

**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting
February 20, 2014
Minutes**

Committee members, partners & others attending: Janell Brown, Mike Farley, Tracy Grimm, Irwin Hott, Beth Levine, David Namiotka, Mickey Prahin, Will Reed, Brit Taylor.

INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was held at the State Library of Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 10:30A.M. by Tracy Grimm. Each attendee introduced him or herself to the committee.

STATE LIBRARY REPORT:

NLS Updates: NLS has a new accessory - the digital talking book (DTB) cartridge cable to facilitate the use of DTB cartridges with a personal computer. The accessory connects a digital talking book cartridge to a universal serial bus (USB) port on a personal computer. The cable is three feet long with a standard USB type A plug on one end and a USB type A socket and plastic molding - conforming to the D shape of the cartridge on the other. This molding assists in the alignment of the cartridge with the USB socket upon insertion. When connected to the PC, the cartridge will be available as a removable storage device (a Microsoft Windows PC user will find this under "My Computer"). A user may then transfer DTB files from the PC to the cartridge for playback on the digital talking book machine. Network libraries may find the cables useful when duplicating files downloaded from BARD onto cartridges.

Tracy reported that Ohio now has a new NLS consultant for 2014. NLS consultants have now gone from three to two people and have split the country into four sections. The new consultant for the Midlands/West region is now Pamela Davenport. The North/South consultant will now be MaryBeth Wise. Ohio is scheduled to have a consultant visit in September 2014.

The 2014 National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, May 4–8. A preconference program and workshop on the distribution and circulation of locally produced magazines will be held on Saturday, May 3.

READ Poster: As mentioned in the last CAC meeting the 2014 READ poster will feature veterans using the Ohio Talking Book program at the Cleveland Blind Rehabilitation Center. Beth Levine, the VIST Coordinator from the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs has agreed to coordinate this project at the center. They will be taking several images of veterans using the program to be used for the new poster.

Local Conferences: Cyndi Smith from Universal Low Vision Aids is sponsoring a Tech Talk on Friday, April 4, 2014 at the Park of Roses library from 10 am to noon. They have asked Dr. LaHue to talk on Macular Degeneration. They have asked Tracy to give a small presentation about the Ohio Talking Book Program. Sandy Turner from VOICEcorps will also be giving a presentation.

Tracy will be attending the Out of Sight Assistive Technology Conference on Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 7:45am - 3:30pm. This is a conference for parents and students who are blind or visually impaired and the professionals who serve them. It is at the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio and co-sponsored by the Ohio State School for the Blind. It is a great conference with many speakers, breakout sessions, vendors and hands on demonstrations.

Sublending Agency Training: The SLA training is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, at the State Library. This will be the third year for the training. We will be having Claire Williams's daughter Sarah as the guest speaker. She will be demonstrating devices she uses on a daily basis. The theme of the training this year is to focus on services that many of Sublending Agencies might not know about.

OLBPD Report:

TBT and BBR: Will reported that NLS introduced some subscriber requested changes to the January–February 2014 issues of Talking Book Topics (TBT) and Braille Book Review (BBR). The large-print, online, and audio versions of TBT have returned to the fifty-word format for announcing books, and in both TBT and BBR, books are now announced in a structured, alphabetical format to make it easier for patrons to find books by subject and author. The new arrangement eliminates the need for an index. In addition, the 2013 edition of Digital Talking Books Plus will be the last audio book catalog produced and the 2011–2012 editions of *Braille Books* will be the last braille book catalog. The biennial *For Younger Readers* catalog will stay.

Family Fun and Learning Day 2014: Will announced the new date for FFLD of Wednesday, July 16, 2014 in Cleveland at OLBPD. The future dates for the annual FFLD event will be in the month of July to accommodate school age patrons. Tentatively, the plan is to switch locations between Cleveland and another host city like Columbus or Cincinnati on alternating years.

Magazines Update: The braille magazines *Parenting Early Years* (PAE1) and *Parenting School Years* (PAS1) have ceased publication. Subscribers who previously were receiving either magazine will now receive *Parents* (PAR1) without taking any action. The magazine *Smart Computing* has ceased publication and NLS has selected *Wired* as a replacement. *Wired* is a monthly magazine that presents wide ranging news and opinion concerning technology industries and the digital environment. *Smart Computing* subscribers will receive *Wired* automatically on digital cartridge unless they choose to cancel their subscription by notifying OLBPD. *Wired* is also available for download in BARD. Following extensive discussion, analysis and declining interest,

NLS has indefinitely suspended the Young Adult Magazine of the Month program. This change is effective January 1, 2014.

BARD and Locally Produced Books: NLS is currently beta testing with select network libraries on uploading locally produced books and magazines and making them available for download in BARD. No definite date has been given on when this will be made available to all network libraries.

Book Club: OLBDP hosts a monthly book discussion on the second Thursday of each month, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Patrons can participate using their own computer with a sound card and Internet connectivity. Patrons who do not have computer access can also participate in book discussions from their telephone. Any help promoting the book club is appreciated and OLBDP welcomes partnering with other book clubs on discussions.

Braille Resources: The OLBDP “Additional Service Resources” web page now includes reference links for those who are interested in more information about learning to read braille and braille literacy. Included is the NLS Braille Reference Literacy Circular which lists instructional materials, supplies, and equipment currently available for learning braille, and cites sources about braille literacy. The resources given are intended to assist sighted individuals who are interested in learning braille or want to transcribe print materials into braille; instructors who teach braille; persons with visual impairments who are interested in learning to read and write braille; and family members, friends, and professionals who desire information about braille literacy. Also included is the State of Ohio Department of Education – Blind and Visually Impaired Resources page which provides links to various information, programs and resources related to students who are blind, have visual impairments or print disabilities in Ohio. OLBDP is looking to be a resource that Ohioans can contact to find more information about Braille literacy and what resources are available to them. Please let Will know about any ideas and ways OLBDP can bolster efforts to encourage and enhance and inform Ohioans about Braille literacy.

Kids and Teens Reading Club: Will reported that a dozen patrons have signed up for the club already. Please help promote the reading club to patrons 18 and younger. Information can be found on the OLBDP web site: <http://olbpd.cpl.org>.