with design experience will also benefit from the detailed, step-by-step instructions. In addition to setting up specific preferences on your computer, you will use various drawing tools, and learn tips and tricks to gain efficiencies in your work. The ninety-page instruction manual originally written for use by Alberta Education includes a CD with exercise examples and a template developed specifically for braille tactile graphics. Registration is limited to no more than ten participants. This workshop requires participants to bring a laptop computer installed with CoreIDRAW X4.

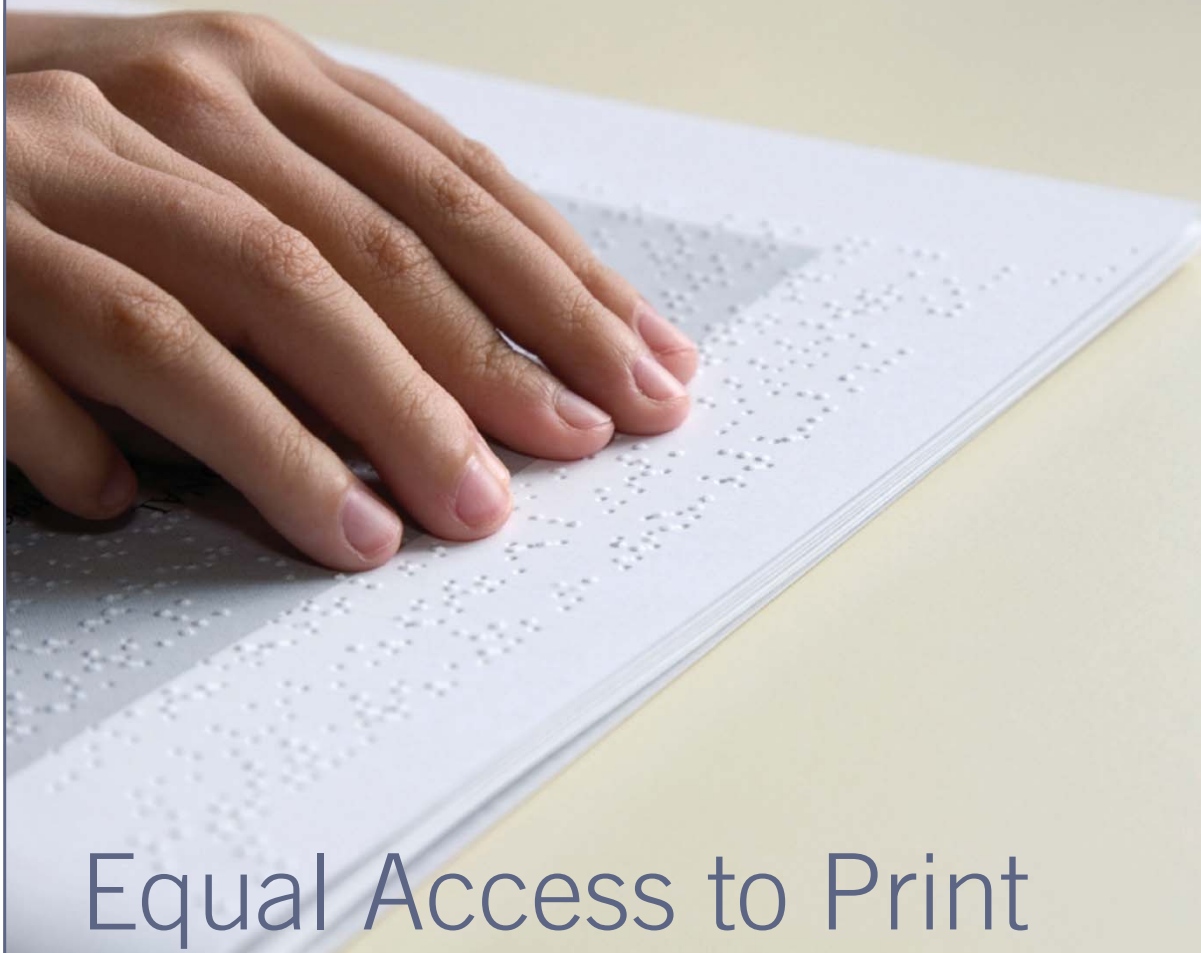
AVAILABLE TRAININGS, CONT.

Using NIMAS Files with NimPro for MegaDots

This one-day workshop will provide hands-on training on processing NIMAS files using NimPro. If you use MegaDots and want to learn more about the best way to utilize this program with NIMAS files, then this workshop is for you! You will use actual NIMAS files and walk through all the recommended steps for increasing your accuracy and efficiency as you transcribe them into quality braille. This workshop requires all participants to bring a laptop computer installed with both NimPro and MegaDots 2.4.

Using NIMAS Files with NimPro for DBT

This one-day workshop will provide hands-on training on processing NIMAS files using NimPro. If you use DBT and want to learn more about the best way to utilize this program with NIMAS files, then this workshop is for you! You will use actual NIMAS files and walk through all the recommended steps for increasing your accuracy and efficiency as you transcribe them into quality braille. This workshop requires all participants to bring a laptop computer installed with both NimPro and DBT 10.7.



Equal Access to Print

Through Excellence in Braille

National Braille Association is the only national organization dedicated to the continuing education of those who prepare and produce braille materials. We offer:

- Semi-annual Professional Development Conferences
- Training materials in all areas of braille transcription
- Certification in textbook formatting
- Quarterly professional journal, the *NBA Bulletin*
- Special discounts for members



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