

THE YEAR OF BRAILLE



American Printing House
for the Blind, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2016
OCTOBER 1, 2015 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fiscal Year 2016



APH began last year with the declaration that 2016 was the “Year of Braille.” In this age of technological advances, such as audio on demand and speech output on many devices, those outside the field of blindness education may hold a misguided belief that braille is no longer necessary. I hold to the contrary. Braille is necessary for literacy and represents access that audio and speech output do not. Braille is often the gateway to independence and employment.

The history of APH began with a group of dedicated individuals committed to providing tactile reading opportunities for students with visual impairments. Prior to this time, people who were blind relied on others to provide auditory support, thus limiting their literacy independence. This is not the time to step back to practices that we emerged from nearly 200 years ago. We must endeavor to make braille readily available across a variety of platforms, thus ensuring that all consumers will have the ability to access braille in the medium that best meets their needs. APH has championed this idea throughout our history and 2016 was the year we announced products such as the Orbit Reader 20™, BrailleBlaster™, and the Graphiti™. It was also a year to embrace our heritage as we procured a copy of Louis Braille’s book, *Procédé pour écrire les Paroles, la Musique et le Plain-chant au moyen de point*, 1829, for our museum.

The dedicated work of APH staff gave us a great year to celebrate braille, along with the many other types of products and services we offer. 2017 promises to carry these ideas forward and we invite you all to join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Meador'.

Craig Meador, Ed.D., APH President



On the Cover

Addison reads a favorite **Braille Tales** braille book (see page 20) to her mom Brittany. “Addy” has been helped on her way to literacy by dedicated teachers, involved parents, and unique educational materials from the American Printing House for the Blind, such as **Building on Patterns UEB** (see page 6).

THE YEAR OF BRAILLE

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.

Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2016
October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016

Table of Contents:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| About the American Printing House for the Blind..... | 2 |
| 2016: The Year of Braille | 3 |
| An Artifact for the Ages Comes to APH | 4 |
| Building on Patterns UEB: A Foundation for Literacy | 6 |
| Bold. Strong. Together! APH Annual Meeting 2016..... | 8 |
| Federal Quota Program: Providing Educational Materials | 10 |
| The Power of Partners: | |
| Orbit Reader 20..... | 12 |
| Graphiti..... | 14 |
| BrailleBlaster | 16 |
| Beyond Braille: | |
| Video Mag HD | 17 |
| JAWS and MAGic Student Edition | 18 |
| All Aboard! The Sight Word Activity Express..... | 19 |
| Thanks to Our Generous Donors | 20 |
| Financials..... | 22 |
| Statistics | 23 |
| Services: Contract Work | 24 |
| Guidance of APH | Inside Back Cover |

Mission Statement:

The American Printing House for the Blind promotes independence of people who are blind and visually impaired by providing specialized materials, products, and services needed for education and life.



Braille textbooks and tests in all subjects are manufactured by APH for students across the United States, as well as materials created in large print and digital formats.

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Products and Services for Life

APH is a unique nonprofit organization, serving people of all ages who are blind and visually impaired.



Service Since 1858

Founded in 1858, APH is the oldest company in the U.S. dedicated to creating products for people who are blind and is the largest organization of its kind in the world.

Mandate and Corporate Status

Much of APH's mandate is derived from the Federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind of 1879. This act designates APH as the official supplier of educational materials to all eligible blind students in the U.S. working at less than college level.

APH is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. For additional information, please visit our informational website: www.aph.org or our shopping site: shop.aph.org

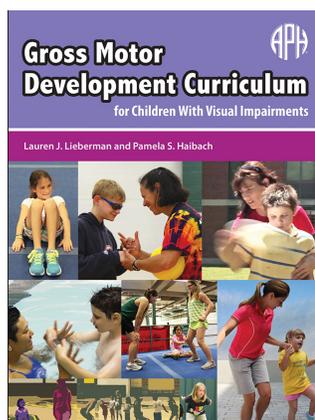
A few examples of our thousands of products:

- Braille, large print, and digital textbooks and tests
- Talking educational software
- Accessible mobile technology
- Tactile graphics tools
- Science and mathematics teaching kits
- Specialty products for commercial customers, including digital audio books and braille restaurant menus

A few examples of our many services:

- **The *Louis* Database of Accessible Materials:** Allows the location of hundreds of thousands of items in accessible media.
- **National Instructional Partnerships:** APH partners with Ex Officio Trustees and contracted experts to provide training events across the country.
- **Braille and Audio Magazines:** APH offers free subscriptions to accessible editions of *Reader's Digest*® and *Newsweek*®.

APH offers educational and daily living products for all areas of life, such as the *Gross Motor Development Curriculum* that provides a foundation for an active lifestyle during childhood and beyond.



2016: THE YEAR OF BRAILLE

World Braille Day, January 4, 2016, celebrated the official United States launch of the next evolution in the braille system of reading and writing: Unified English Braille (UEB).

The American Printing House for the Blind declared 2016 to be our “Year of Braille.”

APH was proud to release or announce significant products for electronic braille access, braille teaching, braille reading, or incorporating braille as a part of learning. In addition, we increased braille production during FY2016. Braille publications included tests, textbooks, manuals, and more.

APH continued to expand our services, such as our *Louis* Database that allows users to locate hundreds of thousands of accessible items in braille, large print, audio, and electronic formats. We created accessible materials for commercial customers, such as braille menus, utility statements, medical documents, organization guidebooks, and business cards.

Beyond braille, we offered many new educational and daily living products for all ages in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM); Orientation and Mobility (O&M); magnification; computer screen reading; language arts; early literacy; and much more.

We invite you to explore a few of the exciting milestones of APH’s Year of Braille in this report.

“Braille is knowledge, and knowledge is power.”

— *Louis Braille*

“APH braille teaching products are extremely vital to me, I use so many of them. I’ve used them from the beginning when I started teaching 38 years ago.”

— *Miriam Dixon,
Braille Teacher of Adults,
North Carolina Rehabilitation
Center for the Blind*

21,174,994

The number of braille pages pressed at APH during Fiscal Year 2016



AN ARTIFACT FOR THE AGES COMES TO APH

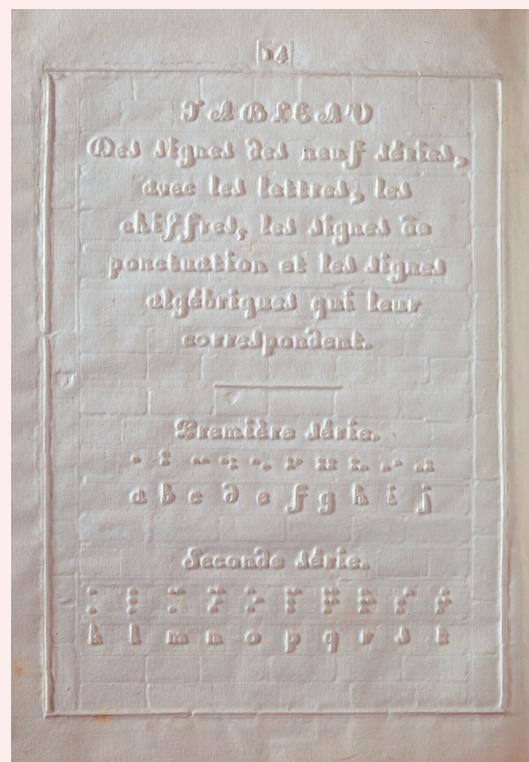
Louis Braille, born in France in 1809, lost his sight when he was four years old. He attended the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris. The founder of that school created books using raised letters, so Louis and his fellow students learned to read; however, there was no easy way for the students to write.

In 1821, Louis met a soldier, Charles Barbier, who had an idea for a military code based on raised dots that could be read in the dark. Louis took that idea, organized and simplified it, and in 1829, published his own dot-based code. The beauty of Louis's system was that, using only simple tools, the raised dots could be used to *write* as well as to read.

In February 2016, a large crowd gathered at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky to celebrate the most important acquisition that the APH Museum has made: a copy of Louis Braille's pioneering work, *Procédé pour écrire les Paroles, la Musique et le Plain-chant au moyen de points*. This book was embossed at the L'institution Royale des Jeunes Aveugles in France. Louis Braille taught there, and it is possible to imagine that he may have handled APH's very copy.

This rare book is significant because it was the first published explanation of the braille code. The system it outlines still forms the foundation of braille in the 21st century. Only six known copies of this book exist worldwide. APH's copy is the only one that will be on display for the public.

It is fascinating to explore the way the code has evolved to meet the needs of its users. We are still adapting Louis's code to meet modern needs. But from his simple A, the single dot in the upper left, to his Z with dots in positions 1, 3, 5, and 6, we emboss his alphabet just as he wrote it in 1829.



Thanks to generous donors, APH was able to acquire one of only six known copies of the first published explanation of the braille code. This book was published by Louis Braille in 1829.



“Access to communication in the widest sense is access to knowledge, and that is vitally important for us...We must be treated as equals, and communication is the way we can bring this about.”

– Louis Braille, 1841



APH’s Gary Mudd, Mike Hudson, and Craig Meador during the historic book unveiling.

“The pages are fascinating, illustrating the experimental nature of early embossing for blind readers, the wooden blocks used to set up the page clearly outlined. But the true wonder of the book is found in the elegance of Louis Braille’s code. It’s the same code still found wherever the Roman alphabet is used.”

– Mike Hudson, APH Museum Director

BUILDING ON PATTERNS UEB: A Foundation for Literacy

For over 35 years, young learners have had the world of braille reading and writing opened up to them due to dedicated teachers and APH's Building on Patterns: The Primary Braille Literacy Program.

Building on Patterns is the only basal reading series designed for teaching literacy skills along with contracted braille to students in kindergarten through second grade. It provides a balanced approach to literacy instruction and is based on rigorous research. In addition to instruction in braille and tactile graphics, Building on Patterns provides vital background knowledge and concept development needed by students who are visually impaired.

Building on Patterns focuses on the critical areas of vocabulary, fluency, reading comprehension, phonemic awareness, and phonics. Engaging illustrations and stories make learning braille an adventure.



A closeup of Addison reading a pleasure book.

“Now that Addy is learning braille with Patterns, she’s more independent and will ask if something has braille on it. She looks for it on doors, buildings, signs, etc. Braille has opened up lots of new aspects of life for Addy.”

– Missy Evers, Braille Teacher, Kentucky School for the Blind

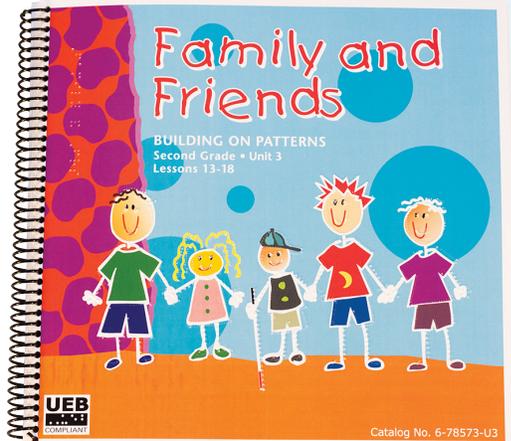
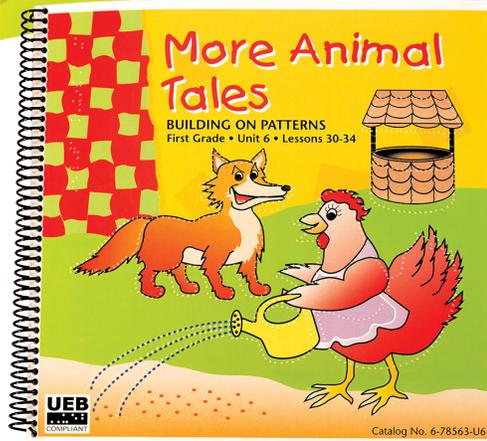


For more than a generation, braille learners across the U.S. have taken their first steps on the road to literacy with Building on Patterns. In Fiscal Year 2016, APH completed updating Building on Patterns to the new Unified English Braille (UEB) code.

Originally published in the early 1980s, Fiscal Year 2016 saw the completion of a major revision to Building on Patterns. APH staff working with other professionals from around the country updated Building on Patterns content to teach Unified English Braille (UEB), a revised version of the braille code. The UEB version and future revisions will allow Building on Patterns to continue to help provide up-to-date literacy and braille instruction for young students.



Building on Patterns' colorful characters and engaging stories make learning braille reading and writing enjoyable for students in kindergarten through second grade.



“Braille gives Addy the opportunity to read and write just as her sighted peers do. I cannot imagine her world without it!”

— Brittany, Addison's mom

BOLD. STRONG. TOGETHER!

APH Annual Meeting 2016

About the APH Annual Meeting of Ex Officio Trustees

Held in Louisville each fall, Annual Meeting provides opportunities for Ex Officio Trustees to meet with APH staff, learn about new products, share input on upcoming products, help guide the direction of APH, and meet other Trustees from across the U.S. APH also encourages the participation of many Special Guests, including teachers, parents, consumers, university program personnel, and other important groups of service providers.



APH's **Creative Use of Braille Award** is given in recognition of a product, idea, method, or promotional effort that increases the availability or awareness of braille. **John Romeo** received the award for creating "From Beyond the Walls," a program which allows incarcerated men and women to make training presentations via video to national audiences attending braille conferences. From left to right: **John Romeo (IA)**, **Peggy Schuetz (CA)**, **Vanessa Stenz (CA)**, **Cindy Olmstead (MI)**, and **Grant Horrocks (CA)**.



APH's **Virgil Zickel Award** recognizes creative individuals whose ideas result in the development of innovative products designed to improve the quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired. We were proud to bestow the Zickel Award on **Ann Boehm** and **Kay Ferrell** for their work on the **Boehm-3 Preschool: Test of Basic Concepts, Third Ed.** and on **Patricia Maffei** and **The Hatlen Center** for their work on the **Quick & Easy Expanded Core Curriculum**. From left to right: **Dorinda Rife (APH)**, **Patricia Maffei (CA)**, **Don Ouimet (CA)**, **Ann Boehm (NY)**, and **Kay Ferrell (CO)**.



Two leaders of our field were celebrated as the newest inductees to the Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field: **Sir Charles Frederick Frasier** and **Dr. Randall T. Jose**. Accepting the Jose plaque was **Greg Goodrich (left, CA)**. **Billy Brookshire (center, TX)**, Hall of Fame Board Chair, presented the history of each inductee. Accepting the Frasier plaque was **Ann MacCuspie (NS, Canada)**.

Annual Meeting Is Federally Mandated

In 1879, the U.S. Congress passed the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind. This act created the Federal Quota system to provide educational materials for blind students and named the American Printing House for the Blind as the national source of these materials. Part of that system requires that the Federal Quota program administrators—the Ex Officio Trustees—meet each year. The advice and counsel of Trustees is crucial to help APH meet the needs of students who are blind and visually impaired.



Walter Wilson and Jennifer Taylor, Large Type Department employees, explain the process of printing large print book covers to Annual Meeting tour-goers.



APH launched a new type of session for Annual Meeting 2016: interactive roundtables. Many topics were discussed in these concurrent sessions and we received terrific feedback. Here **Andrew Moulton (APH)** and **Frank Hayden (APH)** discuss ideas related to 3D printing.



APH President **Craig Meador** poses with award-winning APH InSights artist **Kiauna Smith**, a student from the Georgia Academy for the Blind. Her first-place piece is the lower artwork on the panel.

www.aph.org/annual-meeting-2016/photos



Keynote speaker Denna Lambert (right), a lifelong user of APH products, shared her personal journey of boldness, strength, and the power of working together to reach goals. Lambert is a Program Manager with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and she quoted Robert Goddard: "It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dreams of yesterday are the hope of today and the reality for tomorrow." She poses here with her parents.

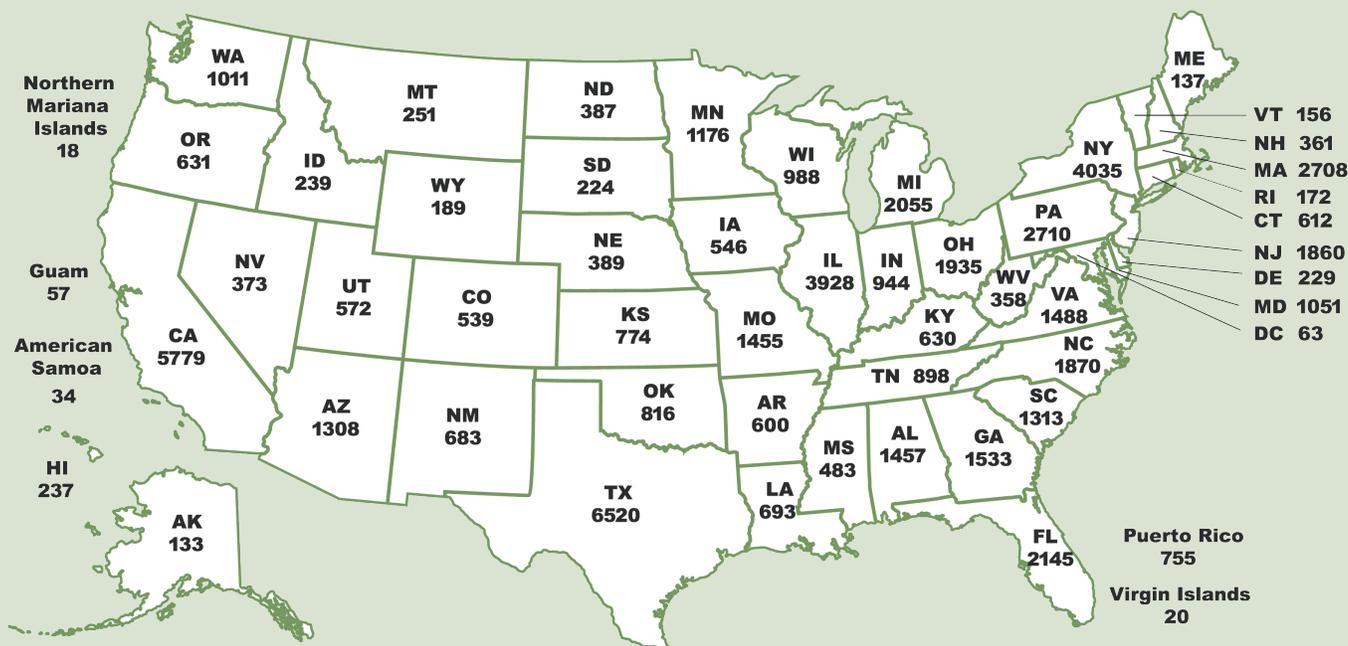
FEDERAL QUOTA PROGRAM:

Providing Vital Educational Materials to Students Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired

The Federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind was enacted by Congress in 1879. This act is a means for providing adapted educational materials to eligible U.S. students who meet the definition of blindness. An annual registration of eligible students determines a per capita amount of money designated for the purchase of educational materials produced by the American Printing House for the Blind. These funds are credited to Federal Quota accounts which are maintained and administered by APH and its Ex Officio Trustees throughout the country.

SUMMARY: Federal Quota Funds Due Under an Act to Promote the Education of the Blind, Fiscal Year 2016 (as-of Date January 5, 2015):

62,528
Total Students Registered



\$17,451,493.07 Total Quota Funds Allocated

Full Federal Quota Funds Due Report: www.aph.org/federal-quota/agencies-receiving-funds-2016

Appropriate Use of Federal Quota Census Data

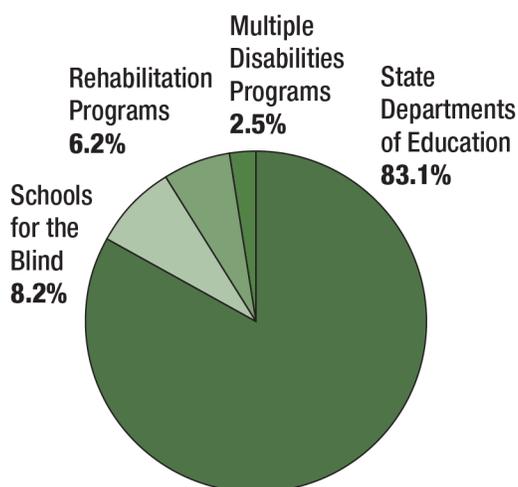
The specific purpose of the annual Federal Quota Census is to register students in the United States and Outlying Areas who meet the definition of blindness and are therefore eligible for adapted educational materials from APH through the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind. **Statements regarding student literacy, use of appropriate learning media, and students taught in a specific medium cannot be supported using APH registration data.**

SUMMARY: Distribution of Eligible Students Based on the Federal Quota Census of January 5, 2015 (FY 2016)

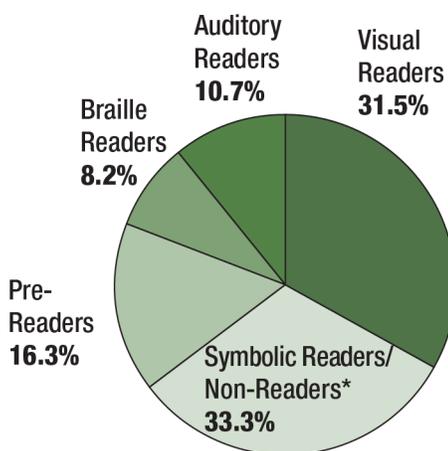
| | Visual Reader | Braille Reader | Auditory Reader | Pre-Reader | Symbolic Reader / Non-Reader | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Grand Totals, FY16 | | | | | | |
| State Departments of Education | 17,129 | 3,742 | 4,690 | 8,299 | 18,143 | 52,003 |
| Schools for the Blind | 1,099 | 885 | 650 | 1,599 | 883 | 5,116 |
| Rehabilitation Programs | 1,445 | 446 | 1,192 | 238 | 539 | 3,860 |
| Multiple Disabilities Programs | 44 | 20 | 154 | 75 | 1,256 | 1,549 |
| TOTAL REGISTERED STUDENTS | 19,717 | 5,093 | 6,686 | 10,211 | 20,821 | 62,528 |

Full Distribution of Students Report: www.aph.org/federal-quota/distribution-of-students-2016

Student Percentages by Program Type

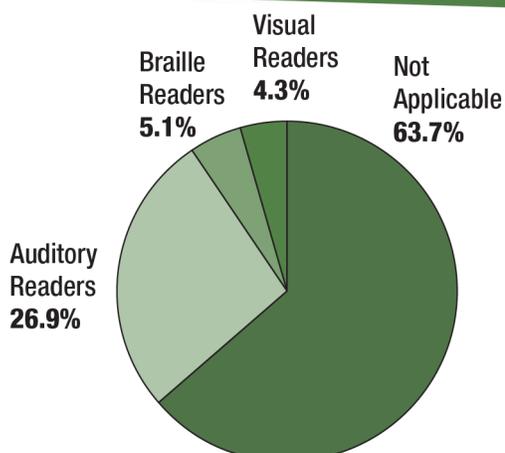


Student Percentages by Reading Medium: Primary

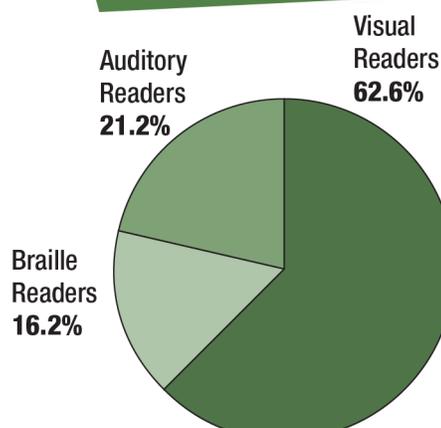


* **Symbolic Readers / Non-Readers:** Students who do not demonstrate traditional print or braille reading potential (symbolic readers); non-reading students; students not working on or toward a readiness level; students who do not fall into any of the above categories.

Student Percentages by Reading Medium: Secondary



Student Readers by Reading Medium 31,496 Student Readers



THE POWER OF PARTNERS:

Orbit Reader 20

A refreshable braille device allows information from a variety of digital sources to be displayed as mechanical braille generated by computer-driven pins. The high cost of these displays has remained nearly constant for over 30 years.

The international Transforming Braille Group LLC agreed to fund development of a new technology proposed by Orbit Research. APH partnered with Orbit Research to develop this revolutionary braille display.

This rugged and low-cost display has now been built into a new product called the Orbit Reader 20™, developed by the American Printing House for the Blind and Orbit Research. By being reliable and affordable, the Orbit Reader 20 will bring refreshable braille to many more readers.

“The objective of this project is not to compete with high-end braille note takers. Instead, the Transforming Braille Group hopes to put this device into the hands of millions of blind people around the world who may not be able to afford premium models, who may be younger students, or who may not desire a more complex device.”

*— Larry Skutchan, Director,
Technology Product Research,
APH*



In March, 2016, the Orbit Reader 20 prototype was revealed to excited attendees at the California State University, Northridge (CSUN) conference.



The Orbit Reader 20 acts as a “braille screen” for devices such as smartphones, tablets, and PCs, and it also features its own braille keyboard for stand-alone capability.



Accessing the World of Electronic Information with Braille

The Orbit Reader 20 will allow many more people to use braille to: access the internet, read electronic books, interact with mobile apps, read and write information to a memory card, and much more.

The Orbit Reader 20 works by itself or it connects to computers and mobile devices through a USB cable or wireless Bluetooth™. It allows braille access to content within any accessible app on these devices. When using Orbit Reader 20 by itself, the user can access content on an SD card. Libraries can send SD cards to patrons or individuals can download content to a card by using software on their computer.

Organizations around the world who are a part of the Transforming Braille Group will be selling their own versions of the refreshable display. APH is proud to have been a part of the effort to increase braille literacy by dramatically decreasing the cost of braille access to electronic files.

www.aph.org/orbit-reader-20

THE POWER OF PARTNERS:

Graphiti

Imagine what a quality education would look like without pictures, graphs, and diagrams. To date, skilled artists have simplified key educational graphics into tactile renditions that students who are blind can use to understand graphical content. These graphics, appearing in braille textbooks and other materials, are very effective teaching tools, but are time-consuming to produce.

Graphiti from APH and Orbit Research is a groundbreaking electronic touch display, currently in the prototype stage, containing 2400 pins that can be raised and lowered to differing heights. In a classroom, it can display graphical depictions in tactile format from a variety of sources, including electronic textbooks, websites, and simplified graphics rendered by artists.

For the first time, a blind student or adult can interactively manipulate an image and instantly discern the results of various filters, zoom levels, and views. The student can magnify complex images, then scroll through them, much like examining an image on a computer monitor.

Since independent control of dynamic graphical content is entirely new, blind students may need specialized training to determine the effectiveness of display techniques, controls, and interpretation methods. APH is working with Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute to help determine the answers to these questions.

Recognizing that Graphiti is just the beginning of the convergence of artificial intelligence, micro-mechanics, and micro-factory capabilities, APH expects to work closely with the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) to develop standards for dynamic tactile graphics.

www.aph.org/graphiti

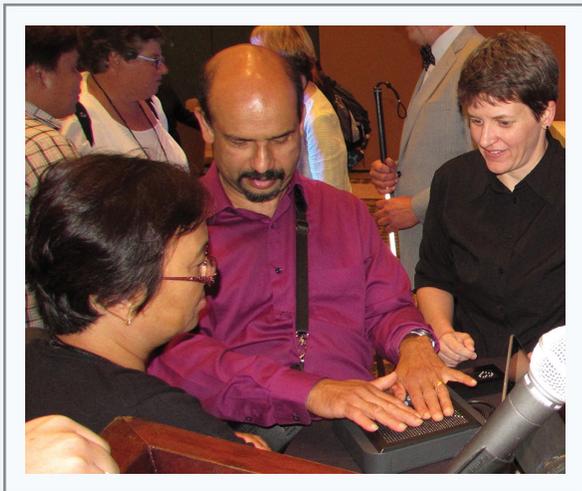
“Graphiti will be a major leap forward in solving a serious barrier for true access to high-quality education...in all fields that use graphical information.”

*– Derrick Smith, Ed.D.,
University of Alabama*

Staff members at Orbit Research and APH worked long hours to develop the Graphiti. Pictured are Venkatesh Chari (Orbit) and Larry Skutchan (APH) at the debut of the first prototype in July, 2016.



Graphiti is a revolutionary new type of touch display that both depicts graphics and allows users to interact with them. The final unit will have four times the pins shown on this prototype number 3.



Bapin from California and other interested attendees at the unveiling of the Graphiti prototype have a first-ever hands-on experience with this device, which is unlike any other tactile graphics display that exists today.

THE POWER OF PARTNERS:

BrailleBlaster

BrailleBlaster™ software is a revolutionary new tool for braille transcribers and others who need to produce high-quality braille material quickly and efficiently. Designed primarily for editing textbooks that meet the specifications published by the Braille Authority of North America, the purpose of BrailleBlaster is to help braille producers ensure that every student has his or her braille textbooks on the first day of class.

BrailleBlaster relies on Liblouis, a well-known open-source braille translator, for translating text and mathematics to braille. Using BrailleBlaster, testers have seen a substantial increase in the number of pages that a transcriber can produce compared to current methods.

Publishers of textbooks use rich layout to enhance the learning experience, drawing attention to facts, concepts, and objectives with a variety of color, formatting, and graphics. The textbook formatting standards from BANA help extend this rich experience to braille textbooks.

Currently in beta, BrailleBlaster combines the ability to apply formatting rules based on the source file's existing markup with tools to simplify every aspect of high quality textbook transcription into English Braille, American Edition (EBAE) or Unified English Braille (UEB). BrailleBlaster will soon provide options for generating either Nemeth or UEB math.

BrailleBlaster is one key project of the Resources with Enhanced Accessibility for Learning (REAL) Plan. REAL's goal is for APH to continue to improve its production processes to ensure that students who are blind and visually impaired have accessible textbooks at the same time as their sighted peers.

www.aph.org/brailleblaster



“When I use BrailleBlaster to create EBAE or UEB braille from any document or by direct input, it works like a charm.”

— Field Tester's Comment



APH hosted a focus group of extremely talented and experienced transcribers in June to give us input on the development of BrailleBlaster. Pictured left to right: Katrina Ostby (CA), Barbara Taffet (NY), Randy Davis (GA), Dena Garrett (KY), and Beverly North (TX).

BEYOND BRAILLE:

Video Mag HD

David is a first grade student from Montrose, Colorado, and has low vision. He was born with congenital glaucoma, and is able to read print as a result of using prescribed magnifying devices and because of good instruction from his classroom teacher and his teacher of the visually impaired. David was prescribed an APH Video Mag HD handheld video magnifier at a recent low vision evaluation.

The American Printing House for the Blind and Freedom Scientific partnered to develop the Video Mag HD, a durable, handheld high-definition video magnifier that is rugged, kid-friendly and highly versatile.

David says he loves his Video Mag, “I turn it on and it makes everything bigger. Letters, pictures, everything. I do it by myself. I use it for reading and math and for everything.”

The Video Mag HD allows David to magnify and have equal access to his printed classroom materials. Using it allows him to read and view information in his textbooks and other materials from a more typical viewing distance, and this decreases his visual fatigue.

www.aph.org/video-mag-hd

“The Video Mag HD is easy to use without assistance for a first grader who just wants to be independent.”

— Meghan Crosby, David’s teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI)



David using the Video Mag HD to view a worksheet on an APH ReadWrite Stand.



Video Mag HD provides sharp magnified images on its full-color LCD screen.

BEYOND BRAILLE:

JAWS and Magic Student Edition

Education and fun often go hand-in-hand and such was the case when students from the Maryland School for the Blind recently entered a LEGO® robotics competition! James and Ladrea are 7th grade students. In 2016, they were part of a team that developed a robot with an “Animal Allies” theme. The students collaborated on the robot design by using documents located in the cloud, accessing them using JAWS® text-to-speech software for Windows®.

Taiye, a 9th grade student at the Maryland School, uses both large print and text-to-speech to access information. Taiye is known as a bright and hardworking student and he’s very interested in engineering and design. He uses the Video Mag HD as one of his tools to examine items such as drawings of bridge designs. He also uses JAWS speech access to read documents on his PC.

During FY2016, Freedom Scientific and the American Printing House for the Blind partnered to make a JAWS® and MAGic® Student Edition available to K-12 students in the U.S. using Federal Quota funds. This allows students to have full-time access to their computers at both school and home.

www.apf.org/jaws-and-magic-student-edition

LEGO® The LEGO Group.

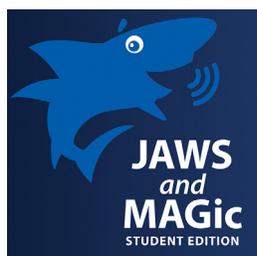


Students James and Ladrea are pictured with their competition robot. Teacher Gina Fugate looks on.



9th grade student Taiye uses both magnification and speech for his schoolwork.

Photos by Dotty Raynor.



“JAWS ultimately provides the opportunity for students to independently concentrate on learning rather than using a reader or scribe.”

— Gina Fugate, M.Ed., Technology Teacher, Maryland School for the Blind

BEYOND BRAILLE:

All Aboard! The Sight Word Activity Express

If you ask the four energetic students in teacher Julie Vinikoor’s literacy group what their 9:00 a.m. activity is, they will reply “All Aboard!” Ms. Vinikoor, an elementary teacher at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, uses All Aboard! to supplement her school’s reading curriculum.

Many APH products incorporate braille, tactile elements, large print, and colorful graphics and are useful to students with all types of visual impairments. **All Aboard! The Sight Word Activity Express** is used for instruction of “high frequency” words—the most commonly used words in the English language.

Raquel, a student with low vision who has recently started to learn braille, is paired with Lyla, an emerging braille learner. The girls work together to pair uncontracted braille words with contracted braille words. Raquel is able to place the word labels on a magnetic board under the camera of a desktop video magnifier to enlarge the font. This adaptation allows her to identify each word visually while she explores the letters tactually.

Students Amaya and Carlos read short sentences constructed using the contracted braille/print magnetic word labels and take turns identifying the appropriate pronouns to accompany the sentences. Amaya, a third grader, stated, “I like that they are magnets and braille!”

www.aph.org/all-aboard

Carlos constructs a sentence using braille/print magnetic word labels.

Raquel uses both vision and touch to learn braille and “high frequency” words.



“I love that ‘All Aboard!’ allows students to create, move, order, and/or replace words and sentences in an organized way. The students did especially well using this to alphabetize. They continue to use it to practice spelling, parts of speech, and braille.”

— Julie Vinikoor, elementary teacher, Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind



THANKS

To Our Generous Donors

Braille Tales: Donors Support Early Literacy



“When we received our son’s blindness diagnosis, the first question I asked myself was, ‘How am I going to get him to like reading?’” Shelly is a former early childhood educator whose son Alex has been blind since he was a few months old. Alex is now a rambunctious four-year-old. Shortly after Alex’s diagnosis, a developmental interventionist recommended that Shelly get on “the list.”

The list was **Braille Tales**, a program that would send Shelly’s family free print-braille books for the next several years. She signed up for APH’s Braille Tales when Alex was seven months old, and her house now has an entire shelf of braille books.

Shelly knows how important it is for children to acquire literacy skills before they begin school. “When Alex and I read together, he’s searching for braille on the page, trailing along with his fingers as I read, and turning the pages, and that to me is awesome. Those are things from an early childhood educator perspective that children have to learn. Alex has gotten those skills from using Braille Tales books.”

Shelly says she is grateful for Braille Tales because braille books are “not cheap and it’s limited what you can find.” In contrast, the Braille Tales books are free, mailed directly to the home, and are fun and engaging stories that the whole family can enjoy.



Receive Lifetime Income and Tax Breaks

Caring individuals use **Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA)** to provide major financial support to APH. The Charitable Gift Annuity is a popular estate-planning tool that provides income for life and favorable tax results. One of APH’s recent Annuitants, Dr. Chuck Wall, Founder/President of Kindness USA, said: “For 30 years I have been an APH recipient of outstanding products from APH. When my wife and I decided we wanted to share some of our funds to a worthy organization, APH came to mind immediately. The APH staff was very easy to work with and quite knowledgeable in the field of charitable giving.”

The amount of annual income from a CGA is based on the age of the donor. For more information, call (502) 899-2362 or email development@aph.org.



Helping Blind People Become More Independent

Across the U.S., people who are blind and visually impaired receive accessible magazines free-of-charge from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). These magazines contain vital information, helping readers become more independent. APH's magazine program is possible because of many generous donors.

Braille Reader's Digest[®]

Since 1928, our nation's blind citizens have been able to receive *Reader's Digest*[®] free-of-charge in braille from APH. *Reader's Digest*[®] in recorded form has been offered by APH since 1939.

Newsweek[®] ***Talking Magazine***

Newsweek[®] on cassette has been offered by APH free-of-charge since 1959. Readers rely on the in-depth current affairs coverage contained in *Newsweek*[®].

Scholastic News[®] **Series**

Weekly Reader[®] in both braille and large print started in 1946. *Weekly Reader*[®] is now *Scholastic News*[®] – two respected names creating a fun and highly educational magazine series for students pre-K through grade 12. With the support of our donors, we are able to offer *Scholastic News*[®] at the same rate as the regular print editions.

Do you know someone who might be eligible for accessible magazines? Contact APH for more information: 1-800-223-1839 or magazines@aph.org.

Registered trademarks of The Reader's Digest Association, Inc; Newsweek, Inc; and Scholastic, Inc.

Thanks to the Many Foundations Supporting APH

American Legion Child Welfare FNDN
Arthur H. Keeney Ophthalmic FNDN
Boston Foundation
Dean Dorton, Allen Ford Charitable Foundation
Delta Gamma Foundation
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Elizabeth H. and Stanley E. Evans Charitable Foundation
Fred B. and Opal S. Woosley Foundation
Frederick S. Upton Foundation
Genentech Foundation
Gheens Foundation
Gilbert Foundation
Gill Family Foundation, Inc.
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Hearst Foundations
Helen L. Kay Charitable Trust
Jessie Ball duPont Fund
John H. Schnatter Family Foundation
Joseph J. and Rose A. Herrmann FNDN
Karston A. and Elizabeth O. Osmondson Charitable Foundation
King's Daughters and Sons Foundation of Kentucky
Klein Family Foundation, Inc.
Lester E. Yeager Charitable Foundation
Lift a Life Foundation
Louisville Downtown Lion's Club
Lyndon and Helen M. Schmid Charitable FNDN
Margaret Thomas Redmon Charitable Trust
Morris Family Foundation
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Rotary Club of Louisville
Sandra & Edythe & Sol G. Atlas Fund
Sidney Frohman Foundation
Walter Henry Freygang Foundation
WHAS Crusade for Children
James S. & Marianne Welch Whippoorwill Family FNDN
William E. Barth Foundation
William M. Wood Foundation
Yum! Brands Foundation

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Fiscal Year 2016 – Ended September 30, 2016

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 8,203,707 |
| Investments | \$ 115,993,464 |
| Net Receivables | \$ 9,438,235 |
| Inventories | \$ 7,423,274 |
| Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation | \$ 2,988,849 |
| Other assets | \$ 139,854 |
| Total Assets | \$ 144,187,383 |

Liabilities and Net Assets:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Underfunded benefit plan obligation | \$ 13,339,441 |
| Accounts payable and accrued payroll | \$ 4,047,904 |
| Annuities Payable | \$ 1,200,542 |
| Other liabilities | \$ 257,028 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 18,844,915 |

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Net Assets | \$ 125,342,468 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$ 144,187,383 |

Full audit report available on request.

APH voluntarily complies with the provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 that sets the business standards for corporate governance and financial disclosure.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Products distributed and sold | \$ 29,998,695 |
| Contributions and bequests | \$ 1,676,301 |
| Investment related activities | \$ 7,897,714 |
| Other income | \$ 2,325,228 |
| Total Revenue | \$ 41,897,938 |

Expenses:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Cost of products distributed and sold | \$ 23,660,717 |
| General, program, and development expenses | \$ 11,779,648 |
| Other expenses | \$ 292,817 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 35,733,182 |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Net gain from operations | \$ 6,164,756 |
| Net gain from change in retirement plan valuation | \$ 423,643 |
| Net gain for year ended September 30, 2016 | \$ 6,588,399 |

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Net assets at September 30, 2015 | \$ 118,754,069 |
| Total net assets at September 30, 2016 | \$ 125,342,468 |

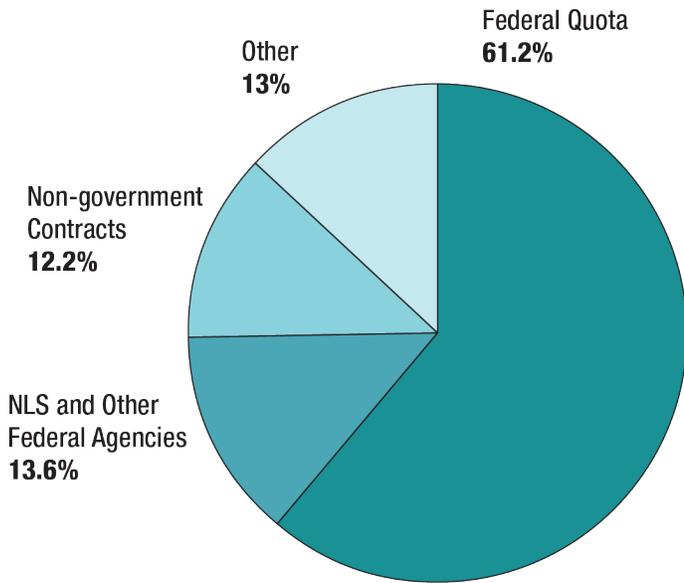
Full Financial Reports, FY16:

www.aph.org/financial-2016/position

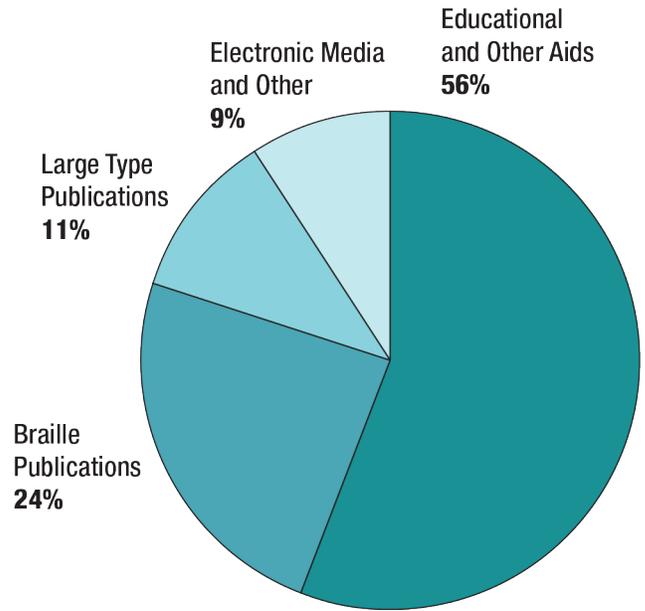
www.aph.org/financial-2016/activities

STATS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

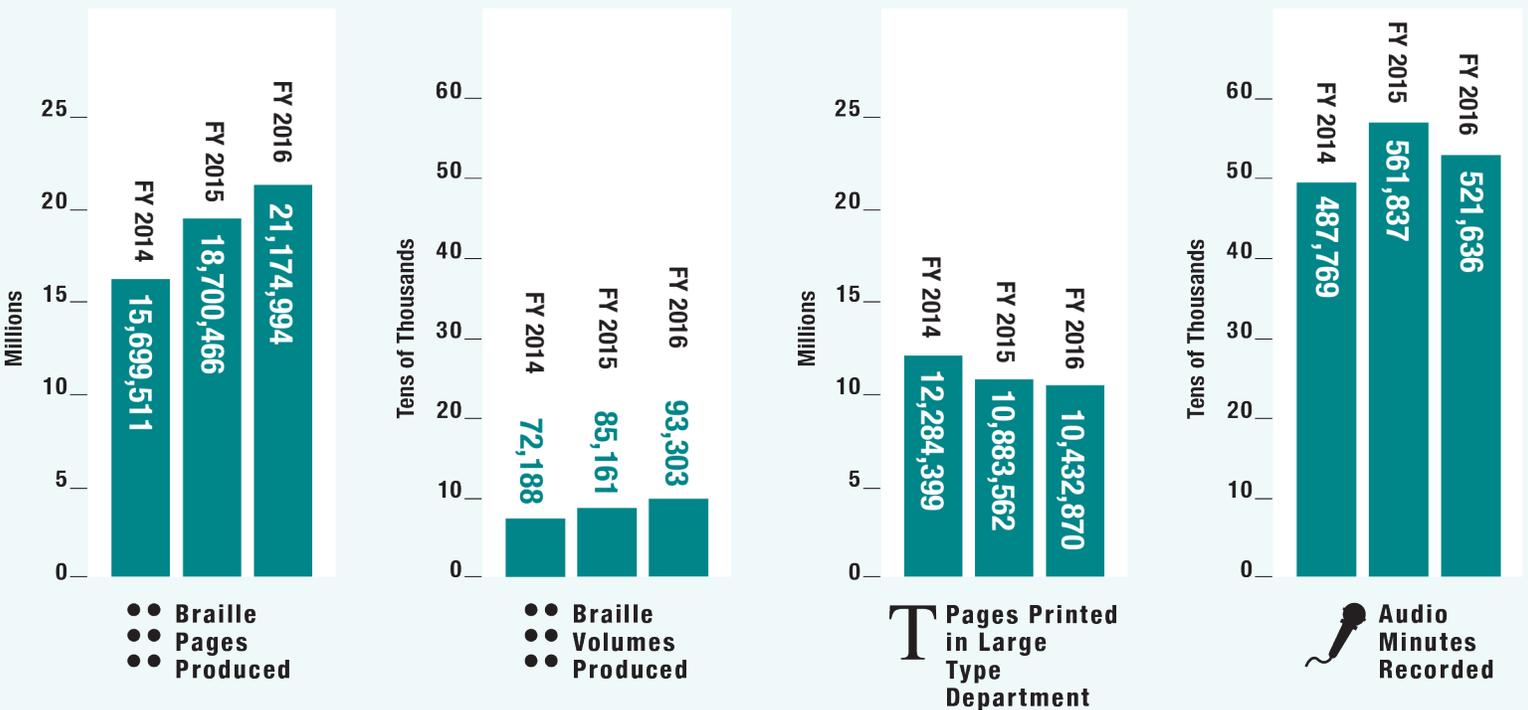
SALES REVENUE DOLLAR



TYPES OF PRODUCTS SOLD



APH PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



CUSTOM SERVICES:

Accessibility for Commercial Customers

APH Helps Companies Provide Their Customers with Accessible Materials

There are millions of consumers in the United States with vision loss. APH helps companies and other organizations make their information available to these customers by creating custom accessible materials.

Accessible items created on a contract basis may include:

- Newsletters and Magazines
- Menus and Invoices
- Brochures
- Manuals
- Signs and Plaques
- Tests and Assessments

Media produced by APH for contract customers include:

- Braille
- Large Print
- Audio
- Tactile Graphics

www.aph.org/custom/media



500+ contracts for accessible materials completed in FY16.



McDonald's Menus in braille.

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GUIDANCE FOR OUR MISSION

Officers, Trustees, and Committees – Fiscal Year 2016

Corporate Officers as of September 30, 2016

W. Barrett Nichols, Chairman
Jane W. Hardy, Vice Chairman
Darrell R. Wells, Treasurer
Craig Meador, President
William G. Beavin, Vice President of Finance; and Secretary
Robert Belknap, Vice President of Development
Vicki Buns, Vice President of Human Resources
Chris McCoy, Vice President of Production and Logistics
Dorinda Rife, Vice President, Educational Services and Product Dev.
J. Gary Mudd, Vice President of Public Affairs

Ex Officio Trustees

Ex Officio Trustees are responsible for the administration of the federal Act to Promote the Education of the Blind of 1879. The Ex Officio Trustees are the executive heads of schools for the blind, the chief state school officers of each state department of education, or the executive officers of other agencies serving people who are blind. If they choose, these executives may designate the Trusteeship to an appropriate professional within their organizations.

Ex Officio Trustee Advisory Committees Elected in October, 2015 (FY 2016)

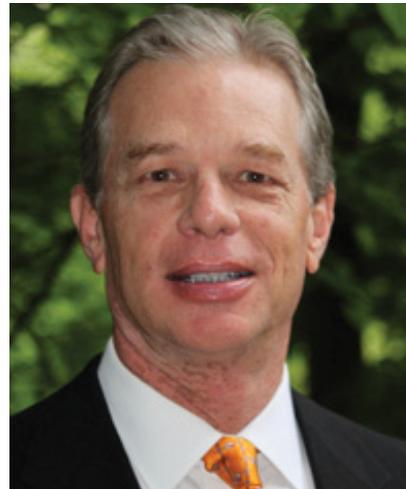
The name of each member is followed by their term expiration date.

Educational Services Advisory Committee

Karen S. Ross, Massachusetts, Chair
Robin King, Louisiana, 2016
Carolyn Lasater, Utah, 2016
Marty McKenzie, South Carolina, 2017
William Tubilleja, North Carolina, 2017
Donna B. Earley, South Carolina, 2018*
Daniel Wenzel, Minnesota, 2018*
Alternate: Christine Hinton, New Jersey
** Appointed to the Committee prior to 2016 Annual Meeting*

Educational Products Advisory Committee

Collette C. Bauman, Michigan, Chair
Stephanie Bissonette, Vermont, 2016
Eric Guillory, Louisiana, 2016
Kristin L. Oien, Minnesota, 2017
Angyln Young, Arkansas, 2017
Doug Anzlovar, Illinois, 2018
Paul Olson, South Dakota, 2018
Alternate: Madeleine Burkindine, Kansas



W. Barrett Nichols
Board Chair, Fiscal Year 2016

Corporate Trustees

W. Barrett Nichols, Chair
Charles Barr, M.D.
Jane W. Hardy
Judge David Holton II
Virginia T. Keeney, M.D.
Julie S. Lee, M.D.
W. James Lintner, Jr.
Craig Meador, Ed.D.
Herbert W. Perkins III
Darrell R. Wells
Phoebe A. Wood



American Printing House
for the Blind, Inc.

1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40206 USA

The breakthrough Orbit Reader 20™ refreshable
braille display, announced in Fiscal Year 2016.

See page 12.

