

2016 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,

What an incredible year 2016 was for the National Braille Association (NBA)! NBA was the fortunate recipient of two large bequests that significantly increased its investments. The long-anticipated webinar project kicked-off with tremendous success. A new website was launched that allows members to interact with NBA more digitally than ever before. And the size of NBA's membership grew for the first time in many years. The future is bright!

Just a short time ago, there was much uncertainty regarding the future of NBA. Its financial health was dismal, membership numbers were decreasing, and having to close its doors permanently was a potential reality. What was certain, back then and still today, is that the mission of NBA is as relevant to the field of braille transcription as it was when it first started as a club of concerned transcribers back in 1945. For that reason, NBA didn't give up when times were tough, but instead worked to re-structure the operations of the organization to fulfill its mission in a manner that was efficient, cost-effective, and influential to those it serves.

NBA interprets the codes and guidelines that govern the transcription of braille and disseminates that information to others in an effort to ensure that braille is transcribed consistently. NBA does this in a multitude of ways to reach as many people as possible. Although uniformity is important in all braille materials, few scenarios are as recognizably crucial as the need for a blind student to have quality, consistently formatted braille in the classroom so that they can have an equal chance at a quality education. Knowing that NBA and its members have a role in making that happen, is reason enough alone to continue our work.

Please take a moment to visit NBA's website, www.nationalbraille.org, where the full 2016 Annual Report can be viewed. There you will find a copy of NBA's current financial balance sheet, some general information about the organization, and a list of individuals and organizations who financially contributed to NBA's cause in the 2016 calendar year.

While the tone of this letter is rightfully positive, please don't interpret this as NBA no longer needing your support. Although NBA has made necessary changes to improve operations, the primary reason for its current success is the generous financial contributions of our members and friends. It has been, and will continue to be, your contributions that allow NBA to remain solvent. Please consider making a generous donation today.

Regards,



David Shaffer

Executive Director



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 Gregory
Houston, Texas

Secretary

Cindi Laurent
Edina, Minnesota

Elected Member from the Board

Kyle DeJute
Louisville, Kentucky

President Elect

Heidi Lehmann
Castorland, New York

Treasurer

Diane Spence
Houston, Texas

Vice President

Betty Marshall
Alberta, Canada

Immediate Past President

Jan Carroll
Louisville, Kentucky

Directors

Robert Beaton

Flat Rock, Michigan

Cindy Olmstead

Jackson, Michigan

Julie Sumwalt

Janesville, Wisconsin

Carol Greer

Federal Way, Washington

Marcetta Ponzio

San Gabriel, California

Jana Hertz

Aliso Viejo, California

Rebecca Sherwood

Seattle, Washington

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, 2016

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	53,830
Investments	2,427,600
Accounts Receivable	450
Inventories	2,562
Prepaid Expenses	2,512
Fixed Assets	
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	91,641
Master Volumes	1,972
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(92,277)
Net Fixed Assets	1,336
Total Assets	2,488,290

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	1,788
Accrued Payroll Taxes	--
Deferred Membership Dues	--
Deferred Subscriptions	650
Total Liabilities	2,438
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	
Operating	1,754,813
Board Designated	
Archer Fund	2,258
Total Unrestricted	1,757,071
Temporarily Restricted	59,520
Permanently Restricted	
Alice Mann Endowment	669,261
Total Net Assets	2,485,852
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2,488,290



The NBA Roll of Honor

NBA is grateful for the monetary and in-kind gifts received from the following individuals and organizations in 2016.

FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2016

AmazonSmile Foundation	K&R Braille Transcribing
Bette Fritz Bielefeldt Living Trust	Estate of Lillian Jeanette Jewell
The Community Foundation	Northeast Health Foundation
Desert Volunteer Braille Guild	The Sarah M. Hering Trust Fund
GE Foundation	St. Peter's Health Partners
Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes	Visually Impaired Partnership
Intrust Wealth	Volunteer Braille Services

FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2016

Rita Abrams	Beverly Ferguson
Lois Arntzen	Margaret Fobush
Andrew Biles	Howard Goldstein
Richard Billings	Phil Hahn
Bonnie Bolsen	Donahue Hemmings
Donald and Carolyn Brightman	Tom Holm
William Buending	Judy Hornsby
Patricia Bumbarger	Patricia Hunt
Barbara Busboom	Anne Katlic
Sylvia Chun	Paula Landale
Jesse Chvojka	Jean Macco
Karen Chvojka	Karen Malver
Melanie Cooper	Marion Merrill
Mary Cross	Gerald and Norma Moss
Carol Derks	Barbara Pessis
Robert DeVries	Mary Anne Reitnauer
Arnold and Jill Factor	Bonnie Rothman

FRIENDS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2016, CONTINUED

Brian Shaffer	Janet Weisman
Michele and Richard Sterner	Lucille Wells
Jane Stewart	Warren Werbelow
Verena Takekoshi	Dick and Sandra Wood
Susan Weber	Delores Zales
Kirk Smith	Michelle Sterner
Lois Spritzer	Dick and Sandy Wood
Russell Steedley	Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Zordan

MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2016

Tanya Allison	Elizabeth Hazen
Lois Andersen	Barbara Henning
Charlotte Arnstein	Harriette Jackler
Cynthia Brooks	Marica Kline
Kathleen Cantrell	John Lampert
Lynn Carroll	Carol Lawrence
Agnes Cawai	Janet Mazzara
Robert Clapper	Jean McNamara
Jo Ellyn Cohen	Irene Miller
Mary Denault	Jane Minnick
Marilyn Dickey	Gloria Moyer
Mary Elliott	Sally Saunders
David Goldstein	Anita Turk
Athena Graeme	Jacqueline Wise

LIFE MEMBERS OF NBA WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN 2016

Janice Brewer	Lucinda Kuiper
Kathy Bruening	Lynne Luxton
Jessie Buzawa	Shelley Mack
Jo Cassidy	Linda McGovern
Angela Coffaro	Lily Meiners
Carolyn Durkin	Carol Morrison
Diana Dyal	Marie Nylen
Janis Falk	George Ossentjuk
Vicki Flake	Adam Ruschival
Nancy Fosdick	Rodney Rynearson
Joyce Graff	Kathleen Shawl
Wilma Hane	Barbara Sheperdigian
Priscilla Harris	Dr. Lawrence Smith
Susan Harwood	Carol Snyder
Helen Hendrickson	Karen Stowe
Mary Hubbard	Barbara Taffet
Fred and Mildred Irwig	Lisa Vervena
Ellen Kimbrough	Bob and Dorothy Worthington

GIFTS-IN-KIND IN 2016

Robert Beaton	Cindi Laurent
Wendy Benckhuysen	Heidi Lehmann
Jan Carroll	Betty Marshall
Kyle DeJute	Cindy Olmstead
Robinson and Gordon	Marcetta Ponzio
Carol Greer	Rebecca Sherwood
Whitney Gregory	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.