# Braille Revival League

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2024

Zoom Platform

# Roll Call:

Secretary Smitherman called the roll at 7 PM, central time. Present were: President Denise Colley, First Vice-President May Davis, Second Vice-President Judy Dixon, Treasurer Jane Carona, Secretary Ralph Smitherman, Board member Patty Slaby, Board member Christine Hunsinger, Board member Audrey Schading. Absent were: Board member Melody Holloway and Affiliate Representative Frank Welte. 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; Paul Edwards made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended; Ralph Smitherman seconded the motion; the motion passed.

# Reading Of Minutes:

Secretary Smitherman made a motion that we approve the March 11, 2024 BRL Board meeting minutes as distributed; Patty Slaby seconded the motion; the motion passed.

# Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Jane Carona presented an excellent report. The ending date is May 12, 2024 and our ending balance in the general account is: $17,530.09; our investment account balance is: $10,662.13. Our current membership is 300 with 73 of those being BRL Life members and 227 being members for 2024. Ralph Smitherman made a motion to approve the comprehensive report; seconded by Christine Hunsinger; the motion passed.

# BRL Memorandum:

Editor, Ralph Smitherman reported that the Summer issue has been distributed. He thanked Jane Carona, who distributes the email copies and May Davis who formats the issue for brailling and Elizabeth Bowden who produces the large print and braille copies. The deadline for articles for the fall/winter 2024 issue is September 15, 2024. Anyone who wishes to submit an article may send it to:

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

Jane Carona made a motion to accept the Memorandum Report; seconded by Judy Dixon; the motion passed.

# Subcommittee Reports:

## Community Outreach:

Chair, Patty Slaby reported that the committee would soon be writing an article.

## Publications:

Chair, Paul Edwards stated that there was nothing new at this time.

## Membership:

Chair, Jane Carona stated that they would be working at the Market Place at the ACB 2024 Summer Convention; working on Monday and Wednesday of convention week from 7:30 AM until 10:30 AM; Lucy Edmonds and Paul Edwards have agreed to help with this endeavor.

## Public Awareness:

Chair, Ralph Smitherman stated that the focus of this committee was working on the BRL brochure, at this time. He said that currently we have 899 FaceBook followers.

# 2024 Convention Program Dates:

Thursday, June 27, 2024, 12:30 to 1:45 PM, Eastern time; Braille Challenge presentation:

Friday, June 28 2024, 11 a.m. Eastern time to 12:15 PM choosing a trainer concerning devices.

Friday June 28 2024, 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM, BRL annual business meeting.

President Colley stated that all documents which are to be discussed at the annual meeting should be sent to her no later than June 20 2024; thereby allowing all members to be informed.

Jane Carona will make President Colley a moderator on the BRL members list.

Tuesday July 9 2024 7 AM to 8:15 AM, BRL breakfast; keynote speaker Judy Dixon.

Saturday June 15 2024, two PM, Eastern time; first reading of the Constitution and Bylaws

Friday June 21 2024, eight PM, Eastern time; second reading of Constitution and Bylaws.

A discussion followed as to the the annual business meeting process.

# ACB Summer Auction:

We are donating a $150 gift certificate for the Braille Super Store.

# 2024 BRL Delegation:

Delegate: Christine Hunsinger

Alternate Delegate: Lucy Edmonds

Nominating Representative: Patty Slaby

The delegate and alternate delegate need to be available from June 24 through June 28 for virtual meetings.

# Unfinished Business:

## BRL Incorporation:

Jane Carona made a motion that we invite Nancy from the Minnesota office to come to a BRL Board meeting to explain the need for us to join through the Minnesota office; Judy Dixon seconded the motion; the motion passed.

## BRL Investment:

After a lengthy discussion, Paul Edwards made a motion that we move $5,000 in to a savings account to be chosen by our Treasurer and that an investment committee be formed to explore long term changes that might be made in the way we handle our investment accounts; Patty Slaby seconded the motion; the motion carried.

## Affiliate Representative Election:

President Colley stated that she plans to contact the six affiliate Presidents and set up a meeting, after convention which would allow said affiliates to elect their affiliate representative to the BRL Board. After a lengthy discussion it has been determined that President Colley along with Jane Carona and Audrey Schading will develop a document outlining the responsibilities of the affiliate representative to the BRL Board; this document should be presented to the affiliates before the affiliates meet to choose a representative this year.

## 2024 BRL Resolutions:

Paul Edwards read the two resolutions concerning Braille, the first one concerned product labeling and the second concerned setting up a Braille task force. Note, these two resolutions were published in the Summer 2024 BRL Memorandum. Ralph Smitherman made a motion to adopt the first resolution; Judy Dixon seconded the motion; the motion passed. Paul Edwards made a motion to adopt the second resolution; Judy Dixon seconded the motion; the motion passed.

A discussion followed concerning other resolutions.

# New Business:

## Braille Buzz:

Paul Edwards stated that the next Buzz would deal with the components by which Braille is taught. What works? What doesn’t work? The Braille Buzz is scheduled for June 19, 2024 at 7:30 PM, central time.

## Discussion:

We discussed reading of the proposed changes in our Constitution as well as the Resolutions.

# Date, Time, Location of the Next BRL Board meeting:

Monday, September 9, 2024 7 PM central time by zoom.

Note: the time has been changed to 6 PM central time by zoom.

# Adjournment:

Audrey Schading made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 PM, central time; seconded by Ralph Smitherman; the motion carried.

Respectfully and humbly submitted by Secretary Ralph Smitherman.