

**BYLAWS FOR THE PATRON ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE WASHINGTON TALKING  
BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY**  
as Amended October 2022

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this organization will be the Patron Advisory Council of the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, which hereafter will be referred to as the Council and WTBBL, respectively.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Council is to give advice and make recommendations to WTBBL on practices, policies, and goals of library services to blind, visually impaired, physically disabled, and reading disabled individuals. The Council shall further serve as an advocate for all print disabled patrons in the promotion and further development of library services.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERS**

Section 1. Membership on this Council is to be representative of those individuals and organizations having direct interest in library services to blind, visually impaired, physically disabled, and reading disabled individuals.

Section 2. This Council will consist of no more than 15 voting members, of whom at least 2/3 will be patrons and will take into consideration the factors of geographic representation, age, service utilization, and other pertinent patron characteristics.

Section 3. Membership will consist of:

A. One representative from each of the following Washington State organizations: the Washington Council of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Washington. Each organization will appoint its own representative;

B. The immediate past chair;

C. One member who is a reading disabled patron;

D. One member who is a patron with a physical disability (other than blindness);

E. One member who is an adolescent or the parent of a child who is a patron of WTBBL;

F. One member who is a deaf-blind patron, and,

G. One member who is a veteran.

H. The remaining members will be members at large and could include service providers.

I. In addition to the 15 voting members of the PAC the WTBBL director will serve in an ex officio position.

#### Section 4.

A. Terms shall be three years in length, and no Voting member may serve more than two consecutive terms. However, once a member has been elected vice chair they remain a member of the PAC until they have completed the natural chain of succession. This extended term ends when there is a new immediate past chair. Also, if a member is elected secretary in their sixth year of membership then their membership will be extended one year to fill out their term in office.

B. A member who has served more than half a term is considered to have served a full term.

C. The term of membership will begin January 1 and will be completed on December 31.

Section 5. Each member is expected to participate in all scheduled meetings, whether in person or by telephone. After two unexcused absences, the seat will be considered vacant at the discretion of the Chair. Unexcused absence is defined as missing a meeting without notifying the Chair or the director in advance. Members are expected to participate in ongoing Council activities.

Section 6. Each member of the Council will have one vote. Proxy voting will not be allowed.

Section 7. Selection of members.

A. Each year applications will be accepted for vacant positions.

B. Vacancies on the PAC will be publicized annually.

C. All applications must be received before November 15 by the Membership Committee.

D. All applications will be submitted to the Membership Committee for consideration, and appointments will be made before the end of the calendar year.

Section 8. Vacancies.

A. When a vacancy occurs in the Council at large, it may be filled from the latest application list; or in the event of no appropriate replacement from that list, the general selection process may be initiated. At the discretion of the Chair, the position may be left vacant until the next scheduled general selection process.

B. When a vacancy occurs in the representation of a designated organization, the president of that organization will be notified to choose another representative.

#### **Article IV: OFFICERS**

Section 1. Officers. The Council will have three officers elected from the membership: a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. No person may hold office who has not been a member of the Council for at least one year. The Chair and Vice-Chair must further be patrons of WTBBL.

Section 2. Election of Officers.

A. On even numbered years, not less than 30 days prior to the fall meeting of the PAC the Chair shall appoint a nominating Committee and appoint the chair of that committee.

The Chair of the Nominating Committee will issue a call to the Council for nominations of new/returning officers.

B. The Nominating Committee will meet after nominations have been received. They will select one candidate for each office from those members nominated. If there are insufficient candidates to fill positions from those willing to serve, the Nominating Committee will canvass members so that a slate may be prepared for distribution to members prior to the fall Council meeting. The location and format of the meeting of the Nominating Committee is at the discretion of the committee chair.

C. The Library will be notified of the slate of officers 14 days prior to the fall meeting so that the slate may be distributed to the Council. Each member shall receive the slate of officers from the Chair of the Nominating Committee no less than fourteen days prior to the meeting.

D. Each year during the fall council meeting the chair will open the floor for the election of officers. The chair then asks for the report of the nominating committee and then asks the membership if there are any other nominations from the floor. The chair then conducts the voting process. The chair is not elected but instead this position is filled by the previous vice-chair. The first election is that of vice-chair followed by the election of secretary.

E. Officers are elected by a majority vote of all members present and voting.

F. All officers serve a maximum of a single 2 year term in any one position.

G. An officer who has served more than half a term in an office is considered to have served a full term.

### Section 3. Duties of the Officers.

A. The officers will perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary procedures adopted by the Council.

B. The Chair's duties include, but are not limited to, presiding at all meetings, writing letters to the editor, submitting articles for inclusion in library publications, appointing committees, appointing committee chairs, representing the Council at library events and performing other related duties as appropriate.

C. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will perform the duties of the Chair and conduct other matters that may be required. The Vice-Chair must also be willing to assume the role and responsibilities of the Chair if that position becomes vacant.

D. The Secretary will be responsible for coordinating the preparation and dissemination of minutes, and for presenting them at meetings for approval.

Section 4. Vacancies in Offices.

A. A vacancy in the office of Chair will be filled immediately by the Vice-Chair.

B. A vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair or Secretary will be filled by an election, conducted by the Chair of the PAC, at the next regular meeting of the full Council after the vacancy occurs.

## **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Council will be held at least three times each year.

Section 2. Meetings will be held at WTBBL unless otherwise determined. All written materials will be provided in an appropriate format.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by at least three members of the Council, provided that all members are notified at least 14 days in advance of the special meeting.

Section 4. A majority of the members will constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

## **ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. Membership. The Executive Committee will consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, WTBBL Director, Chair of each standing committee, and the immediate past Chair.

Section 2. Powers and Duties. The Executive Committee will have the power to act for the full Council between regular meetings, but may not act in any manner that is counter to the previously expressed positions of the Council.

Section 3. Meetings. The Executive Committee will meet at least once between each regular meeting to discuss matters of relevance and to set the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Appointments.

A. The Chair will appoint the Membership and Nominating Committees as standing committees of the Council and will appoint the chairs of these committees.

B. Other committees, as pertinent to the Council, will be appointed as needed.

Section 2. Each committee member is expected to participate in all scheduled committee meetings.

Section 3. The chair or the chair's designee will be an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, will govern the Council in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Council may adopt.

#### **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting by a majority vote of all members, provided such amendment has been submitted to the Chair and distributed to all members in an appropriate format at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.

Revised, approved, and adopted October 2022