**THE BROADCASTER**

**R A D I O T A L K I N G B O O K S E R V I C E**

APRIL 2020 NEWS L ET T ER │ 201 9 ANNUAL REPORT

## BREAKING NEWS!



JOIN OUR TEAM OF

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS AND BRING THE PRINTED WORD TO LIFE FOR OUR LISTENERS! VISIT OUR WEBSITE, RTBS.ORG, TO FILL OUT A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION OR CALL MEME TODAY AT (402) 572-3003!

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

MEME SMITH

### R T B S W E L C O M E S N E W

**V O L U N T E E R C O O R D I N A T O R !**

##### It was a long and winding road that brought me here to my position as the Volunteer Coordinator at Radio Talking Book Service. I was born in South Dakota, but grew up primarily on the West and East Coasts.

Wherever I was, I always liked to have reading material with me. Through a very circuitous route, I eventually found my calling as a Library Director and thoroughly enjoyed it before retiring in 2017.

My husband and I moved to Omaha at that time and spent a couple winters hibernating before deciding to volunteer and get out and meet people. Because reading and promoting reading has always been a big part of my life, RTBS was a great match for me.

I feel like I was in the right place at the right time when the Volunteer Coordinator position became available and I am very fortunate to now be working with so many wonderful people. Other pursuits besides reading are, bicycling, sewing and crocheting, and of course, spending time with family and friends.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**OMAHA GIVES IS MAY 20!!**

###### Radio Talking Book Service is proud to be participating in the 8th annual Omaha Gives!, a 24-hour charitable challenge organized by the Omaha Community Foundation. The online giving holiday will take place May 20 from midnight to midnight. Mark your calendars because we will need your help! Schedule your gifts ahead of time or make donations throughout the day on Wednesday, May 20. Your gift, no matter the size, will go even further this year with matching funds!! Visit [www.omahagives.org](http://www.omahagives.org/) to find out how you can help support RTBS on May 20.

NEWS FLASH(ES)!!



RTBS thanks everyone who participated in Omaha Gives 2019!

We hope this year is even more successful! Visit our website at [www.rtbs.org](http://www.rtbs.org/) for more information.

Please join RTBS on May 20 to meet our goal of $5,000 for Omaha Gives!.

NEW! **Veterans Hour** now features local publications AND is **available on podcast!**

Tune in on Saturdays at 2 pm or visit rtbs.org to listen on demand!



**EXTRA! EXTRA!** We added ALL

**ten of our regional newspapers** to our podcast options! Find our podcasts on our website or on

iTunes!



**NEW** PODCASTS!

Now you can listen to **Community Conversations**, **Volunteer Spotlights**, &

**Community Calendar** on your time!



**Many thanks** to those who made our **5th Annual Wining in the Dark** a success! Keep your eye on our event calendar & join us next year!

# APRIL VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS**

M A R C H 2 0 2 0 :

M A D E L I N E W A R D

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 0 : E R I N V A N Z E E

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 0 : P A U L O R W I G

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9 : D E A N N B R I G H T

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 9 : M I K E G A H E R T Y

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 9 : R A L P H M O R O C C O

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 9 : J E A N N E G R A Y

A U G U S T 2 0 1 9 : W I L L S P E C H

J U L Y 2 0 1 9 :

G A R Y D I E T R I C H

J U N E 2 0 1 9 :

L I N D S E Y H O L L E Y

M A Y 2 0 1 9 :

L A U R A B E T H B A R R

**PAUL MURPHY**

###### Paul Murphy is a well-traveled man. Born in Scottsbluff, he subsequently lived in Cheyenne, Sacramento, San Antonio, Denver, and Oklahoma before his career in the U.S. Air Force led him to Offutt Air Force Base in 1970. He was scheduled to be sent to South Vietnam in 1971, but his first wife’s pregnancy allowed him to be removed from active duty.

Paul finally put down roots in Omaha, getting a job with the city, which he held for over 39 years until his retirement. Paul continued to serve his country for 28 years with the National Guard. Paul lives with his second wife, Peg, in Omaha. He has four children from two marriages and eight grandchildren. He loves to spend his spare time long distance cycling and creating stain glass art. He has generously donated several of his creations for our annual Wining in the Dark fundraising event as auction items.

Paul fervently believes that the best way to get to know your community is to volunteer. He drives for the American Cancer Society and regularly works with HETRA. He has spent a total of 15 years reading for RTBS. He can currently be heard on Wednesday mornings reading the Lincoln Journal Star and Thursday afternoons reading the Scottsbluff Star Herald. He also reads the Topeka Capital Journal for the Audio Reader of Kansas every weekend.



JANE NIELSEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

###### Greetings! The RTBS Board of Directors and staff were blown away by the wonderful response of our volunteers when Covid-19 hit. RTBS ceased in-person volunteering in mid-March, and we now have 50 dedicated volunteers reading from home! In less than a week’s time, RTBS had transformed our cadre of volunteers into remote readers who continue to provide the vital, local programming our listeners rely on – now more than ever.

Amazingly, RTBS has not had to alter our program schedule as a result. The Omaha and Lincoln papers are recorded each day rather than read live in-studio. A weekly review of newspapers from across Nebraska and SW Iowa continues along with grocery and department store ads, magazines, and more—all are still being broadcast to our faithful listeners. We have provided restaurant takeout and delivery options, new options for church services, a daily Covid-19 update listing resources, and a modified weekly Community Calendar with the most up-to-date listings for access to food, services, and assistance. I am so thankful and proud to be part of the RTBS Team!



RALPH MOROCCO BOARD CHAIR

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

###### I hope this message finds you healthy. Since our studios have closed, we have had to make some changes to our regular programming.

But new technologies are allowing us to serve you, even though many of our recordings are now done in the bedrooms or at the kitchen tables of our dedicated corps of volunteers. Our smartphones, voice recorders and home computer microphones are allowing us to continue to bring you the programs you count on. And in the unprecedented and uncertain times we are living in, there is great comfort in knowing that the sources of information we rely on for critical information will be there for us.

Radio Talking Book has been around for more than 45 years, and

in all that time we have never faced a challenge like the one we face today. As chair of the Board of Directors, I especially want to thank our dedicated staff team for the incredible work they are doing to meet these challenges. I also want to thank our amazing group of

volunteer readers, who are now doing their own recording without benefit of studio equipment. I’d also like to thank our donors, both large and small, who are allowing us to do the important work of providing the news and information you count on in an accessible format. Thank you, and stay well!

**DONATIONS: April 2019-March 2020**

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Crete Lions Club Fremont Lioness Club

I-80 Cosmopolitan Club IAAIS

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PEO Chapter EY PEO Chapter FY

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St. James United Methodist Women Tekamah Lions Club

Wilcox Lioness Club

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*Radio Talking Book Service thanks everyone for their generous support!!*



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