

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Jennifer Dunnam, BANA chair, called the meeting to order.

2. Welcome and Introduction of New Board Representatives

Saul Garza was welcomed as the newly-appointed representative of Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Tracy Gaines was welcomed as the newly-appointed representative of the California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI)

The following board members were in attendance:

Jennifer Dunnam, National Federation of the Blind (NFB), Chair
Mary Nelle McLennan, American Printing House for the Blind (APH), Vice Chair
Ruth Rozen, Hadley School for the Blind, Secretary
Jackie Sheridan, National Braille Press (NBP), Treasurer
Frances Mary (FM) D'Andrea, American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), Immediate Past Chair
Dawn Gross, Alternate Text Production Center (ATPC)
Sandra Ruconich, American Council of the Blind (ACB)
Barbara Finkelstein, Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI)
Diane Wormsley, Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)
Tracy Gaines, California Transcribers and Educators of the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI)
Saul Garza, Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CCBVI)
Darleen Bogart, CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind)
Stuart Wittenstein, Council of Schools and Services for the Blind (COSB)
Maryann Bartkowski, Horizons for the Blind
Diane Spence, National Braille Association (NBA)
Judith (Judy) Dixon, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS)
Kim Charlson, Perkins

Jen Goulden, for associate member Crawford Technologies
Susan (Sue) Reilly participated in her role as administrative assistant.

Not attending:

Nancy Niebrugge, Braille Institute of America (BIA)

3. Agenda Review

Jennifer Dunnam, Chair, proceeded according to the agenda. A new item was inserted after "Planning for the 2015 Fall meeting": "Planning for the 2016 Spring meeting (May, 2016)."

4. Continuing with Review of the 2015 revision of Braille Formats: Principles of Print To Braille Transcription

Peggy Scheutz, formerly the representative of CTEBVI, who was the board liaison to the Braille Formats Technical Committee, was replaced temporarily by Jennifer Dunnam. Once the final stages of the review process are complete, a new board liaison will be appointed.

The first phase of the board/technical review is complete. Comments have been collected and collated. The Braille Formats Technical Committee is continuing its job of incorporating changes and responding with its rationale to the comments.

The next step for the board following the committee's work on comments was discussed. It was decided that a small panel of board members would respond to the comments and rationale the committee will have prepared, and that panel will make recommendations to the full board. While the panel may work on sections at a time, a full report of the entire manual will be made available to the board at the November board meeting (as opposed to approving sections at a time).

The panel will include Jennifer Dunnam, Darleen Bogart, Barbara Finklestein, Frances Mary D'Andrea, and Saul Garza.

Mary Nelle McLennan mentioned that APH is holding time and resources for this project, to begin only after full BANA board approval of 2015 Braille Formats.

5. Music Braille 2015 Code Review

The board/technical review began on June 15, 2015. Replies are due Sept. 15 or 16, 2015.

At this point in the meeting, Diane Wormsley added information about the status of the review of the graphing calculator guidelines. Diane has received the revisions that Dorothy Worthington sent to the Mathematics Braille Technical Committee. Dorothy thinks these revisions are ready for the board to review. Next steps will be determined.

6. Arrangements/planning for Fall 2015 Meeting

Marianne Bartkowski, Horizons for the Blind and host of the Fall 2015 BANA meeting, will update board members as needed regarding arrangements for the meeting.

Some discussion ensued about whether to hold a strategic planning session at the Fall 2015 meeting. In addition, the need to discuss the issue of math in braille in the United States was recognized. The UEB Transition Task Force recommended that any BANA board discussion of math in braille in the US be at a face-to-face meeting.

Frances Mary D'Andrea reminded board members that a statement, crafted at the November 2014 meeting is available on the BANA Website at www.brailleauthority.org/pressreleases/pr-2014-11.html.

By general consensus it was decided that for the Fall 2015 meeting, strategic planning will be postponed and math in braille in the United States will be discussed.

6.5 Arrangements/planning for Spring 2015 Meeting

Stuart Wittenstein, COSB, and host of the Spring 2016 meeting asked for feedback about accommodation locations.

It was decided that accommodations will be in Baltimore close to the Maryland School for the Blind, where the meeting will be held. This venue was chosen because of its proximity to Washington DC where the ICEB meeting will take place immediately following the BANA meeting.

The dates of the BANA Spring 2016 meeting are full days May 19 and 20, and one-half day May 21.

Some discussion ensued about whether to hold an open forum at the Maryland School for the Blind on Saturday, May 21, including logistics, or whether a different way of communication between BANA and the people it serves might be more effective. It was suggested that the outreach committee consider this issue.

7. Braille Excellence Awards Committee

The membership of the Braille Excellence Awards committee was changed during the summer under the direction of the BANA chair. Darleen Bogart had been appointed in the spring and was replaced by Tracy Gaines of CTEBVI. The other members appointed in the spring remained: Karen Gearreald, Debbie Willis, Cay Holbrook, Anna Dresner, and Sandra Ruconich (chair).

The committee received award nominations and deliberated by conference call. The committee recommended that Darleen Bogart receive the award, having been nominated by several individuals because of her 40 plus years of work and leadership in braille.

MSC Mary Nelle McLennan moved and Maryanne Bartkowski seconded that the recommendation of the Braille Excellence Award Committee to bestow the award on Darleen Bogart be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

The award will be presented at the Getting in Touch With Literacy conference in Albuquerque, NM, November 2015.

8. Updates on Other codes and guidelines in process:

a. Guidelines for Standardized Testing

Copy editing has been initiated.

b. Nemeth-UEB Provisional Guidance

Work continues, including getting feedback and making progress.

9. General Updates Since May Meeting (certification, software, training, other milestones)

Jennifer Dunnam (NFB) reported about braille certification: Since January, all new transcribers have started their training with the UEB course. NFB is in the process of having current transcribers earn the Letter of Proficiency in UEB.

10. UEB Transition Task Force

a. Transition Forum Planning

Frances Mary D'Andrea, chair of the UEB Transition Task Force, reported that, as agreed during the BANA spring 2015 meeting, a third UEB Transition Forum meeting will take place in conjunction with the APH annual meeting, October 8, 2015, in Louisville KY. Frances Mary reviewed the make-up of the UEB Transition Forum: Various organizations select representatives to participate in the transition forum. Observers will be welcome.

The proposal from the UEB Transition Task Force for this upcoming forum is to focus on standardized testing. The concept is to invite people from testing consortia to interact with representatives from the organizations who participate in the forum. This would include testing for children and adults.

Some discussion ensued about the breadth of the topic of standardized testing as it relates to braille and to UEB in particular.

BANA board members will participate in a short meeting after the main transition forum meeting.

b. Other Updates

No other updates were presented by the UEB Transition Task Force chair at this teleconference.

11. ICEB

a. 2016 General Assembly

The meeting will take place as planned.

b. How to best share ICEB Code Maintenance Committee Decisions

Frances Mary D'Andrea is the BANA representative to the ICEB Code Maintenance Committee. The ICEB Code Maintenance Committee issues decisions from time to time. Recently two decisions have been announced. BANA may want to devise a more formal way to distribute those decisions so they are implemented.

A lengthy discussion ensued about ICEB's process of approval from the code maintenance committee through its executive committee. As this process becomes more clear, BANA will be

able to decide on a process for disseminating information about ICEB decisions regarding code changes.

12. Other business

BANA needs to find a professional copy editor for the large documents. It is a paid position.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Rozen