

## Idaho Talking Book Service Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

10:00am – 2:00pm

**LIVE and in person! First time since 2019**

**Meeting Purpose:** To remain current with Talking Book Service items

**Meeting Guidelines:**

- We take a statewide view on topics
- We listen as allies
- We follow the agenda
- We come away with next steps

**Desired Outcomes:**

- Share grant updates
- Tour studio and receiving areas
- Discuss updates from the National Library Service 2022 Virtual Conference
- Learn from Megan Egbert (Temp. Employee) on her work with TBS
- Learn Duplication on Demand (DoD) from Linda
- Introduce new ICfL employees and understand how they will support TBS
- Receive updates from each other

**Meeting Leader:** LeAnn Gelskey

**Facilitator:** Pete Nelson

**Recorder:** Rebecca McKay

Time	Agenda Item	Action	Time
10:00	Meeting set-up: agenda, guidelines, additional topics	Review Agree	5 min
10:05	Icebreaker activity - Pete	Share	5 min
10:10	Member Terms and Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marina Rose</li><li>• Student Liaison – Quincy Mattick (ISU)</li></ul>	Agree	10 min
10:20	That All May Read Mini Grant – LeAnn	Share	10 min
10:30	Tour of studio and extending areas – LeAnn and Sheila Winther, Interim Volunteer Coordinator	Share	30 min
11:00	NLS Virtual Conference – what did we learn? - CSRs	Share	15 min
11:15	State updates – Stephanie	Share	15 min

11:30	Presentation – Megan Egbert	Learn	30 min
12:00	Working lunch and activity	Enjoy!	30 min
12:30	Scribe Demo – Linda	Learn	30 min
1:00	Introduce Bilingual/Bicultural Project Coordinator Ismael Mendoza Medina	Learn	10 min
1:10	Introduce Public Library Consultant – Clay Ritter	Learn	15 min
1:25	TBS updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Book Club</li> <li>○ Outreach to rural care facilities and partners</li> </ul>	Share	10 min
1:35	Committee member updates	Share	15 min
1:50	Next steps	Discuss List	5 min
1:55	Meeting review (+/-)	Share	5 min
2:00	Adjourn Next meeting: September 7, 2022		

**Attendees:** Catherine Stanton, Public Library Rep, Madison District; Dana Ard, National Federation for the Blind; Erin Rainey, Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind; Rebecca McKay TBS Customer Service Rep and meeting recorder; LeAnn Gelskey, TBS Director and meeting leader; Candace Reynolds, TBS Customer Service Rep; Linda Cash, Shipping and Receiving manager Sheila Winther, Interim Volunteer Coordinator; Judy Mooney, TBS Customer Service Rep; Megan Egbert, TBS Technical Support Specialist; Travis Wilson, Boise VA Hospital ; Marina Rose, E-resources Library Consultant; Steve Achabal, Idaho Commission for the Blind, independent living coordinator; Talela Florko, Grant and contracts officer; Ismael Mendoza Medina, Bilingual/Bicultural Project Coordinator; Clay Ritter, Public Library Consultant; Stephanie Bailey-White, State Librarian; and Pete Nelson, HR Specialist; and meeting facilitator.

**Icebreaker activity – Pete:** “Have you ever met anyone famous”?

**Member Terms and Updates:** Marina Rose has moved from Caldwell Public to ICfL and will be leaving the committee, this is her last meeting. LeAnn is looking into finding a public library rep from Northern Idaho. Dana may have a connection as well. Alison may have a new student, Quincy Mattick (ISU) that may join the committee if her schedule allows.

**That All May Read Mini Grant:** LeAnn updated the committee on new mini grants for Idaho public libraires to purchase new materials and assistive tech, so far 28 libraries have been granted \$1,000 for large print books, audiobooks, cd players, tablets, headphones, etc. Current

recipients include Buhl, Caldwell, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Emmett, Glens Ferry, Hagerman, Plummer, Payette, Lewiston etc. To qualify for the grant the library needs at least 2 activities that support TBS and spread the word. One library did TBS in summer reading "Oceans of possibilities". Erin and Catherine would like more info. LeAnn will update at next meeting. Stephanie wants to do mini grants next year as well. Catherine used part of her library's grant for LP non-fiction, she was able to replenish her LP shelves, and replace old titles.

**Tour of studio and extending areas:** LeAnn and Sheila Winther (Interim Volunteer Coordinator) showcased TBS' studio. They currently have 40 volunteers, and will hopefully get up to 80 soon, as people feel more comfortable coming in. Studio is back up and fully running, they only had to restart 3 of the 50 current projects. The studio is officially releasing new titles and will start interviewing for new readers once Sheila is fully transitioned out. Studio needs more volunteer editors!

### **NLS Virtual Conference with the CSRs:**

Rebecca- Director Jason Broughton discussed NLS' new motto of "Engage, Empower, Expand". Vermont TBS has a new program with their local USPS recognizing all they do with for TBS programs with different awards. NLS maintains that they will support their local libraries and provide data and statistics as needed. North Carolina has a new program called "Tactile Tour" which sends out boxes with items that young patrons can use to learn new textures and shapes.

Judy-NLS is developing a new player called DA2. The shape is squarer, buttons are more oblong, and it has more buttons. It also has Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connections, meaning it can download books straight to the player, has text to speech and access to BARD. It is currently in testing phase and libraries will have to sign up to field test. One TBS library sent a letter out to all their local schools special ed directors about new reading disabled eligibility. 174 students signed up.

Candace- Unrated books are piling up and NLS needs volunteers. If you're interested, use the application on the website. Catherine is a volunteer, and says it is very easy. We currently have an application for getting a currency reader, but NLS will now stock individual libraries to make access easier.

LeAnn- NLS is working on its own version of an Alexa, with text to speak enabled.

**State updates with Stephanie:** Legislative Session; House Bill 666 did not pass through the senate, which angered some reps who took it out on the ICfL budget. Funds were not approved for IDEA, until ICfL can prove they have house and senate support. ICfL lost funding for construction and tech to support telehealth sites in public libraries, there would have been 23 sites. Department of Health and Welfare has stepped in and will be able to support some telehealth programs. ICfL is initiating new policies to address parental concerns and educate on personal offence vs obscene in accordance with state and federal laws. \$1.25 million approved for summer reading programs, and after school programs.

**Presentation with Megan Egbert:** Megan shadowed the CSRs and Linda to pinpoint what TBS is. She noted patron interactions take a lot of time over the phone and reader's advisory plays a huge part of the CSR job. TBS can improve on their documentation and written policies as well as instructions for both staff and patrons online. Possible models are Colorado and South Carolina. More TBS programs are engaging with summer reading and Book talks. Utah has improved their website accessibility i.e., they can adjust the font size, adjust language, and use text to speech.

TBS' recent adjustments include tips on using BARD on Alexa, updating, and making the Spanish Application accessible. TBS book club switched from conference call to zoom so facilitators have more control. CSRs attended a customer service brainstorming session. Moving forward TBS will have training on accessible documents, possibly from BSU, and an Inservice day to learn about descriptive links, alt image texts, headings for people using screen readers, etc. TBS will try to get away from PDFs and have information directly on the website (skipping the link). However, TBS won't be able to use this for the application since it requires certification.

**Scribe Tour with Linda:** The committee walked through the downloading process using Scribe.

**Introduce Bilingual/Bicultural Project Coordinator, Ismael Mendoza Medina:** Ismael wants to bring in the Latinx community, see what's needed, and reach out to community members. He has Lit Chat every other month, focusing on cultural events, and how libraries can bring in community members, such as partnerships with the health district, ways to learn English, step by step guide in Spanish to navigate websites. LeAnn hopes to utilize his talents to help with outreach to Latinx community for TBS.

**Introduce Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter:** Clay meets with trustees and directors about the foundational elements of their libraries i.e., best practices, following the law, conducting meetings. Idaho has 105 Public libraires and Clay wants to commission "Welcome letters" for new Directors that include TBS, as well as in new director trainings.

**TBS updates:** Book Club will be led by Candace on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and the book is "Last House on the Street". TBS has been focusing on outreach to rural care facilities and partners. Nampa has a new low vision center, they accumulated braille materials, and games that are embossed with braille and are larger, as well as toys and interactive manipulatives. Erin from IESDB has spare braille books and would like to chat with Laura at Nampa about donating (LeAnn will facilitate).

#### **Committee member updates:**

Travis- The pandemic forced the VA to develop virtual support groups, and he now oversees 310 vets, average age is 80 years old, and although they are not huge fans of computers, virtual groups have helped the VA to reach out across the state, and have more people join. Face to face support groups are back alongside the virtual groups. VA is switching over to new medical record system, which requires a lot of training, and will be live at the end of June. The Blinded

Veterans Association conference is in DC at the end of August, and Travis hopes to attend and bring back info.

Erin- Swamped with schoolbooks for next year, as they are currently brailleing for this year. She would like to bring in BARD to help supplement.

Steve- ICBVI is fully staffed as of last week and they are currently ramping up summer programs for high school students ages 14-21, such as the college days program for juniors and seniors living in BSU dorms. ICBVI is focusing on teaching participants how to advocate for themselves. ICBVI is partnering with IESDB in Gooding with "road to success". TBS is hosting a SWEP volunteer this summer. ICBVI applications now include sections on TBS and Newslite to promote and ask for more information.

Catherine- Gearing up for summer reading and creating Kelp forests. Excited to hear TBS can be used in summer reading and would like to try for next year. Also looking forward to new LP books from mini grant.

Dana-NFB had a successful convention in April with great speakers (first in person convention since 2020). Next year's convention will be in Boise, at the Red Lion downtown. Dana is getting ready for the national convention in New Orleans July 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. "Bell and Beyond" residential camp program in Moscow for ages 7-17, will teach braille reading and writing, daily living skills, science, and water sports. They are still accepting students, and you can reach out to Alison at ICBVI for more information. Dana is still advocating for accessible medical devices and web design. She will be attending next year's legislative luncheon and can advocate for ICfL there.

Pete- Recently participated in Cycle for independence, team was Idaho Talking Book Service. Food was good, and the weather was lovely.

**Next steps:** LeAnn will check in on Summer Reading for Catherine, will talk with Ismael, will send info to Dana for book club, and will send info to Erin about Nampa library.

**Meeting review (+/-):** A lot of good information with new people in attendance. Everyone was happy to be in person because it is easier to ask questions. The food was good, however, the River Room is almost too big. If we need to do a hybrid meeting, then we can have it in the Table Rock Room since the connections are better in there. TBS will work on figuring out parking accommodations to accommodate a full day meeting.

**Next meeting: September 7, 2022**

Agenda items: TBD (possible ideas listed)

- Welcome new members
- ICfL Strategic Plan Presentation - Dylan
- Update from Summer Summit and other summer events