

2017 Annual Report

National Braille Association



NATIONAL BRAILLE ASSOCIATION

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

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Dear NBA Members and Friends,

Behind every visually impaired person, there are hundreds of compassionate people dedicated to helping them succeed in life. And because of your donation to the National Braille Association, you're one of our most generous helpers! Thank you so much.

Each year the National Braille Association provides continuing education to those who prepare braille materials to persons who are visually impaired. Your continued support is vital to many of the services that we offer our membership.

Over the past 2 years we have been able to launch our online learning portal which allows us to host monthly Braille Byte webinars for volunteer transcribers all over North America. Due to generous donors, we continue to provide this service at no cost to all who are diligently working behind the scenes to bring quality braille materials to students across the nation and beyond.

In addition to these webinars, the National Braille Association also hosts an annual Professional Development Conference each fall in which transcribers learn from industry experts, develop their braille transcribing skills, and network with colleagues.

These opportunities come at a cost and we're thankful to partner with generous donors who are committed to helping the visually impaired community.

I'm writing to ask that you partner with us again this year to make these dreams a reality for those who live without their sight. Their academic achievements are dependent upon the ability to receive quality braille materials and your contribution ensures their future success!

Thank you for sending such a powerful message of hope to those who are visually impaired.

Sincerely,



Heidi Lehmann

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 policies and procedures, membership development, 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: Unified English Braille, 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

Heidi Lehmann
Castorland, New York

Vice President

Betty Marshall
Alberta, Canada

Treasurer

Jan Carroll
Louisville, Kentucky

President Elect

Cindi Laurent
Edina, Minnesota

Secretary

Diane Spence
Houston, Texas

Elected Member from the Board

Jana Hertz
Aliso Viejo, California

Directors

Robert Beaton

Flat Rock, Michigan

Saul Garza

Brownstown Twp., Michigan

Rebecca Sherwood

Seattle, Washington

Kyle DeJute

Louisville, Kentucky

Cindy Olmstead

Jackson, Michigan

Julie Sumwalt

Janesville, Wisconsin

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, 2017

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	50,943
Investments	2,645,861
Accounts Receivable	--
Inventories	2,595
Prepaid Expenses	3,621
Fixed Assets	
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	72,122
Master Volumes	1,972
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(74,089)
Net Fixed Assets	5
Total Assets	2,703,025

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	1,011
Accrued Payroll Taxes	--
Deferred Membership Dues	--
Deferred Subscriptions	--
Total Liabilities	1,011
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Operating	1,776,124
Board Designated	
Archer Fund	2,488
Total Unrestricted	1,778,612
Temporarily Restricted	254,141
Permanently Restricted	
Alice Mann Endowment	669,261
Total Net Assets	2,702,014
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2,703,025



The NBA Roll of Honor

NBA is grateful for the monetary and in-kind gifts received from the following individuals and organizations in 2017.

FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2017

Amazon Smile Foundation	Exxon Mobil
Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses	Fidelity Charitable Trust
Beach Cities Braille Guild	GE Foundation
Bette Fritz Bielefeldt Living Trust	National Christian Foundation
Brandywine Independent Living	Visual Aid Volunteers
The Community Foundation	The Visually Impaired Partnership
Culbertson Family Trust	
Estate of Lillian Jeanette Jewell	

FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2017

Susan Abrahamson	Mary Elliott
Pamela Allen	Michael Emanule
Charlotte Arnstein	Beverly Ferguson
Lois Arntzen	Howard Goldstein
Dr. Andrew Biles	Bryna Greenspan
Marion Block	Elizabeth Horn
Bonnie Jean Bolsen	Anne Katlic
Betty Bruno	John Lampert
Robert Buntrock	Jean Macco
Lynn Carroll	Terrence McCafferty
Martin Cassidy	Ann McElwee
Daisy Cheng	Kathleen McGrath
Sylvia Chun	Marion Merrill
Maxine Cook	Gloria Moyer
Rebecca Curry	Ellen Nigrosh
Robert DeDeyn	Linda Riley

FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2017, CONTINUED

Bonnie Rothman	Elaine Spinale
Sandra Rowley	Michele Sterner
Ellen Rudolph	Carol Striker
Sarah Rudolph	Beth Traubert
Sally Saunders	Anita Turk
Kirk Smith	C. Woolley
Liz and Dick Spicer	Aldo and Virginia Zordan

MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2017

Karin Auckenthaler	Jacqueline Malewicz
Mary Byrd	Rebecca Millikan
Jo Ellyn Cohen	Jane Minnick
Marilyn Dickey	Donald Moser
Dorothy Gae Davis	Cindy Olmstead
David Goldstein	Isabelle Osborne
Terri Hill	Constance Risjord
Harriette Jackler	Susan Rothman
Marcia Kline	Susan Suchan
Betty Marshall	Janice Taylor



LIFE MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2017

Jan Brewer	Fred and Mildred Irwig
Betsy Burnham	Fay Isackson
Jessie Buzawa	Ellen Kimbrough
Jan Carroll	Lucinda Kuiper
Jo Cassidy	Lynne Luxton
Angela Coffaro	Shelley Mack
Elizabeth Doane	Carol Morrison
Carolyn Durkin	Carolyn Ruby
Diana Dyal	Adam Ruschival
Janis Falk	Rodney Rynearson
Nancy Fosdick	Barbara Sheperdigian
Janice Hallberg	Carol Snyder
Wilma Hane	Karen Stowe
Priscilla Harris	Judy Strauss-Schwartz
Helen Hendrickson	Susan Van Dehey
Jana Hertz	Lisa Vervena
Vicki Holm	Jacquelyn Walker
Renee Horowitz	Lindy Walton
Linda Horton	Jean Webber
Mary Hubbard	

GIFTS-IN-KIND IN 2017

Robert Beaton	Cindi Laurent
Wendy Benckhuysen	Heidi Lehmann
Jan Carroll	Betty Marshall
Kyle DeJute	Cindy Olmstead
Robinson and Gordon, CPA	Rebecca Sherwood
Carol Greer	Diane Spence
Jana Hertz	Julie Sumwalt

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.