



## PRESS RELEASE

January 2007

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### **BANA Holds Meeting, Elects New Officers**

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) met October 20-22, 2006, in Washington DC. The meeting was hosted by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress, a member organization of BANA.

Members reviewed reports from the numerous BANA technical committees, including the Literary Committee, which is currently working on a new edition of *English Braille, American Edition*; the Tactile Graphics Committee finalizing guidelines for the production of tactile graphics; and the Braille Formats Committee, which is working on a revised edition of *Braille Formats: Principles of Print to Braille Transcription*. These three projects are all very large projects that the expert committees have been working on for several years. BANA also established a committee to develop transcription guidelines for the production of craft and hobby materials such as knitting and crochet patterns, chess materials, latch hook rug instructions, and other types of instructional items where no specific code exists to guide transcribers. This committee will be chaired by Marcy Ponzio of the Braille Institute of America. Kim Charlson, who has served as chair of BANA for the past three years will conclude her term of office at the end of 2006, but will continue representing the American Council of the Blind on the BANA Board.

Newly elected officers are:

#### **Judith (Judy) Dixon, Chairperson**

Judith Dixon is the Consumer Relations Officer at the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress. She has written and spoken extensively in the area of braille; is the creator and manager for NLS's Web-Braille service; and has been a lifelong reader of braille and a tireless advocate for braille literacy.

**Eileen Curran, Vice-Chairperson**

Eileen Curran is Vice President for Education Services at National Braille Press, where she has worked since 1985. She served as the chair of BANA from 2000 to 2003, and is currently treasurer of the International Council on English Braille. Passionate about braille, Eileen has been an instructor of teachers of the blind at Boston College, and previously taught braille at Perkins School for the Blind and in public school classes. Ms. Curran is the author of a braille primer for parents entitled *Just Enough to Know Better*, now in its tenth edition.

**Jennifer Dunnam, Secretary**

Jennifer Dunnam (Minneapolis, MN) is the Manager of Braille Programs for the National Federation of the Blind's Jernigan Institute, administering the courses for persons seeking certification in braille transcribing and proofreading from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Previously, she was the Manager of Access Programs in Disability Services at the University of Minnesota, overseeing braille production at the University. She is the author of *The Slate Book: A Guide to the Slate and Stylus* and serves on the board of the National Association to Promote the Use of Braille.

**Mary Archer, Treasurer**

Mary Archer is the Supervisor of the Braille Section at Minnesota State Services for the Blind, managing the braille production facility for the State of Minnesota. The Braille Section provides materials to students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. She is also the current president of the National Braille Association, Inc. In addition, she has previously served BANA as secretary and vice-chair. She is a certified literary and Nemeth Code braille transcriber.

The mission and purpose of the Braille Authority of North America are to assure literacy for tactile readers through the standardization of braille and/or tactile graphics. BANA promotes and facilitates the use, teaching and production of braille. It publishes rules, interprets and renders opinions pertaining to braille in all existing codes. It deals with codes now in existence or to be developed in the future, in collaboration with other countries using English braille. In exercising its function and authority, BANA considers the effects of its decisions on other existing braille codes and formats; the ease of production by various methods; and acceptability to readers.

# Braille Authority of North America

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## Representative

Kim Charlson  
Frances Mary D'Andrea  
Betsy Burnham  
May Davis  
Diane Wormsley  
Bonnie Grimm  
Sue Reilly  
Darleen Bogart  
Pam Boss  
Eileen Curran  
Judy Dixon  
Mary Archer  
Jennifer Dunnam  
Maria Stevens

## Organization

American Council of the Blind  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Printing House for the Blind  
Associated Services for the Blind  
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Braille Institute of America  
California Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Handicapped  
CNIB (The Canadian National Institute for the Blind)  
The Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
National Braille Press  
National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped  
National Braille Association  
National Federation of the Blind  
Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, Associate Member

## BANA Technical Committees

### Ad Hoc Committee on Braille Research

Frances Mary D'Andrea, Co-chair  
Diane Wormsley, Co-chair  
Darleen Bogart  
Eileen Curran  
Judy Dixon  
Cay Holbrook  
Rob Wall-Emerson  
Robin Wetzell

### Ad Hoc Committee on Early Literacy

#### Materials Production

Betsy Burnham, Chairperson  
Diane Wormsley, Board Liaison  
Susan Christensen  
Warren Figueiredo  
Ann Kelt  
Ann MacCuspie  
Edie Mourre

### Ad Hoc Committee on Foreign Language

#### Materials

Ann Kelt, Chairperson  
Eileen Curran, Board Liaison  
Marilyn Breedlove  
Jill Cooter  
Lisa McClure

### Braille Formats Technical Committee

Lynette Taylor, Chairperson  
Kim Charlson, Board Liaison  
Deborah Brown  
Susan Christensen  
Debbie Gillespie  
Sandy Smith  
Ann Kelt  
Mary Czepyha, Consultant  
Dena Garrett, Consultant

### Computer Braille Technical Committee

Melissa Hirshson, Chairperson  
May Davis, Board Liaison  
John Jackson  
Sandra Ruconich  
Joseph Sullivan  
Betty Teachman

### Crafts and Hobbies Technical Committee

Marcy Ponzio, Chairperson  
Eileen Curran, Board Liaison  
Lorraine Banks  
Gilbert Busch  
Melissa Hirshson  
Gail Snider  
Yvette Pourciau, Consultant

**Literary Braille Technical Committee**

Martha Pamperin, Chairperson  
Darleen Bogart, Board Liaison  
Nancy Barker  
Anna Lee Braunstein  
Joseph Sullivan  
John Wilkinson  
Julia Moyer  
Tom Keith, Consultant

**Mathematics Braille Technical Committee**

Dorothy Worthington, Chairperson  
Mary Archer, Board Liaison  
Helen McMillan  
Allison O'Day  
Susan Osterhaus  
Jean Simpson  
Joanne Baldwin, Consultant  
Mary Denault, Consultant

**Music Braille Technical Committee**

Lawrence Smith, Chairperson  
Jennifer Dunnam, Board Liaison  
Karin Auckenthaler  
Beverly McKenney  
Harvey Miller  
Tom Ridgeway  
Karen Gearreald, Consultant

**Publications Committee**

Susan Christensen, Chairperson  
Judy Dixon, Board Liaison  
Bob Brasher  
Warren Figueiredo  
Sandy Smith  
Joanna E. Venneri

**Refreshable Braille Technical Committee**

Caryn Navy, Chairperson  
Judy Dixon, Board Liaison  
Eric Guillory  
Mary Beth Metzger  
Sharon Monthei  
Graham Stoodley

**Tactile Graphics Technical Committee**

Lucia Hasty, Chairperson  
Jennifer Dunnam, Board Liaison  
Constance Craig  
John McConnell  
Allison O'Day  
Diane Spence  
Susan Osterhaus, Consultant