

**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting
October 31, 2013
Minutes**

Committee members, partners & others attending: Janell Brown, Stephanie Claytor, Mike Farley, Jo Ferguson, Tracy Grimm, Irwin Hott, Beth Levine, David Namiotka, Mickey Prahin, Vicky Prahin, Will Reed, Brit Taylor, Sandy Turner, Heather Youngman

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:

CAC Board Appointments & Introduction of New Members: The State Library of Ohio Board approved the following members for three year terms beginning November 1, 2013 and ending October 31, 2016 at the October 24th State Library Board Meeting.

Beth Levine (Initial Term)

Ms. Levine is the Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She is located at the Youngstown Community Based Outpatient Clinic. She has been a VIST Coordinator for the VA for two years. Prior to this position, Beth worked 10 years as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission/Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired. For the past 12 years, Beth has been focused on helping persons with disabilities specializing in low vision and blindness.

Mike Farley (Initial Term)

Mr. Farley is a member of the Veterans Association and served in the United State Air Force from 1972 - 1976. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Advertising from Kent State University. Mr. Farley worked for State Farm Insurance for thirty years. He was forced to retire three years ago upon losing his vision. Mr. Farley attended the Columbus Family Fun & Learning Day event and is very eager to promote the program to other veterans.

Brit Taylor (Initial Term)

Mr. Taylor is the Talking Book Coordinator at the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI). He started with CABVI in March of 2012 after previously working for seven years at the Cleveland Sight Center as an engineer with the Radio Reading Service. Brit replaced Wendy Clark at CABVI and has attended the CAC meetings since her departure. This will be his first official term on the committee. Brit has recently started a book club at CABVI for users of the Talking Book Program.

He is also a Radio Reading Service volunteer. Brit has a BS in nursing from the University of Akron.

Claire Williams (Re-Appointment)

Ms. Williams is currently employed by the Philomatheon Society of the Blind in Canton, Ohio, where she works as the Office Secretary and Talking Books Coordinator. She is the mother of Sarah, a 21 year old who is visually impaired and attends the Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus. Sarah is also a member of the OSSB School marching band and was featured in the State Library READ poster promoting the Ohio Talking Book Program.

Irwin Hott (Re-Appointment)

Mr. Hott has been a registered Talking Books consumer since 1977, and has served on the CAC previously. He is currently Editor of Newsreel Magazine, a Magazine by and for the Blind. In addition, Mr. Hott provides technology and Braille production training sessions, including one at the Columbus Family Fun & Learning Day event. He is currently working with his sixth Seeing Eye dog, Paris. Mr. Hott is also Vice-President of the American Council of the Blind of Ohio.

Family Fun & Learning Day Update: The Columbus event was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2014 at the State Library. Approximately 60 - 70 patrons attended the event. There were also eleven vendors in attendance, including the American Council of the Blind of Ohio, Cleveland Sight Center, Functional Aids, Hadley School for the Blind, Newsreel, Pilot Dogs, Universal Low Vision Aids, Voter Information and Registration – Secretary of State and VOICEcorps. NLS Narrator Laura Gianarelli was the featured speaker of the day who did a fantastic job of explaining just what it takes to narrate books for NLS. Music was provided by the students at Ft. Hayes Vocational School. The afternoon wrapped up with a question and answer session with OLBDP, State Library and CAC member Irwin Hott. Tracy expressed her thanks and gratitude to all members of the committee for ideas, suggestions and participation and efforts to make the first Family Fun & Learning Day event a success in Columbus.

Philomatheon Society Vision Awareness Fair: Tracy attended the event October 10, 2014 at the Canton Christian home. The fair was very well attended with an estimated 125 - 150 people throughout the day. There were many vendors, including vision & blood pressure screenings, lunch and speakers. Tracy was very impressed with the turnout and flow of events and wanted to thank and recognize Claire Williams for inviting her to participate and doing such great job organizing the event.

GE Volunteer Luncheon: Tracy was presented with the 75,002 repaired cassette machine at the GE Volunteer appreciation luncheon held in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 22, 2013. Karen Keninger, Director of the National Library Services was also in attendance from NLS and was awarded the 75,000th repaired machine. The Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (CABVI) executive director, John Mitchell, received the 75,001st repaired machine. The first repaired cassette player machine was shipped on March 21st, 1990 to the Cincinnati Association for the Blind (CABVI). In

September of 2011, the first repaired Digital Talking Book machine was shipped to the State Library of Ohio. Over the 23 years of operation, the GE Volunteers have saved NLS greater than four million dollars, volunteered over 300,000 hours, and currently supports libraries in OH, MA, RI, HI, WA, CA, MD, NY and CABVI.

CAC 2014 Dates: The following dates have been set for the 2014 CAC meetings. All meetings will begin at 10:30am and will be held at the State Library of Ohio.

February 20

May 29

July 24

October 30

READ Poster: Tracy announced that U.S. Military Veterans will be the theme for the 2014 READ poster for the Ohio Talking Book Program. The State Library will work with new CAC member Beth Levine, Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator from the US Department of Veterans Affairs to produce a poster that promotes the Talking Book Program and the Cleveland Blind Rehabilitation Center.

OLBPD Report:

NLS Mobile Apps Update: Will reported that the NLS BARD mobile app for Apple is now available through the Apple App Store. The BARD Mobile app allows searching, downloading and reading braille and talking books and magazines on one fully accessible, mainstream device. Patrons can play talking books and magazines on their Apple devices. Patrons may also read electronic braille books, magazines and music scores using a refreshable braille display connected to their iPhone, iPad or iPod touch through Bluetooth. The development of the BARD Android app has experienced some critical failures. NLS is considering pursuing another contract for the development of the Android app and they do not anticipate any BARD Android app release until perhaps mid or late 2014.

Magazines in Special Media: NLS has released the updated “Magazines in Special Media” for 2013. “Magazines in Special Media” is a descriptive listing of periodicals available to blind and physically disabled individuals throughout the country. It includes all of the magazines available through the NLS free reading program, as well as magazines not part of the NLS program but available directly from producers with a paid subscription. Patrons interested in receiving a copy of “Magazines and Special Media 2013” should contact OLBPD.

Magazines on Cartridge: OLBDP offers the following Ohio locally produced magazines to patrons: Cincinnati Magazine, Cleveland Magazine, Columbus Monthly, Good Old Days, Ohio Magazine, and Timeline: Western Reserve Historical Society. The OLBDP newsletter is also available in braille and audio formats. OLBDP also offers the following locally produced magazines from other NLS network libraries: AARP News Bulletin, Audubon, Black Enterprises, Grit, Guidepost, Humpty Dumpty, Kiplinger's Retirement, National Geographic in Spanish, National Geographic Traveler, Organic Gardening, Red Book, Saturday Evening Post, Smithsonian, Texas Monthly, Vital Speeches, Woman's Day, Yankee, and Your Dog. Patrons interested in receiving these magazines should contact OLBDP. Newsweek and Reader's Digest available in audio format from the American Printing House (APH) are still being sent on cassette. APH has not announced any immediate plans to offer these magazines on digital cartridge. These titles are available for download through APH's web site. Patrons can contact OLBDP for more information on receiving Newsweek and Reader's Digest on digital cartridge.

Family Fun and Learning Day: Will also reported that FFLD was held in Columbus on August 14th at the State Library of Ohio and in Cleveland at the Library on September 11th. Both events featured NLS narrator and keynote speaker Laura Giannarelli. OLBDP received a lot of positive feedback on the events. Will noted that 2013 marked the first year OLBDP hosted a patron event in cities other than Cleveland. Tentatively, plans are to host the event in Cleveland in 2014 then look to rotate locations and host it in another Ohio city in 2015.

Talking Book Topics (TBT): It has come to NLS's attention that many patrons are confused by the distribution of Talking Book Topics (TBT) on cartridge. Magazine on Cartridge (MOC) delinquency rates significantly increased when the July-August edition of TBT became overdue and several libraries have reported issues with the order forms. NLS seeks to improve the TBT distribution processes to better meet the needs of subscribers, and have surveyed network libraries.

Kids and Teens Reading Club: Will reported that the Kids & Teen Reading Club launched at OLBDP in September. Currently a dozen patrons have signed up and OLBDP is hoping for many more to enroll. Will asked CAC members to please help promote the reading club to patrons 18 and younger. Information can be found on the OLBDP web site: <http://olbpd.cpl.org>

Next meeting is scheduled at the State Library of Ohio on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 10:30am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05p.m.

Minutes submitted by Tracy Grimm