



PERISCOPE

**A Quarterly Newsletter sponsored by the
Mississippi Council of the Blind, Inc.**

Winter, 2022-2023

President: Ralph Smitherman
514 Edgewood Lane, Brandon, MS 39042
Telephone: 601-672-0973
Email: redbird26@bellsouth.net

Editor: Alison Smitherman
1412 Wilhurst St., Jackson, MS 39211
Telephone: 601-331-8084
Email: amduo@bellsouth.net; alisonb_58@yahoo.com

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:

MS Council of the Blind

P O Box 134

Clinton, MS 39060

Anyone wishing to remember the MS Council of the Blind in a last will and testament may do so by including a special paragraph for that purpose. If your wishes are complex, please contact MCB for clarification.

Contributions to the James Doyle Case Memorial Scholarship Fund or to the Carter Gable Memorial Technology Assistance Fund should be appropriately marked, and sent to the above address.

Phone MCB at 601-672-0973.

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President's Message

by Ralph Smitherman

Greetings, MCB members and friends. I hope all is well with everyone. Please continue to stay safe and enjoy another Christmas season along with a happy new year.

I want to remind those of you who have not paid their dues for 2023 to do so before February 15, 2023. As you know, our state organization has been active since 1972 and we need to keep

going. Over the years we have conducted many successful projects, and it is a pleasure for me to serve as President.

In 2023, we are scheduled to have a face-to-face, weekend state convention, either in April or May, at a local area hotel. I hope all of you will plan to participate in the convention.

We also plan to have another picnic. I think it is scheduled for the first Saturday in October. We had a great time at our last picnic. We had a great meal, conducted our annual business meeting and held an auction.

Our next state board meeting will take place during the month of January, 2023. We will meet by Zoom. Our board meetings usually take place at 10:00 a.m. on a specific Saturday.

I want to thank everyone for your support of this organization. Thanks to the Board members and committee members. We maintain a solid structure of committees.

And speaking of committees, the Technology committee meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. central time. Applications are available. If you know of anyone who needs an application, just contact Chair, Kenneth Reed.

Just for the record, we maintain our storage facility where we keep the filing cabinets and various papers.

The Jackson chapter continues its voucher program, which has proven very helpful since 1989. I guess time does fly.

In closing, I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

MCB Board Meeting Highlights

by Jane Peets, Recording Secretary

The MCB board met September 17 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was approved.

A motion passed to acquire a debit/credit card to better transact business.

A motion passed that card purchases of \$800 or less require only one signature.

A motion passed to get Robert Cotten to cater the MCB picnic with \$500 paid by MCB and \$300 donated by Eddie Turner.

The next MCB board meeting is scheduled for January 21 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

MCB Officers and Board Members
October 1, 2022, May 31, 2023

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Ralph Smitherman, Second Term, 2021/2023,
Full

HOME: 601-825-8076,

CELL: 601-672-0973

EMAIL: redbird26@bellsouth.net

VICE-PRESIDENT: Ken Maddox, Second Term, 2021/2023,
Full

CELL: 601-937-0025

EMAIL: madpak3@comcast.net

RECORDING SECRETARY: Jane Peets, First Term,
2021/2023, Full

CELL: 769-257-4515

EMAIL: janepeets@yahoo.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Wanda Allen, First Term,
2021/2023, Full

CELL: 601-720-4237

EMAIL: wandacallen64@gmail.com

TREASURER: Rene Virden, Third Term, 2021/2023, Full

HOME: 601-362-2152

CELL: 601-937-5461

EMAIL: rvirden40@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS:

1-YEAR: Ella Reed, First Term, 2021/2023, Full

CELL: 601-927-3179

EMAIL: ereed730@gmail.com

1-YEAR: Alvin Daniels, First Term, 2021/2023, Full

CELL: 601-813-1424

EMAIL: adaniels121@icloud.com

2-YEAR: Kenneth Reed, Second Term, 2021/2024, Full

CELL: 601-455-0105

EMAIL: reedkenneth42@gmail.com

2-YEAR: Pshon Barrett, First Term, 2021/2024, Full

HOME: 601-982-1682

CELL: 601-613-6755

EMAIL: pshonb@comcast.net

3-YEAR: Kris McNair, Second Term, 2022/2025, Full

HOME: 601-544-5640

CELL: 601-606-2987

EMAIL: kris.mcnair@att.net

3-YEAR: Alison Smitherman, First Term, 2022/2025, Full

CELL: 601-331-8084

EMAIL: amduo@bellsouth.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Eddie Turner, Second
Term, 2021/2023, Full

CELL: 601-624-4443

EMAIL: eturnerservices@aol.com

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES:

MCBNM:

JACKSON:

In Memory of Luther Dement

Since the printing of our last Periscope, we in MCB were saddened to learn of the death of one of our longtime members, Mr. Luther Dement. Luther passed away on July 25th at the age of 83, and leaves behind his wife, Betty, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Luther was a faithful, hard-working member of MCB for many years. He became a life member of ACB in 2008. He was instrumental in helping form the Pine Belt Chapter, and was an active member of that chapter until it closed, even serving as its president for several years. He was a very supportive and dedicated member of the Pine Belt Chapter. As one MCB member stated, "If Luther supported an idea of yours, you had his full support."

Luther always enjoyed coming to our state conventions and picnics. He and Betty would usually travel to these events with Shirley and Windell Meadows. You would often find them hanging out in the dry hospitality room at the conventions.

Luther was a student at the Mississippi School for the Blind (MCB), and he loved his fellow students and teachers there. He was a good singer, too.

Luther worked until he retired, as a piano technician in the Pine Belt area. He loved his family and was dedicated to them.

Thank you, Luther Dement, for your friendship and hard work in MCB. We will miss you!

(Editor's Note: Special thanks go to the following individuals for their assistance and contributions to the above article: Betty Dement, Shirley Meadows, Kathy Brewer, Becky and Buddy Collins, Janice Gable and Gary Austin.)

MCB Awards

by Ralph Smitherman

Hello, everyone. As you may know, MCB offers five awards each year. A description of the awards follows:

Icy Day, Employer of the Year Award:

This award recognizes a company or someone in private business who exercises the practice of hiring a blind or visually impaired individual to perform work skills in their work place.

Jessie Jaynes, Employee of the Year Award:

This award recognizes a blind or visually impaired individual for outstanding work performance in the work place.

Frankie Thames, Service Award:

This award recognizes an individual who gives of their time, compassion and service to the blind community.

George W. Cantin, Humanitarian Award:

This award recognizes an individual who has dedicated a lifetime of good will and service to promote and enhance the lives of blind Mississippians.

Annie Denmon, Citizenship Award:

This award recognizes a senior high school student, who exemplifies good citizenship in a leadership role in school activities; someone who is outstanding academically.

If you know of anyone who would qualify for any of these awards, please send your information to Awards Chair, Terry Shelton at t.e.shelton@comcast.net. Nominations need to be in by **March 1, 2023**. Awards will be presented at our annual state convention, which will take place in either April or May of 2023. Thank you!

James Doyle Case Memorial Scholarship to be Presented at
MCB 2023 State Convention
by Ken Maddox

MCB is now taking applications for a \$1,000 scholarship, to be presented at our upcoming State Convention in April or May, 2023. Scholarship applicant must be an incoming freshman, and be blind or visually impaired or the child of a parent who is blind or visually impaired.

For more information about our James Doyle Case Scholarship Program or to obtain an application, please contact Ken Maddox, Scholarship Committee Chair, at 601-937-0025 or email him at madpak3@comcast.net. You can also go to our website at www.msCounciloftheBlind.org for more details about scholarships.

The deadline for submitting applications for this scholarship is **March 1, 2023**. Please mail completed scholarship applications to: Ken Maddox, 3448 Janet St., Pearl, MS 39208.

Jackson Chapter News

by Jane Peets

Hello everyone. It seems that winter has gotten an early start.

The Jackson Chapter is planning to celebrate the holiday season on December 10th with our annual Christmas lunch/business meeting to be held at the home of Eddie Turner. We will be

collecting donations of packages of athletic socks to be given to Gateway Mission. We will have the usual fundraisers of a bake sale/auction and 50/50 drawing. If you would like to participate, bring a wrapped gift valued around \$20 for the Dirty Santa game.

Congratulations are in order for some of our members who received recognition of their years of service in the Business Enterprise Program. At a banquet on October 15th, Joe Bishop was recognized for 50 years of service, Terry Shelton 25 years of service, and Bobby Stanford 5 years of service.

I wish everyone a blessed and joyful holiday season from the Jackson Chapter.

What is the Libby App? How to Use It

Libby is the perfect option for you if you're looking for free books and audiobooks and have a library card.

Libby is an app used by public libraries to grant access to digital content to their members. As it allows members to check out and enjoy eBooks and audiobooks from their devices, it is an excellent choice for avid readers and audiobook fans.

What Is Libby?

Libby is a free application utilized by many public libraries to access online content such as eBooks and audiobooks easily. Owned by Overdrive, Libby offers an updated digital content portal with more tools for a customized reading experience.

Libby allows library members to check out, place holds, and return eBooks and audiobooks from their smart devices. It features customizable settings for readers, such as the following:

- * For audiobooks, Libby offers various playback speeds and multiple sleep timer settings.
- * For eBooks, Libby offers customizable font sizes, lighting options, and layout choices. It also allows for customizable bookmarks, annotations, and highlighting.
- * Libby offers a dictionary to define unknown words for readers.

How to Get Access to Libby

You can access Libby with your library cards which are obtained through your local library. With Libby available in 78 countries, and 90% of North American public libraries, it is easy to start using Libby.

Libby supports many devices for eBook reading and audiobook listening. The app is available for download on the following devices:

- * Android devices running a minimum of 5.0.
- * Apple devices running a minimum of iOS 10.

- * Amazon devices running a minimum of OS 5.
- * Computers utilizing Chrome, Safari, Firefox, or Edge web browsers.

Once you have a library card from your local public library, download the Libby app on your device. Next, select the name of your library and enter your personal library card number. Once submitted, you will have access to thousands of digital titles.

Libby will not only allow you to enjoy digital content on your download device, but it is also compatible with popular eReaders, Apple CarPlay, and Android Auto.

If your library doesn't offer Libby, ask if they use Cloud Library, as you may be able to access online content through that alternative.

What Content Does Libby Offer?

Libby offers both eBooks and audiobooks to borrow through the platform. Titles range from classics to new releases. Libby also hosts digital children's content, making the app an excellent site for reading free children's books.

Libby hosts a wide range of entertainment across most genres, including:

- * Fiction
- * Non-Fiction

- * New Adult
- * Young Adult
- * New Releases
- * Classics
- * Cookbooks
- * Magazines
- * Children's Books
- * Self-help Books
- * Travel Guides
- * Biographies

The check-out and hold limit will vary depending on the regulations put into place by your local library. Typically, library members are allowed three holds and five loans at a time. It is important to note that each library has access to a finite number of titles they offer. Similarly to physical texts, the library purchases multiple copies of a title, yet even though they are digital resources, they are limited in number.

For this reason, you may experience wait times for popular titles. In this instance, you can place a hold on the title through Libby, and you will be able to check out the eBook or audiobook once someone has returned a copy.

If you can't find the book you are looking for in Libby, check out other free online digital libraries.

How to Use Libby

Once you have downloaded and logged into Libby with your library card, you are ready to start enjoying digital content. To borrow an eBook or audiobook, select the title you desire and click the pink borrow button.

If other library patrons are currently reading the title you are interested in, you will have the option to place a hold on the title instead. Selecting the place hold button will place you in the queue to borrow the title once it becomes available again.

To view the eBooks or audiobooks, you have checked out, placed on hold, or returned, navigate to the shelf icon on the Libby app.

You may also return eBooks or audiobooks from this shelf tab by selecting the manage loan button to the right of the book's cover. Next, select the pink return button.

To search for a specific title on Libby, select the magnifying glass icon. You can search by title, interest tags, series, or author through this tab.

You may also browse for new books by genre, new releases, popular titles, and recommended curated subjects through the library icon tab.

Explore New Entertainment With Libby

Libraries are excellent resources for free entertainment, and Libby makes digital entertainment easily accessible. Libby

offers library patrons an opportunity to experience digital content in a new customizable way.

Not only does it allow for the convenience of checking out new books and audiobooks from home, but it also allows readers to customize their reading experience. If you are looking for new free entertainment, use your library card to access Libby!

Did You Know

In 1904, Monopoly was originally called *The Landlord's Game*, and was invented by Elizabeth Magie. Her original game had two sets of rules to choose from. One was called "Prosperity", where every player won money anytime another gained a property. The game was won by everyone playing only when the person with the least doubled their resources. It was a game of collaboration and social good. The second set of rules was called "Monopoly", where players succeeded by taking properties and rent from those with less luck rolling the dice. The winner was the person who used their power to eliminate everyone else.

Magie's mission was to teach us how different we feel when playing Prosperity vs Monopoly, hoping that it would one day change national policies.

The Job I Never Applied For

by Tyson Ernst

If you pay any attention to the news, you will inevitably hear unemployment is at a 50-year low. I have, as a result of feeling left out of the traditional employment market, decided to become an entrepreneur as a professional job applicant. Over the last year, I have created 20 candidate profiles, filled out nearly 100 online job applications, participated in 4 Zoom interviews, received a dozen rejection letters, and worst of all, had 3 postings I'm highly qualified for taken off the job board entirely after submitting my application. Talk about a blow to your self-esteem. From a 10,000-foot level, it appears the only job I'm qualified for is applying for jobs!

It feels as though I have created a full-time position where my job duties include researching the latest postings across traditional and non-traditional industries, draft both custom cover letters and resumes, and master the attachment function of Microsoft Outlook. Maybe I could make a web series on YouTube out of this, or possibly a blog, if only I could find the time to create a decent website. What do you think? "My life as a serial job applicant?" I'll keep you posted.

Sometimes, you just have to reinvent yourself!

*This is a blog first posted on *ACB Voices* on October 18, 2022. To receive blog posts directly, subscribe [HERE](#). To submit a blog post, send your 300-to-500-word submission to

Braille Writers Needing a Home

Betty Dement has three braille writers that she needs to find a home for. These are the older, heavy-duty braille writers that most of us are familiar with. If you or someone you know is in need of a braille writer and would like to know more about these, you may contact Betty at 601-264-2250.

Scrumptious Holiday Recipe

Crack Candy

Ingredients:

40 saltine crackers or graham crackers
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 (12-ounce) bag semisweet chocolate chips

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Line a rimmed cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Fill sheet with all 40 saltine crackers in a single layer.

In a medium saucepan over medium-high, melt butter and brown sugar together and bring to a boil. Boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and pour caramel mixture over the cracker layer. Spread with a wooden spoon if needed to cover them evenly. Bake in preheated oven for 4-5 minutes, or until just bubbly.

Remove from oven and sprinkle immediately with chocolate chips. When chips begin to melt, spread them over crackers with an icing spatula.

Transfer pan to refrigerator until firm, about 2 hours. Break into pieces and store in an airtight container.

A Note from the Editor

by Alison Smitherman

Thanks to all of you who contributed in some way to this issue of the Periscope, whether you submitted an article or assisted with the distribution of the newsletter. We appreciate your assistance more than you know.

The deadline for submitting articles for the Spring, 2023 issue is February 21, 2023. I will look forward to receiving your wonderful articles.

Until next time, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!