

Braille Library and Transcribing Services Inc.

6501 Watts Rd.; Suite 149

Madison, WI 53719

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Patricia Herrling called the meeting to order at 9:36AM. Members present: Sandra Adams, Dorothy Brar, Melody Moore, Constance Risjord, Joan Sholdt. Aaron Konkol and Sue Danz, staff members, were also in attendance. Lori Hanson and Sue Nelson were absent.
There was no president's report given at this time because it was published in "Dear Pearl".
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of August 8, 2024 were approved with a motion from Dorothy Brar and Joan Sholdt.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** As of October 5 our assets were as follows: Checking Account, \$13,567.06; Money Market, \$6,575.30; Mutual Funds, \$108,275.01 Total, \$128,417.37. Lori will be asked to send the profit-and-loss statement to members monthly.
4. **OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT:** New mice, keyboards and a label maker were purchased.
5. **BRaille COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Transcribers have been busy filling requests for students. A box of Nemeth and tactile materials was completed for the Sheboygan school district. More school requests will be completed in this school year.
6. **AGENCY DECISIONS:** It was decided to leave "Inc." off of our name on the title page.

A discussion was held concerning the division of words between braille pages. Board members will investigate the matter and the decision was tabled until the next meeting.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education: Lindy Walton has begun to lead "Braille Conversations covering formats. Thus far approximately fourteen members have attended using Zoom. The sessions are recorded and can be accessed on our web site.

There are five students enrolled in the new transcribers' class. They saw the article in the RSVP newsletter. Deb Hanson is proofing their work and is a very positive influence. Barb Schlinkert led a print / braille book workshop and several members attended.

FUND RAISING: Aaron reported that the Delta Gamma grant should be submitted by December 1. It was decided to request funding for tactile software. He would also like to

add a person to the committee and is planning to attend a Lions' Club social event to discuss BLTS' need for that purpose.

As of this date we are slightly ahead of last year's earnings.

Library: Client numbers seem to remain the same with a few new added names being added to the list. Numbers are a bit lower than a few years ago but that is to be expected due to the ability of readers to download their books onto braille displays and other note takers.

Newsletter: There was no report as the "Dear Pearl" had just been distributed a few weeks ago.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:** A four-page article about BLTS was included in an issue of the "Special Libraries" magazine sponsored by the Wisconsin Library Association.
Braille signage at various locations in the Madison area was a topic of discussion. Owen Rosenberg, Director of the State Capitol Museum, will be contacted to request braille signage in that facility. Other locations using braille signage was covered with mixed results. Karen will talk with Jim Denham, Technology Specialist at the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired to get his opinion regarding the signs at bus stops.
9. **OLD BUSINESS:** The item of beginning a Legacy Program for BLTS was tabled until the next meeting.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.

Submitted by Karen Perzentka