



**Braille Authority of North America
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Braille Authority of North America Holds Meeting, Elects New Officers

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) approved an exciting new publication as well as new code rulings when it met October 30 through November 1, 2010, in Toronto, Canada. CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind), a BANA member organization, hosted the meeting at the CNIB Centre.

BANA began its meeting with its customary Open Forum, which was held on Friday, October 29, the final day of the CNIB Conference. The forum was quite well attended by transcribers, educators, and consumers from all across Canada. Participants generated a lively discussion on a range of topics and shared their opinions and expertise with members of the BANA Board.

BANA Board members approved new rulings that were suggested by several of the body's technical committees. Go to www.brailleauthority.org to review these code changes in the areas of the *Nemeth Code for Mathematics and Science Notation* and *Braille Music Notation*.

Perhaps the most noteworthy decision of the fall meeting was BANA's adoption and approval of the recently completed *Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics 2010*. These *Guidelines and Standards* were developed jointly by the Canadian Braille Authority and BANA. Two other major document revisions are currently in the review process; they are *Braille Formats: Principles of Print to Braille Transcription* and the *Manual for Foreign Language Transcribing*.

National Braille Press (NBP) has appointed Jefferson Lyons as the new representative to BANA replacing Eileen Curran. Lyons is Vice President of Operations for NBP.

Newly elected officers are:

Chairperson: Judy Dixon (Arlington, VA) is the Consumer Relations Officer at the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress (NLS).

Vice Chairperson: Mary Nelle McLennan (Pittsburgh, PA) is the Executive Advisor to the President of the American Printing House for the Blind

Secretary: Jennifer Dunnam, (Minneapolis, MN) is the Manager of Braille Programs for the National Federation of the Blind's Jernigan Institute

Treasurer: Bonnie Grimm (Fontana, CA) is the Transcribing Manager for the Braille Institute of America in Los Angeles

On Monday, November 1, the BANA Board, with leadership from Rosemary Kavanagh of ERK Consulting, spent an active day galvanizing the Board's strategic planning efforts that have been underway over the last series of meetings. With Rosemary's assertive guidance, BANA identified and agreed upon its strategic imperatives and established a core team to map out action plans to address them.

The mission and purpose of the Braille Authority of North America are to assure literacy for tactile readers through the standardization of braille and/or tactile graphics. BANA promotes and facilitates the use, teaching, and production of braille. It publishes rules, interprets and renders opinions pertaining to braille in all existing codes. It deals with codes now in existence or to be developed in the future, in collaboration with other countries using English braille. In exercising its function and authority, BANA considers the effects of its decisions on other existing braille codes and formats; the ease of production by various methods; and acceptability to readers.

For additional resource information, visit <http://www.brailleauthority.org>.