# Braille Revival League

# Annual Business Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

**Zoom Platform**

# Call To Order:

**President Denise Colley called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM, central time.**

# Welcome And Introductions:

**President Colley welcomed everyone; and, our hostess stated the names of the attendees, including several telephone numbers associated with the membership.**

# Agenda Review:

**President Colley reviewed the meeting agenda; Jane Carona made a motion to approve the agenda; Paul Edwards seconded the motion; the motion passed.**

**Reading Of Minutes:**

**Secretary, Ralph Smitherman made a motion that the June, 2022, BRL annual business meeting minutes be approved as distributed in the Summer 2023, BRL Memorandum; Patty Slaby seconded the motion; this motion carried.**

# Treasurer’s Report:

**Treasurer, Jane Carona presented a very comprehensive report; broken down in two segments, namely, from July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022; and, from January 1, 2023 through June 21, 2023. She gave itemized details concerning all facets. Our ending balance in the general account is, $14,992.16. In our investment account as of May 31, 2023, $8,499.52. Ralph Smitherman made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as read; Patty Slaby seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

# BRL Memorandum Report:

**Editor, Ralph Smitherman stated that the Braille Revival League as of 2023, would be sending out three issues of the news letter. He thanked everyone for sending their respective articles. He stated that Jane Carona sends out the email version of the Memorandum, and May Davis formats the Memorandum for Braille production, while Elizabeth Bowden produces the issue in Braille and large print. He said that articles could be around 900 words, and if anyone wants to send an article for publication just send it to:**

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

**Ralph said that the deadlines for the articles for this year; namely, January 15, 2023; April 15, 2023; September 15, 2023; allows for the target dates whereby the membership will receive the news letter on a timely basis. The target dates are: March 1, June 1, November 1. Paul Edwards made a motion to approve the Memorandum report; Jane Carona seconded the motion; the motion was adopted.**

# Committee Reports:

**President Colley, explained the purpose of the four sub-committees.**

## Community Outreach:

**Chair, Patty Slaby, explained about the Braille challenge packets that would be given to the eighteen winners of the Braille challenge this year; this packet gives information concerning the Braille Revival League. Patty described the “Out and About” project; that is, volunteers are to write articles to be submitted for publication in the BRL Memorandum. Patty thanked those who have submitted articles. Patty gave an overview of the “birthday card” exchange; in groups of four, people are to send birthday cards to their particular group members. She said that she was looking for more people to participate in this exchange.**

## Public Awareness:

**Chair, Ralph Smitherman, stated that this committee generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10 PM, central time. He said that the committee members are: Christine Hunsinger, Frank Welte, Jean Mann. Ralph said that the main project is developing a new BRL brochure. He also said that the facebook page currently has 732 followers, with 38 photographs. We are looking into guidelines for Braille menus.**

## Membership:

## Chair, Jane Carona, stated that all committee members would be encouraged to participate in a group call this August. She said that the committee was excited about the possibility of hosting a “Market Place” table at the 2024 ACB annual convention. Jane mentioned that BRL paid for a newspaper article associated with the ACB National convention to inform non-members about the Braille Revival League.

## Publications:

**Chair, Paul Edwards, reported that this committee would meet soon. He stated that much work has been done concerning our web site. He said that we would be working on placing audio files on the web site.**

# 2023, BRL Convention:

**President Colley stated that our 2023 BRL sessions would be podcasted. Denise stated that on Monday, July 3, 2023, we would co-host with Library Users of America, the up close and personal session with the NLS narrator-Jake Williams. She said that on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, that we would co-host with LUA and Teachers a session with the NLS Deputy Director. Denise stated that we would host our annual BRL breakfast on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, beginning at 7 AM; our guest speaker for this event is the President of the World Blind Union. Paul Edwards explained the two sessions to be held on Wednesday afternoon; these sessions would be about the Monarch from APH, and several Orbit Research devices would be shown during our second session. It was noted that BRL and LUA would host a combined session this Friday, presented by Brian Charlson concerning ai.**

# Nominating Committee Report:

**Chair, Ralph Smitherman, reported that he and Judy Dixon and Jane Carona-the nominating committee-met earlier this year and presents the following nominees for the BRL Board:**

* **Patty Slaby, Wisconsin, who if elected would be serving her second term.**
* **Chris Hunsinger, Pennsylvania, who if elected would be serving her first term.**
* **Audrey Schading, New York, who if elected would be serving her first term.**
* **Melody Holloway, Ohio, who if elected would be serving her first term.**

**President Colley gave the candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves, and to explain their interest in serving on the BRL Board of Directors. The four candidates expressed themselves and told about their several activities. President Colley asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and there were none. Treasurer, Jane Carona, described how our elections would take place. People may call, text, or email her on July 13, 14, 15, 2023, to cast their votes for these four BRL Board positions. Paul Edwards made a motion that we accept the dates for our members to cast their votes for our election; with the dates being, July 13, 14, 15, 2023; Agnes Ferris seconded the motion; the motion carried. Several comments were given concerning the way we are conducting our elections this year. President Colley appointed the following members to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws committee; namely:**

* **Paul Edwards**
* **Judy Dixon**
* **Jane Carona**
* **Karyn Campbell.**

# BRL Delegates:

**For the 2023 ACB Summer Conference and Convention, Jane Carona is the delegate; while Albert Anderson is the alternate delegate.**

# Braille Across America:

**President Colley brought forth a possible project for us to consider; namely, Braille Across America. This event would take place on Thursday, January 4, 2024 and would involve participation from our six affiliates as well as various organizations which deal in Braille issues. A lengthy discussion followed concerning this event. Following are those people who volunteered to serve on a committee in relation to this project, namely:**

* **Larry Johnson**
* **Audrey Schading**
* **Jean Mann**
* **Judy Dixon**
* **Penny Reeder**
* **Denise Colley**
* **Paul Edwards**
* **Jessica Barr**
* **Mary Beth**

**President Colley is calling a special Board meeting scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2023 to discuss the Louis Braille Day project. President Colley said that she would be contacting the committee to set up a time for it to meet.**

# General Comments:

**Some comments were given as to what BRL should be doing to promote the use of Braille.**

# Braille Buzz:

**Paul Edwards reported that plans for the August 2023 Braille Buzz are to have Braillists from the UK, to tell us about Braille in that area.**

# Adjournment:

**Agnes Farris made a motion to adjourn at 3:30 PM, central time; Ralph Smitherman seconded the motion; the motion passed.**

**Respectfully and humbly submitted by Secretary Ralph Smitherman.**