

# 2019 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,

What a year this has been! In these unprecedented times, we have been doing unprecedented things. We just completed our first ever virtual conference. With eighteen different workshops presented on nine different skills areas of braille, and over one thousand attendees from all around the world, we consider it a rousing success. We had twelve organizations step forward to sponsor this conference which allowed us to offer this training to anyone in the world at no charge. What a way to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this organization!

While so many people are working from home, it has been such a joy to know that NBA has continued to provide community to its members. This year, we have provided more than fifty of our monthly fifteen-minute webinars in order to bring up-to-date information to those who are working in isolation. Many of the students our members serve have been cut-off from their support professionals and it is more important than ever that their braille be provided on-time and error-free. To do that, they must be properly trained. That's where we step in. Many in the braille industry look to NBA as the leader in braille training. This is a moniker we have earned over the 75 years we've been providing this service, and one we intend to continue to earn over the coming years.

Every workshop we present is made possible through the work of countless volunteers, who spend time studying braille codes and putting that knowledge to pen and paper and now, into a digital presentation. But those presentations do not come without costs. In order to continue to provide quality training, we need your help. In these uncertain times, it is difficult to ask for financial support, but we cannot do what we do without your help. As you support NBA, we support those who work with the visually impaired, allowing them to better meet the needs of the people with whom they work. Quality braille makes a difference in the lives of the students who use it. Please consider being part of that difference.

Thank you for partnering with us to make education for the blind and visually impaired just a little bit easier.

Sincerely,



Cindi Laurent

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**

Cindi Laurent  
Edina, Minnesota

**Vice President**

Diane Spence  
Houston, Texas

**Treasurer**

Betty Marshall  
Alberta Canada

**President Elect**

Jana Hertz  
Aliso Viejo, California

**Secretary**

Cindy Olmstead  
Jackson, Michigan

**Immediate Past President**

Heidi Lehmann  
Castorland, New York

**Elected Member from the Board**

Kyle DeJute  
Louisville, Kentucky

### Directors

**Kathleen Cantrell**

New York, New York

**Patrick Janson**

N. Ridgeville, Ohio

**Melissa Klepper**

Garland, Texas

**Randy Davis**

Dallas, Georgia

**Mitchell Keil**

Jackson, Michigan

**Nancy Raspiller**

Scottsdale, Arizona

### 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, 2019**

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	95,344
Investments	2,558,867
Accounts Receivable	482
Inventories	1,641
Prepaid Expenses	13,296
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	72,122
Master Volumes	1,972
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(74,094)
<b>Net Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,669,630</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	3,147
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Net assets without donor restrictions	1,740,224
Net assets with donor restrictionst	926,259
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>2,666,483</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>2,669,630</b>



## The NBA Roll of Honor

**NBA is grateful for the monetary and in-kind gifts received from the following individuals and organizations in 2019.**

### **FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2019**

AmazonSmile	The Manny Fund
Fidelity Charitable Trust	Visually Impaired Partnership (PATCH Foundation)
Bette Fritz Bielefeldt Living Trust	Volunteer Braille Services
The Lorma E Gardner Endowment Fund	

### **FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2019**

Rita Abrams	Judith Hornsby
Erma Akey	Jason Hunter
Michael and Susan Anderson	Fred and Mildred Irwig
Olga Baron	Sandra Jefferies
Denise Bean	Anne Katlic
Dr. Andrew Biles	Linda and Mike Kirchgessner
Joan Black	Carol Knerr
Sandra Brown	John Lampert
Betty Bruno	Debra Leff
Meg and Rusty Clawson	Jean Macco
Jo E. Cohen	Julia Maddux
Mary Daniel	Florence Mathiesen
Dorothy Gae Davis	Kathleen McGrath
Robert DeDeyn	Jean McNamara
Nancy Doute	Marion Merrill
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Eleazer	Newt and Barb Metcalf
Mary Elliott	Kenneth Miller
Beverly Ferguson	Jane Minnick
Howard Goldstein	Donald Moser
Wendy Gosselin	Gloria Moyer



**FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2019, CONTINUED**

Jo Ann Noble	Nicholas Skinner
Laquieta O'Dell	Michele Sterner
Jane Perry	Carol Striker
Candace Richardson	Susanne Suchan
Constance Risjord	Elizabeth Traubert
Bonnie Rothman	Anita Turk
Sandra Rowley	Eliot Vestner
Sally Saunders	Jacqueline Wise
Christel Schott	Alberto Yohananoff
Frank and Gracie Schrinier	Aldo Zordan
Brian Shaffer	

**MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2019**

Susan Allen	Betty Marshall
Mary Byrd	Melody Moore
Marilyn Dickey	Susan Robertson
David Goldstein	Judith Smith



## LIFE MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2019

Pamela Anderson	Cindi Laurent
Janice Brewer	Lynne Luxton
Kathy Bruening	Shelley Mack
Jessie Buzawa	Dorothy Macrae
Angela Coffaro	Carol Morrison
Doris Cohn	Darlene Plante
Janis Falk	Adam Ruschival
Nancy Fosdick	Barbara Sheperdigian
Dawn Gross	Sally Shreck
Janice Hallberg	Dr. Lawrence Smith
Wilma Hane	Carol Snyder
Priscilla Harris	Patricia Stoudt
Helen Hendrickson	Karen Stowe
Vicki Holm	Judy Strauss-Schwartz
Renee Horowitz	Susan Van Dehey
Mary Hubbard	Sharon Von See
Ellen Kimbrough	Joyce Walling
Lucinda Kuiper	

## GIFTS-IN-KIND IN 2019

Robert Beaton	Cindi Laurent
Kathleen Cantrell	Heidi Lehmann
Jan Carroll	Betty Marshall
Randy Davis	Cindy Olmstead
Kyle DeJute	Robinson and Gordon, CPA
Saul Garza	Diane Spence
Jana Hertz	Julie Sumwalt
Patrick Janson	Guy Toles
Melissa Klepper	

## 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.