

Braille Library & Transcribing Services, Inc.

~ formerly Volunteer Braillists and Tapists, Inc. ~



Since 1971

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia Herrling – President / Librarian

Constance Risjord – Vice President

Karen Perzentka – Secretary

Sue Nelson – Treasurer

Sandy Adams – Board Member

Joan Sholdt – Board Member

Office Staff

Aaron Konkol – Office Manager

Sue Danz – Braille Coordinator

President's Message

February 6, 2020



The year 2020. I like the sound of that. It is a nice round number. It reminds me of the old movie "2001: A Space Odyssey". When I saw that, oh so long ago, it was hard to think about what life would be like that far into the future. We should be flying around in space cars by now and having our food delivered completely prepared into our kitchens and having robots do all of our housework. Well, some of those things are already possible and probably the rest are not far off.

For the blind and visually impaired technology is also moving forward. We now have all sorts of devices to assist in everyday living, such as walking sticks that sense boundaries and obstacles, audio books, screen readers for computers and smart phones, etc. As nice as all of this technology can be, it does not replace the need to be fully literate, to be able to both read and write. We sighted folks use technology but we still like to curl up with a good paperback or stick up post-it reminders on the refrigerator. Like so much in life it is a case of and/both, not either/or. BLTS's mission of "transcribing reading materials into braille" is still as necessary as ever. As it states in our Statement of Purpose, "our organization is based on our belief that all people have the right to the opportunity to read."

To that end, BLTS has been busy providing that opportunity to the blind and visually impaired community. The demand for braille transcription for clients increased in 2019, and we also increased the number of library borrowers for our braille reading materials. Our Education Committee has also been busy sponsoring a new initiative, led by Lindy Walton, of holding monthly "Library Conversations" to provide a forum for our transcribers to learn and share information, as well as build community. We have also started a new class of potential braille transcribers. They are a lively group and we hope to increase our roster of transcribers to meet the demand for braille materials in the coming year.

Making sure people know about our organization and services has been a goal for the past year. We have increased communication to vision teachers and parents groups, as well as participated in Midwest Braille conferences. We have joined forces with local organizations such as WisBraille, to publicize our joint services at forums and public speaking opportunities, and optimized the use of our website and social media to make sure our services can be found by those who need them.

In October 2019 we celebrated our first full year at our new location at Watts Road. These new facilities have made it easier for us to do our daily work and host the student classes, continuing education and social events that help make BLTS maintain its excellence in braille transcribing and remain an energetic, forward moving organization meeting the reading needs of the visually impaired.

I look forward to a great year for BLTS in 2020. Spread the word about BLTS to anyone looking for meaningful volunteer work or who might use our services!

Patricia Herrling

Production Totals

Embossed and E-mailed Pages

2000 – 43,186	2010 – 43,036
2001 – 55,467	2011 – 41,357
2002 – 41,781	2012 – 42,270
2003 – 41,092	2013 – 34,947
2004 – 45,314	2014 – 40,037
2005 – 54,218	2015 – 39,417
2006 – 68,750	2016 – 29,632
2007 – 66,107	2017 – 34,898
2008 – 59,510	2018 – 36,512
2009 – 59,181	2019 – 33,820

2019 New Pages Allocation

School Materials	214	braille pages
Lending Library	9,939	braille pages
Individual Sales	3,011	braille pages
Business Sales	792	braille pages
Office and Class	66	braille pages
<u>Non-Profit Agencies</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>braille pages</u>
Total (New Pages)	14,022	braille pages

BLTS Lending Library Report 2019

LOANED

<u>Year</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
2006	773	547	1,320
2007	810	450	1,260
2008	755	468	1,223
2009	847	454	1,301
2010	836	347	1,183
2011	801	340	1,141
2012	706	652	1,358
2013	708	656	1,364
2014	702	523	1,224
2015	633	610	1,243
2016	707	624	1,331
2017	588	576	1,167
2018	529	605	1,135
2019	485	590	1,077

2019 Borrowers

Active: 200 (20 schools total)

New: 15 (7 children's borrowers / 5 schools)

Collection

Total new books added to collection

36 new adult books

70 new children's or print/braille books

10 books removed from collection

Total Inventory: 2,640 items

Observations

Circulation is down slightly from last year (58 less books borrowed). A priority goal for 2019 was to look at ways of increasing our communication to schools and potential library users about our lending library. We have analyzed our website, looked at social media and other websites listing braille lending libraries to make sure we are included and looked at communication with Wisconsin schools and parents of blind students. We hope to see the benefits of these efforts in 2020. During 2019 we held a print/braille workshop to introduce/refresh transcribers to the print/braille process. We also looked at our print/braille collection to increase UEB books. This resulted in 70 new children's books becoming available for borrowing from our library and perhaps consequently accounting for the increase in our borrowers of those materials. **A priority goal for 2020** will be to continue to capitalize on our communication with library borrowers, as well as a major look at our braille library collection to make room for new additions and remove unused/poor condition books.

2019 Active Membership

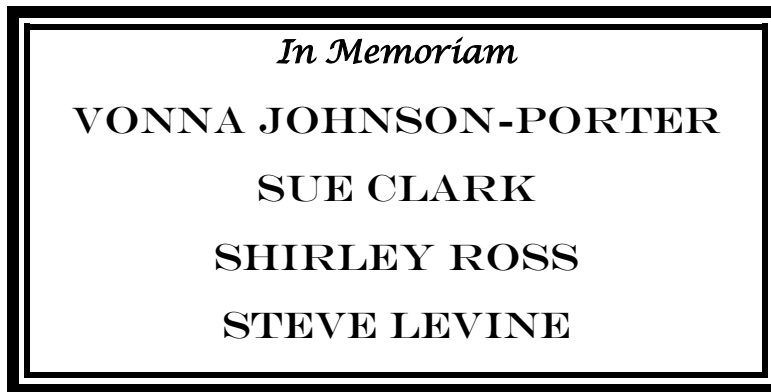
Active Brailleists – 15

Other Active Members - 1

2019 Volunteer Hours

Braille Transcribing (completed in 2019)	2,684 hours – 13,422
Service Hours	852 hours
Library	800 hours
Total Volunteer Hours	4473 hours

2019 Membership



Sandy Adams

Judy Amacker

Carol Birch

Pat Bunders

Mémée Chun

Mary Ann Damm

Sue Danz

Joel DeVore

Kathy Dorn

Jill Dumphy

Pat Foltz

Kay Goepfert

Lori Hanson

Patricia Herrling

Shirley Johnson

Lois Kibbe

Mary Kienitz

Aaron Konkol

Ron & Debbie Konkol

Lynn Mack

Alyson McKee

Melody Moore

Sue Nelson

Betty Oakley

Karen Perzentka

Bev Pfister

Pat Popp

Elnor Reichel

Constance Risjord

Barb Schlinkert

Julie Schoepp

Barbara Shoemake

Judy Sherry

Joan Sholdt

Jane Stark

Lealisa Stefl

Betty Stern

Betty Stoffel

Julie Sumwalt

Lindy Walton

Vickie Warner

2019 Fundraising

Community:	\$30,671.49
Membership:	<u>\$11,594.36</u>
Total Contributions:	\$42,265.85

2019 Contributors

Over \$1000

Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust	★ Steve Levine
Epic Systems Co	Madison Community Foundation
Evjue Foundation	★ Melody Moore
Claremont S. Jackman Foundation	★ Joan Sholdt

\$500 to \$999

★ Joel DeVore	Pleasant Rowland Foundation
Madison Gas & Electric Foundation	★ Jane Stark
Middleton Lions Club	Sub-Zero Wolf Foundation
★ Sue Nelson	

\$200 to \$499

★ Judith Amacker	Mcfarland Lions Club
★ Memee Chun	Mary Nelson
★ Mary Ann Damm	Gerald Ring
Jane Eisner	★ Elizabeth Stoffel
Hallman/Lindsay Paints	★ Connie Risjord
Johnson & Johnson	Strand Associates, Inc.
Herb Kohl Philanthropies	Ronald Thorstad
Abigail Loomis	Westmorland Combined Health Fund

\$100 to \$199

★ Sandy Adams

★ Stella Berven

Columbus Lions Club

★ Sue Danz

★ Kathy Dorn

★ Patricia Herrling

Charlie Jammer

Barbara Kehrein

Ladies Auxiliary VFW

Lake Wisconsin Lions Club

Madison-Monona Lioness Club

McFarland Lioness

Dale Nordeen

★ Beverly Pfister

★ Barb Schlinkert

To \$99

Betty Bielefeld

★ Carol Birch

★ Pat Bunders

C. Cornwell

★ Jill Dumphy

Faircrest Assn. Health Fdn

★ Lori Hanson

★ Kay Goepfert

★ Shirley Johnson

★ Vonna Johnson-Porter

★ Mary Kienitz

★ Aaron Konkol

★ Ron & Debbie Konkol

Burton Kushner

★ Lynn Mack

★ Alison McKee

Pay Pal Giving Fund

★ Karen Perzentka

Carl Rassmussen

★ Elnor Reichel

★ Shirley Ross

★ Julie Schoepp

★ Judy Sherry

★ Barbara Shoemake

★ Lealisa Stefl

★ Betty Stern

★ Lindy Walton

★ Vickie Warner

Woodmans Food Market

Anonymous

Comparative Statement

2018 and 2019

Income

Community Contributions	\$25,828.91	\$30,671.49
Member Contributions	\$14,023.67	\$11,594.36
Braille & Tape Income	\$5,937.13	\$6,962.34
Mutual Fund Income	\$7,295.66	\$6,084.28
Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	\$134.00
Total Income	\$53,085.37	\$55,446.47

Expenses

Salaries	\$27,055.92	\$29,370.16
Rent	\$11,408.00	\$14,220.53
Braille, Tape, Library Supplies	\$1,510.76	\$2,351.34
Proofreading	\$3,718.00	\$5,343.00
New Embosser	\$3,466.00	\$0.00
Office cleaning	\$0.00	\$875.00
Office Supplies	\$3,994.72	\$4,142.11
PayPal & Professional Fees	\$625.40	\$587.40
Social & Awards	\$314.73	\$501.24
Training/Class Materials	\$180.00	\$324.00
Moving Expense	\$5,467.65	\$30.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$57,741.18	\$57,744.78
Net Income/Expense	-\$4,655.81	-\$2,298.31

Financial Comparison

<i>For the Year Ended</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Excess Income (Loss)</i>	<i>Mutual Fund & Checking Market Value</i>
12/31/1995	\$42,671.36	\$46,139.09	(\$3,467.73)	\$152,411.00
12/31/1996	\$40,558.15	\$51,329.08	(\$10,770.93)	\$153,390.00
12/31/1997	\$33,485.22	\$56,867.32	(\$23,382.10)	\$159,351.00
12/31/1998	\$25,071.84	\$52,391.63	(\$27,319.79)	\$145,985.00
12/31/1999	\$32,778.11	\$49,589.79	(\$16,811.68)	\$151,194.00
12/31/2000	\$40,324.21	\$52,515.14	(\$12,190.93)	\$122,434.00
12/31/2001	\$37,915.77	\$61,778.94	(\$23,863.17)	\$81,804.00
12/31/2002	\$39,663.27	\$51,589.18	(\$11,925.91)	\$61,595.00
12/31/2003	\$37,050.43	\$50,560.05	(\$13,509.62)	\$67,365.00
12/31/2004	\$47,496.81	\$48,771.04	(\$1,274.23)	\$53,146.00
12/31/2005	\$47,088.57	\$47,224.39	(\$135.82)	\$54,965.00
12/31/2006	\$59,202.00	\$58,721.00	\$481.00	\$154,497.00
12/31/2007	\$59,473.45	\$74,002.41	(\$14,528.96)	\$153,165.33
12/31/2008	\$51,603.35	\$39,817.01	\$11,786.34	\$132,582.95
12/31/2009	\$49,027.00	\$42,344.62	\$6,682.38	\$152,214.00
12/31/2010	\$40,682.86	\$44,068.71	(\$3,385.85)	\$153,632.13
12/31/2011	\$34,121.27	\$38,144.29	(\$4,023.02)	\$147,848.71
12/31/2012	\$38,411.00	\$39,277.00	(\$866.00)	\$156,314.00
12/31/2013	\$42,438.00	\$39,140.00	\$3,298.00	\$168,282.40
12/31/2014	\$38,931.00	\$40,216.00	(\$1,285.00)	\$170,307.00
12/31/2015	\$37,449.00	\$47,017.00	(\$9,568.00)	\$150,163.19
12/31/2016	\$35,720.47	\$47,071.35	(\$11,350.88)	\$147,897.62
12/31/2017	47,360.61	\$46,702.66	\$657.95	\$153,858.00
12/31/2018	53,085.37	57,741.18	(4,655.81)	\$133,591.82
12/31/2019	55,446.47	57,744.78	(2,298.31)	\$144,812.05

Parenthesis indicate negative numbers (losses).