

Minutes of Meeting of the Braille Authority of North America
December 2, 1976 – Sheraton-O'Hare Motor Hotel, Rosemont, Ill.

ATTENDANCE

Sponsor

American Association of Workers f/t Blind
American Council of the Blind
American Foundation for the Blind
American Printing House for the Blind

Association for Computing Machinery
Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped
Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Clovernook Home and School for the Blind
Library of Congress, DBPH
National Braille Association
National Federation of the Blind

Representative

Harold G. Roberts
Durward K. McDaniel
Loyal E. Apple
Dr. Carson Nolan
Ralph E. McCracken
Robert A. J. Gildea
James E. Haralson
E. G. Brown
Darleen Bogart
Martin F. Droege
Richard Evensen
Babette M. Richman
Dr. Kenneth Jernigan
Ms. Anderson

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Roberts at 10:12 A.M. The minutes of the September 28, 1976 meeting were approved with the change of "Mrs. Bonnie Richman" to "Mrs. Bobbe Richman."

REVIEW OF STATUS OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP IN BANA

It was agreed that all sponsors will have voting status immediately upon their acceptance of sponsorship and that annual dues will become payable January 1, 1977.

Mr. Roberts reported that he had received formal acceptances from the Association for Computing Machinery, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the American Council of the Blind. This brings the total number of sponsors to eleven.

Dr. Jernigan moved that annual dues be set at \$500. The motion passed unanimously. During the discussion of the motion it was agreed that the funds provided by such dues would probably prove adequate for the routine work of BANA. Should BANA wish to undertake specific projects, special funding would have to be sought. Both Mr. Evensen and Mr. Apple indicated that their respective organizations might be receptive to requests for funding of projects which they felt fell within the purposes of their organizations.

REVIEW OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BANA AND FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY WITH RESPECT TO U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION GRANT

Mr. Roberts gave a brief review of the grant and Miss Hooper's progress to date. Technical advisory groups have been established for mathematics and science Braille, music Braille and computer Braille, and meetings scheduled for the first two in January and February, 1977 respectively. She has postponed establishing a group for textbook format Braille because the new Code is currently in press, and she felt that the work of such a committee should be deferred until some experience had been gained with the new Code and problems identified.

Miss Hooper is considering the establishment of an additional committee to consider the problem of making Grade 2 literary Braille more "computer compatible" – as suggested during an AFB-sponsored workshop held in June in New York City.

Mr. McDaniel moved that the Chairman of BANA be authorized to appoint a subcommittee to prepare a memorandum of understanding of relations between FSU and BANA, which would be submitted to BANA for consideration as soon as feasible.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Mr. Brown moved that Mr. Harold G. Roberts be Chairman of BANA; Mr. Evensen moved that Dr. Kenneth Jernigan serve as Vice Chairman; Mr. Evensen moved that Mrs. Irvin F. Richman serve as Secretary; Mr. Brown moved that Mr. Martin F. Droege serve as Treasurer.

Mr. Roberts will write Miss Hooper, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Braille Authority of the United States, to arrange the transfer of funds remaining in its treasury to BANA as soon as BANA has opened a bank account.

FUTURE EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP IN BANA

This portion of the meeting was conducted on an informal basis. The following points were made during the discussion:

- 1) There should be communication and an exchange of ideas with similar bodies worldwide including the Uniform Type Committee of Great Britain and the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind.
- 2) We should retain the name BANA and not necessarily confine ourselves to English Braille. We can limit our attention to problems submitted to us or initiated by us. Should problems in Spanish or French Braille be submitted, we would consult with those having appropriate knowledge.

3) Until BANA has more fully organized itself no further invitations to become sponsors should be extended whether to other organizations in the U. S. or to organizations concerning themselves with Spanish or French braille.

Mr. Roberts then read a letter from Mr. Terry Small of New Zealand. Mr. Small pointed out that New Zealand is the only foreign country using English Braille, American Edition exclusively and asked that New Zealand be admitted to membership either as a full member or on an "affiliate" basis. After some discussion, it was decided that the Secretary would write Mr. Small acknowledging the receipt of his letter and advising him that we were in the process of organizing. When the organization of BANA had been completed, we would come to a decision on New Zealand's application for membership and inform Mr. Small.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Roberts then appointed Mr. McDaniel as Chairman and Mr. Evensen as member of the Bylaws Committee. They were charged with preparing a Statement of Purpose, Articles of incorporation and Bylaws.

Mr. Roberts appointed a committee to serve as liaison between BANA and the Florida State University Braille Project. He will serve as Chairman. The members are Mr. McDaniel and either Dr. Nolan or Mr. McCracken. The Committee will arrange to meet at FSU to discuss relations between BANA and the FSU project with Miss Hooper and Dr. Gideon Jones.

FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting of BANA will take place in Chicago in March or April, 1977.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Irvin F. Richman,
Secretary

BRAILLE AUTHORITY OF NORTH AMERICA

MEMBERS

Harold G. Roberts (Chairman)
American Association of Workers f/t Blind
c/o Helen Keller International, Incorporated
22 West 17th Street
New York, New York 10011

Dr. Kenneth Jernigan (Vice Chairman)
National Federation of the Blind
Randolph Hotel Bldg.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Mrs. Irvin F. Richman (Secretary)
National Braille Association
9555 Central Park Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60203

Martin F. Droege (Treasurer)
Clovernook Home and School f/t Blind
7000 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Loyal E. Apple
American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16th Street
New York, New York, 10011

Mr. E. G. Brown
Canadian National Institute f/t Blind
1929 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4G 3E8
Canada

Richard Evensen
Division for the Blind & Physically Handicapped
U.S. Library of Congress
1291 Taylor Street, NW
Washington, DC 20542

Robert A. J. Gildea
Association for Computing Machinery
Mitre Corporation
P. O. Box 208
Bedford, Mass, 01730

James E. Haralson
Association for Education of the
Visually Handicapped
8072 Dartmouth Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

Durward K. McDaniel
American Council of the Blind
818 18th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006

Dr. Carson Nolan
American Printing House f/t Blind
1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40206

BRaille MEETING

Tuesday, September 28th, 1976
Hotel Burlington, Washington, D. C.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introduction of Participants
- II. Background Statement and Purpose of Meeting
- III. Review and Discussion of Proposed Restructured Braille Authority
- IV. Future Plans

Minutes
of
Meeting on the Braille Authority

September 18, 1976
Burlington Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Attendance:

American Association of Workers for the Blind	Harold G. Roberts
American Council of the Blind	Durward McDaniel
American Foundation for the Blind	Loyal E. Apple
American Printing House f/t Blind	Dr. Carson Nolan
Association for Computing Machinery	Robert A. J. Gildea
Association for Education of the Visually Handicapped	Mary K. Bauman
Canadian National Institute for the Blind	E. G. Brown
Clovernook Home and School f/t Blind	Martin F. Droege
Library of Congress	Kurt Cylke
National Braille Association	Richard Evensen
National Federation of the Blind	Mrs. Bonnie Richman
	Dr. Kenneth Jernigan
	Mrs. Anderson

(Mr. Terry Small, New Zealand Foundation for the Blind attended as an observer)

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 A.M. and the participants were welcomed by Mr. Roberts who expressed his appreciation to the participants for their interest. He explained that although the Canadian Council of the Blind and the Blinded Veterans Association were unable to be represented, they indicated their interest.

Mr. Roberts then gave a brief background statement describing the developments which led to the decision of the current three sponsoring organizations, namely AAWB, AEVH and NBA, authorizing a restructuring of the current Braille Authority and an enlargement of the number of sponsoring groups. The following points were stressed.

- A. The proposed change was initiated by the Braille Authority and its National Advisory Council which established an Ad Hoc Committee to study the existing structure and method of financing.
- B. The three sponsoring agencies have formally accepted the basic recommendations of the ad hoc committee because they believe they could lead, if accepted, to a strengthening of the mechanism for the development of new Braille codes and the adoption of changes in existing codes which would result from increased financing and greater responsiveness to the needs of Braille

producers and readers. The structure proposed by the ad hoc committee was modified by the current sponsors in order to achieve greater administrative efficiency.

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The participants then engaged in a lively discussion which resulted in clarification of the following points:

- a) The terms of office of the current members of the National Advisory Council and the Braille Authority have been extended by the three sponsoring Associations until such time as the proposed new structure is legally established.
- b) There are no conditions to the resolution adopted by the three sponsoring associations inviting increased sponsorship of the Braille Authority. Each new sponsor will be entitled to designate one representative to serve on the proposed Braille Authority of North America and each sponsor will have one vote.
- c) Although the current three sponsors have jointly proposed a revised structure, the new Braille Authority of North America will be completely free to alter this proposal in any way they deem necessary.
- d) With respect to future financing, the existing plan in which each sponsoring organization provides \$500 per annum will be continued until such time as the new Braille Authority authorizes a change in light of future budgetary needs. (Since the current sponsors have made their annual payment for calendar 1976, the next payment will be due on January 1, 1977.)

The representatives of the following organizations indicated their willingness to become sponsors of the new Braille Authority of North America: American Association of Workers for the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, American Printing House for the Blind, Association for Education of the Visually handicapped, Clovernook Home and School for the Blind, U. S. Library of Congress, National Braille Association, and the National Federation of the Blind.

The following representatives indicated their need to consult with their respective organizations before making a formal commitment: American Council of the Blind, Association for Computing Machinery, and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

A deadline of November 15, 1976 was agreed to for providing Mr. Roberts with a written acceptance of the invitation to become sponsors of the Braille Authority of North America (BANA).

It was further agreed that an organizing meeting of BANA will be held on Thursday, December 2, 1976 in Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Richman and Dr. Jernigan will cooperate in soliciting the most advantageous hotel in which to meet, either in downtown Chicago or at the airport depending on costs and availability of a meeting room. After this selection is made, Mr. Roberts, who agreed to continue as temporary chairman, will send out a formal notice of the meeting together with a tentative agenda.

After the participants were warmly thanked for their interest and cooperation, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold G. Roberts

PROPOSED AGENDA

Braille Authority of North America
Thursday, December 1, 1976

- I. Approval of minutes of September 28, 1976 meeting.
- II. Review of status of organizational membership in BANA
- III. Future expansion of membership in BANA
- IV. Election of officers
- V. Establishment of Committees:
 - a) Budget and Finance Committee
 - b) Technical Committee
- VI. Review of relationship between BANA and Florida State University with respect to U.S. Office of Education Grant.
- VII. Future meeting.