# Braille Revival League:

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March, 11, 2024,

Zoom Platform:

# Roll Call:

The roll was called at 6 PM, central time. Present were: President Denise Colley, First Vice President May Davis, Treasurer Jane Carona, Secretary Ralph Smitherman, Board member Patty Slaby, Board member Christine Hunsinger, Board member Audrey Schading, Board member Melody Holloway, Affiliate Representative Frank Welte, Immediate Past President Paul Edwards. Second Vice President Judy Dixon was absent. A quorum was established. Several guests were in Attendance.

# Call To Order:

President Colley called the meeting to order.

# Agenda Review:

President Colley reviewed the meeting agenda. Ralph Smitherman made a motion to approve the agenda as read; Jane Carona seconded the motion; the motion passed.

# Reading Of Minutes:

Ralph Smitherman made a motion that the January 8, 2024, BRL Board meeting minutes be accepted as distributed; Paul Edwards seconded the motion; the motion passed.

# Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer, Jane Carona, presented a very comprehensive report. The current balance in our general account: $19,649.92. Current investment account: $11,126.86. Current membership for 2024, 282; of the 282 members, 72 are BRL life members. Treasurer, Carona will send out a message to the membership reminding people to pay dues. Paul Edwards made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report; Ralph Smitherman seconded the motion; the motion carried.

# BRL Memorandum:

Editor, Smitherman, reported that the Spring, 2024 Memorandum was sent out on a timely basis. He thanked May Davis, Jane Carona and Elizabeth Bowden for their dedicated assistance. He stated that articles for the Summer 2024 issue are due by April 15, 2024. He is always looking for articles and his email address for submitting articles is:

[Redbird26@bellsouth.net](mailto:Redbird26@bellsouth.net)

Jane Carona made a motion to accept the Editor’s report; Patty Slaby seconded the motion; the motion passed.

# Committee Reports:

## Community Outreach:

Chair, Patty Slaby reported that there would be a session concerning the Braille Challenge at our convention. She wants to send the eighteen packets to the winners of the Challenge. Patty said that the committee has begun talks concerning the labeling in Braille some commercial products-note, this project is in its early stages. The session concerning the Braille Challenge will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

## Publications:

## Chair, Paul Edwards, reported that the committee continues to work with our web master, John Mulhern, in reference to making necessary changes to our web site. John is easy to work with on this endeavor. President Colley stated that we need to get a link for our web site through ACB.

## Membership:

Chair, Jane Carona, stated that the current focus is to work at the Market Place at the 2024, ACB Summer convention. The current days for said Market Place is Monday and Tuesday of convention week; with the possibility of Wednesday and Thursday. Ralph Smitherman made a motion that we allocate up to $200 for space at the Market Place as well as advertising in the convention news letter; Paul Edwards seconded the motion; the motion passed.

## Public Awareness:

Chair, Ralph Smitherman, reported that the committee generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, he stated that the primary focus is the BRL brochure, and he said that we currently have 879 Facebook followers.

Audrey Schading made a motion to accept all committee reports; seconded by Ralph Smitherman; the motion carried.

# 2024, BRL Summer Convention:

## Convention Outline-all times Eastern:

Thursday, June 27, 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM, Braille Challenge Session,

A lengthy discussion followed concerning our election process. The Board has determined that if there

Is only one candidate for each Officer position, the Officer would be elected by acclamation at the annual business meeting. A notice will be sent to all BRL members concerning this matter.

## Friday, June 28, 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM, Annual Business Meeting:

## July 9, 7 AM, BRL Breakfast; keynote speaker, Judy Dixon; hybrid:

## July 9, two afternoon combined sessions with LUA; NLS narrator, and NLS Director:

A lengthy discussion followed concerning BRL programming whether at convention or using the Braille Buzz calls.

It has been determined that we meet on Friday, June 28 at 11 AM, to 12:15 PM, for a session on training.

Larry Johnson will provide Fun with Braille and this will take place at the BRL breakfast.

Paul Edwards will devote part of a Braille Buzz call in tribute to David Holliday.

Discussion followed concerning the labeling in Braille on products.

The Community Outreach Committee is to draft a letter concerning Braille labeling on cereal boxes and in turn bring said letter to the BRL Board for review.

# Groups.io:

Jane Carona made a motion that we purchase our own groups.io account for $220 per year; Paul Edwards seconded the motion; the motion passed.

# Drop Box:

Jane Carona made a motion that we purchase a drop box account for $127.08 per year to be associated with our email account being [braillerevivalleague@gmail.com](mailto:braillerevivalleague@gmail.com); seconded by Paul Edwards; the motion passed.

# BRL Accounts:

The signatories on our accounts will be;

President, Denise Colley

Treasurer Jane Carona

Immediate Past President Paul Edwards

# Date, Time, Location of the Next Scheduled BRL Board Meeting:

Monday, May 13, 2024, 7 PM, central time, Zoom Platform

# Adjournment:

Audrey Schading made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 PM, central time; seconded by Ralph Smitherman; the motion passed.

Respectfully and humbly submitted by Secretary Ralph Smitherman.