

**Idaho Talking Book Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**  
**9:30 am-12:00 pm**  
**Idaho Commission for Libraries**  
**Table Rock Room**

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

**Desired outcomes:** By the end of the meeting, participants will:

- Update FY2018 TBS work Plan
- Review Yes to TBS outreach plan and materials
- Receive updates on TBS activities
- Share member updates

**Meeting leader:** Sue Walker

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Bailey-White

**Recorder:** Judy Mooney

**Agenda**

Meeting set-up, introductions, icebreaker	Stephanie	• Share	15 minutes
FY2018 TBS Work Plan	All	• Review • Discuss	30 minutes
Yes to TBS Promotion	All	• Share	30 minutes
TBS Activities update	All	• Share	45 minutes
Committee member updates	All	• Share • Discuss	20 minutes
Next steps	All	• List	5 minutes
Meeting review	All	• List	5 minutes

**Present:** Dana Ard, Valerie Duffy, Susan McCoy, Vicki Prin, Alison Steven, Catherine Stanton, Stephanie Bailey-White, Judy Mooney, Karen Ortiz, Colleen Schowalter, Sue Walker, Rachel Welker

**FY2018 TBS Work Plan:** This work plan addresses the 4 areas identified as priorities for promoting both TBS resources and other resources for those requiring print alternatives. Progress will depend on financial resources.

**Collections:** Focusing on rating commercial audio books. The entire NLS network is working on rating the commercial audio books for strong language, violence, sex, or foreign accents. Our goal is to rate 100 books a fiscal year, we are at 22. To volunteer give Sue a call or email and she will assign books to you and give you our guidelines to follow when rating the books.

The Studio Manager is recruiting narrators, monitors, and reviewers to keep both studios working 80% of the time. (36 hours per week per studio.) Volunteers start out as reviewer before narrating or a monitoring.

We will have a workshop for narrators. Celeste Lauson, head of the NLS recording studio will present a two-day training. Volunteers see this as reward to train with a NLS professional narrator. The training class will be April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and the class is free. To apply go to our website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/> and at the top you will click on volunteer opportunities. You can also contact Colleen Schowalter at 208-334-2150. Dana Ard will mention the volunteer opportunities at her next Toastmaster meeting.

#### **TBS up-dates:**

**TBS Patron centric cartridge (PCC):** This service allows readers to receive multiple titles on one cartridge, which has an extended check-out time of six months. Customer service representatives have set about 30 patrons up with 20 to 30 books on one cartridge. The bookshelf feature is activated by pushing and holding the green, square play button until the player says "bookshelf." The title of each book on the cartridge is spoken when the fast forward and back arrow keys on either side of the play button are used. Push the green, square play button once to select the book and a second time to begin playing it.

We have some avid readers that can have up to 4 PC cartridges out. The PCC cartridge will only work on the digital TBS player. Customer Service representatives set the cartridge up as series books in order, by authors, or a request list ordered by the patron. We will put another article in the TBS newsletter again to promote.

**Promotional activities:** TBS every year runs a PSA from January through the end of March on television and radio commercials throughout the state of Idaho. Right now, NLS is also doing a promotion to advertise TBS nationwide.

TBS customer service reps signed up 65 new applications in February.

TBS is working with The Idaho Department of Ageing to send a letter out about the TBS. We will also send out TBS library brochures to meal sites at Senior Centers and with the people that deliver Meals on Wheels.

TBS is working with teachers and special education teachers, and school librarians. They can request TBS displays to promote TBS. We are trying to get the word out to let

teachers know that TBS is here for students that have dyslexia or students with reading disabilities resulting from an organic brain dysfunction which requires a MD signature.

Stephanie Bailey-White developed a video titled "Behind the Scenes at TBS". Narrated by volunteer Don Evans a volunteer; it is on You-tube

Yes, to TBS Promotion: TBS has 51 libraries signed up with 34 promotion celebrations to get TBS word out in their area. The promotion will go until the end of March. We will then be sending out surveys to libraries who participated to see how successful the promotion was at their library. We are interested in how easy it was to use, and if they found the social media posts and tweets useful.

Cathy will promote on her library Facebook page.

Vicki will work with Colleen on a hash tag of never stop reading.

**TBS Funding:** TBS was state funded until 2009 when the state budget was decreased 20 percent. The TBS was then transferred to federal funding. ICfL is trying to get the funds moved back to state funds. The Idaho Legislature voted to give extra funds if the federal funding is cut. ICfL will go back next year and ask that TBS be returned to state funding.

**Volunteers:** Idaho volunteers are recognized and rewarded for their outstanding acts of service and volunteerism. Honorees are nominated by fellow Idahoans in the following categories: Individual, student, teacher/professor, veteran, individual aged 55+, nonprofit/public organization, and business. Several ICfL volunteers were nominated this year. ICfL came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nonprofit category.

ICfL volunteer Truman Stewart won the Veteran volunteer award. Truman's family came out, and he received a standing ovation. Truman inspects our audio books as they arrive back in the mail from patrons and receives new titles that come in from the National Library Service to make sure that all copies that are ordered come in. Truman has been at ICfL for 25-years as a volunteer.

**Training:** In February Nancy, a Keystone trainer, came to Boise to train the customer service representatives on KLAS. She showed them shortcuts and tips; a very informative two-day training.

In May Idaho Talking Book Service will host a KLAS (Keystone) user conference. Sixty to seventy people from other states that work in other Talking Book libraries will travel to Idaho to network and participate in training presentations of their choice.

A reception will be held at the Boise Depot. Ramona Walhof will be the key note speaker. The theme this year will be "Elevating Libraries."

**MOCA:** TBS has a new pilot project called the MOCA. The device is connected to a BARD download account. As soon as a book is returned or transferred to a blank cartridge via the cartridge, the device will download the next book from the user's BARD

wish list. For this trial each device is limited to 1 gigabyte of downloaded data. MOCA will download books from BARD even if the user has no internet access; the internet is connected to the MOCA player by finding a nearby cell phone tower. The MOCA arrives with a Quick Start Guide in print and in braille.

**Outreach:** In January TBS was at the Boise Capitol building for an outreach. About 15 legislators stopped by the Talking Book Service table. Thanks to Dana Ard for helping at this outreach.

**Newsline:** The Idaho Talking Book Service works with the Blind Commission to get the word out about Newsline, a free service available to anyone who is blind, visually impaired or print-disabled. Funded by state sponsors, NFB-NEWSLINE offers over 400 publications to choose from, including ten national newspapers like the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*, sixteen breaking news sources such as *CNN*, *BBC* and *ESPN Online*, fourteen international newspapers including *Financial Times* and *Vancouver Sun*, and countless state newspapers, as well as fifty magazines like *Family Circle*, *Time*, *Consumer Reports*, *Guideposts*, *Smithsonian* and more.

Newsline also offers emergency weather alerts and seven day forecasts, job listings, TV listings, retail ads and more. There are a number of access methods including touch-tone telephone, a free mobile app for iPhone, iPad and iPod, on Demand emails, a secure website, and a variety of portable players including the NLS Talking Book player and Victor Reader Stream 2nd Generation.

**Logo:** TBS has a new logo with flying books as pictured on our brochures.

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

**Susan:** works with students that are deaf and blind.

She had some of her students come in to TBS for a tour. The visit to TBS was exciting for the students; they would like to come back again.

Susan took a digital player to Idaho City to have a student test the player. The student loves to listen to books. Susan demonstrated how to download books from BARD. The student picked it up quickly and Susan left the digital player with the teacher as a demo. Susan loved getting the short video clips of TBS to share with the kids. It has helped with her case load.

**Allison:** works with a special education class in Eagle, ID. They have a community rehab that provides jobs to those with a visual or physical handicap.

She also works with the BELL program that is designed to provide intensive Braille instruction to blind and low vision children during the summer months. This program is meant to serve students who are not currently receiving enough Braille instruction in school or who could benefit from Braille enrichment over the summer.

**Vicki:** partnered with Alzheimer's, Dementia and caregivers for a social activity. Seniors were invited to come and meet other people, relax. Eagle Public has a memory care collection, big puzzles, games, conversation starter kits. They had different games that help with brain memory.

She also runs the "Home Bound Delivery;" The service is available to City of Eagle residents who are unable to use the library because they are generally confined to their residence either temporarily, due to illness or accident, or permanently due to age, disability or other mobility issues. Participants may reside in private homes, retirement residences, and assisted living facilities. Caregivers to a person requiring continuous care are also eligible.

**Dana Ard;** It's time to get excited about our 2018 National Federation of the Blind state convention to be held April 26-28, 2018. It will be held at the Red Lion Canyon Springs hotel in Twin Falls. You can register on line at [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org). Convention theme is Raising Expectations and Creating Opportunities! We will have a reception on Thursday night with lite snacks. Come and see old friends and make new ones.

NFB will have 3 legislators speak. A youth panel will speak on how to get ready for adulthood. Joe Ruffalo, the National Federation of the Blind president, is our national representative. We have been working together on some fun and educational presentations. We will hear from blind parents, 3 members of our Idaho legislature, challenges for blind children in education, new innovations in technology and much more. Our blindness product and services expo promises to have more technology than in the past. We will have a student seminar, planned and conducted by blind students, as well as a meeting for parents to discuss the fall seminar which is being planned for parents and blind children and teens. Our senior division will also meet. Our Friday night activity will be fun and educational, and of course, we will have goodies. The high point of convention will be our banquet with our scholarship awards, and address by Joe Ruffalo. Our on-line auction will be in progress. This year we will auction certificates for Chandler's steak house valued at 100.00 and other items. The auction will run thru April.

The Treasure Valley chapter will hold its annual Cycle for Independence on May 19 at River Glen Junior High. We will have bike socks which can be purchased for \$5.00 per pair.

**Val Duffy:** is working with many veterans that are 90 and older. They have a caregiver during the day for the veterans. Val would like a speaker to come over and explain Newline to the veteran's support groups.

**Cathy:** Their library is geared more for small children. Cathy is looking for ideas to get the rest of the library staff on board for activities for older users. She feels they are not serving the entire community. She partners with senior centers and assisted living communities, and works with "Meals on Wheels." She still has a tough time getting staff to buy in and accept senior programs. At staff meetings she could hand out TBS

brochures. An idea was shared to identify the needs in your area by conducting an on-line survey. Colleen volunteered to help set that up with Cathy. Cathy would like to provide home bound delivery for seniors.

**Colleen:** Will present volunteer job descriptions at a presentation at ILA in Moscow.

**Next steps:**

There will be an advisory committing meeting June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 but Val and Cathy will not be able to make that meeting.