

# 2018 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,

Dear Members and Friends of the National Braille Association,

As I look out upon the horizon of NBA's future, I am both excited and optimistic about the days ahead. It is with great anticipation that we will be celebrating our platinum 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. With over seven decades of continued education to those who prepare braille, our organization has remained faithful to its mission: to ensure that transcribers are producing quality braille materials in a consistent manner.

One year after its 1945 début, the National Braille Association published its first *Bulletin*. Every three months this vital communication link between braille experts and dispersed volunteers was delivered via the postal system in both print and braille. Eleven years later NBA hosted its first national conference, providing volunteers an opportunity to meet face to face to discuss transcribing problems and to attend workshops explaining the new braille codes.

Fast forward 75 years. As we all know, the world is a much different place. The internet is an integral part of our professional lives and NBA has proudly kept pace with this technology-driven culture. The quarterly professional journal is now a downloadable PDF and the online forum, *Ask An Expert*, allows our membership to have their questions answered in hours instead of weeks. A typical day at the National Office now involves hosting *Braille Byte* webinars, posting content to Twitter and sending out informational e-blasts, all before lunchtime. Yet, as a respectful nod to our past, the Annual Professional Development Conferences remain unchanged, providing valuable classroom and networking opportunities to young and old alike.

We continue to be thankful for the generous donations that make these learning experiences timely and relevant to our membership that serve the visually impaired community. I am writing to ask that you partner with us again this year to make the academic achievements of these students a reality. Their need for high-quality, accurate braille is imperative to their success and without transcribers who are willing to give of their time and effort to learn the codes, these students would be at a severe disadvantage.

Thank you for sending an unequivocal message of hope by supporting the National Braille Association.

Sincerely,



Heidi Lehmann

President



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## 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**

Kyle DeJute  
Louisville, Kentucky

**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

**Patrick Janson**

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

**Julie Sumwalt**

Janesville, Wisconsin

**Randy Davis**

Dallas, Georgia

**Betty Marshall**

Alberta Canada

**Guy Toles**

Atlanta, Georgia

**Saul Garza**

Brownstown Twp., Michigan

**Cindy Olmstead**

Jackson, Michigan

### 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, 2018**

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.

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	59,805
Investments	2,379,191
Accounts Receivable	5,629
Inventories	2,291
Prepaid Expenses	3,929
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	72,122
Master Volumes	1,972
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(74,089)
<b>Net Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,450,845</b>

<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	7,491
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Net assets without donor restrictions	1,524,631
Net assets with donor restrictionst	918,723
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>2,443,354</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>2,450,845</b>



## The NBA Roll of Honor

**NBA is grateful for the monetary and in-kind gifts received from the following individuals and organizations in 2018.**

### **FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2018**

Amazon Smile	The Lorma E. Gardner Endowment Fund
Braille Group of Buffalo	Sally Hering Trust
Braille Publishers, Inc.	Merck Foundation
ExxonMobil Foundation	National Christian Foundation Twin Cities
Fidelity Charitable Trust	Volunteer Braille Services of Minnesota
Bette Fritz Bielfeldt Living Trust	

### **FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2018**

James Allen	John Lampert
Reeva Anderson	Carol Lawrence
Cecile Beresford	Debra Leff
Dr. Andrew Biles	Jean Macco
Bonnie Jean Bolsen	Glenn Edward MacDonald
Lynn Carroll	Jacqueline Malewicz
Daisy Cheng	Kathleen McGrath
Sylvia Chun	Jean McNamara
Jo Ellyn Cohen	Marion Merrill
Mary Daniel	Donald Moser
Dorothy Davis	Gloria Moyer
Mary Elliott	Bonnie Rothman
Beverly Ferguson	Sandra Rowley
Grace Franze	Sandra Ruconich
Howard Goldstein	Sally Saunders
Wendy Gosselin	Eli Schwartz
Anne Katlic	Sheryl Shaffer
Marcia Kline	Dorothy Shaw



**FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2018, CONTINUED**

Richard Spicer	Anita Turk
Christina Stopa	Jacqueline Wise
Carol Striker	Cynthia Wright
Susanne Suchan	Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Zordan

**MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2018**

Lois Andersen	Betty Marshall
Sandra Brown	Jane Minnick
Kathy Dorn	Susan Robertson
Jeanne Ferguson	Charles Wadman
David Goldstein	Aggie Zicari
Keith Lindersmith	



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## LIFE MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2018

Patty Biasca

Janice Brewer

Kathy Bruening

Jessie Buzawa

Angela Coffaro

Christy Cutting

Bettie Downing

Carolyn Durkin

Diana Dyal

Janis Falk

Nancy Fosdick

Dawn Gross

Janice Hallberg

Wilma Hane

Priscilla Harris

Lucia Hasty

Helen Hendrickson

Renee Horowitz

Freddie Hubbard

Fred and Mildred Irwig

Fay Isackson

Ellen Kimbrough

Cindi Laurent

Lynne Luxton

Kathleen Metivier

Carol Morrison

Bernard Ostle

Freddie Peaco

Darlene Plante

Adam Ruschival

Rodney Rynearson

Barbara Sheperdigian

Dr. Lawrence Smith

Karen Stowe

Judy Strauss-Schwartz

Barbara Taffet

Susan Van Dehey

Margaret Wagner

Dorothy Worthington

## GIFTS-IN-KIND IN 2018

Robert Beaton

Jan Carroll

Randy Davis

Kyle DeJute

Saul Garza

Jana Hertz

Cindi Laurent

Heidi Lehmann

Betty Marshall

Cindy Olmstead

Robinson and Gordon, CPA

Rebecca Sherwood

Diane Spence

Julie Sumwalt

Guy Toles

## 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.