

Winter 2018

Illinois State Library
 TBBS
 300 S. Second St.
 Springfield, IL 62701-1796



Jesse White
 Secretary of State
 & State Librarian

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TBBS NewsLink is available in
 braille and large print on
 NFB-NEWSLINE via email by
 contacting the Illinois State
 Library or on the Talking Book
 and Braille Service (TBBS)
 website at www.ilbph.org
 (click TBBS NewsLink).

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Advisory committee

There are two openings on the Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee for the term beginning July 1, 2018. The committee assists the State Library by improving services offered through TBBS. The meetings are held quarterly by conference call. Members of the committee serve three-year terms and represent TBBS users in all regions of the state. Applications will be accepted until April 15. If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like to speak to a committee member regarding TBBS issues, please call Larry Whewell at 217-245-9386 or email at larryjacil01@frontier.com.

Freedom Link

Freedom Link is a free program for blind and visually impaired students in grades 7–12. This transition program offers students the opportunity to enhance their blindness skills while working with blind mentors. Students and mentors take fun and exciting excursions, engage in hands-on learning and participate in many other rewarding activities. Participants discover abilities and confidence they did not know they had as they build friendships with other blind and visually impaired students.

Freedom Link is sponsored by the National

Federation of the Blind of Illinois and is funded by the Elick and Charlotte Lindon Foundation. The program received the 2017 NFB Jacob Bolotin Award for Excellence and Innovation. For more information contact Debbie Stein at 773-203-1394 or dkent5817@att.net.

Book request tips

All users can request specific books, even if they are set up for automatic selection. If available, these requests will be sent before the computer selects books based on your subject and author preferences.

Newer requests take precedence over older requests. A request you make today will be selected for mailing over requests made just a week earlier.

TBBS recommends that patrons who use the request list service keep 25-100 books on their list so the computer can always find an available title to send. Remember that books listed in the most recent "Talking Book Topics" are in high demand, so copies might not be available immediately.

Use Talking Book Topics wisely and only order the books you really want. When patrons request books they are only slightly interested in they often forget ordering them and then question why TBBS is sending books they do not like. Patrons who have hundreds or thousands of titles on their request lists will likely never get through all of them, either because they cannot read that many books or because newer requests are sent first.

2018 Holiday closures

TBBS will be closed on the following dates:

- New Year's Day – Monday, Jan. 1
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, Jan. 15
- Lincoln's Birthday – Monday, Feb. 12
- Washington's Birthday – Monday, Feb. 19
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 28
- Independence Day – Wednesday, July 4
- Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 3
- Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 8
- General Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 6
- Veteran's Day – Monday, Nov 12

Thanksgiving – Thursday & Friday, Nov 22-23

Christmas Eve – Monday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day – Tuesday, Dec. 25

New Year's Day 2019 – Tuesday, Jan. 1

Please keep this schedule for future reference. Remember that holidays create mail delays for both incoming and outgoing books. Be sure to get any requests in several weeks ahead of these dates to improve the chance of receiving books before holidays.

Free Bible sources

These organizations will provide a free audio or braille Bible to anyone with a print disability who meets their eligibility requirements. The Bible is yours to keep and does not need to be returned.

Aurora Ministries offers audio Bibles in these versions: the King James, the New King James, the New International, the New American Standard, the Amplified Bible, the World English Bible, the dramatized English Standard, the dramatized New Revised Standard and the International Children's Bible. In each of these versions, both testaments are on a single cartridge just like the ones you receive from TBBS. The first three listed are also offered in an advanced version which allows navigation using the DA1 digital talking book machine. Bibles are also available in several other languages. To order, contact Aurora Ministries at 941-748-3031 or visit www.audiobiblesfortheblind.org.

Braille Bibles International provides braille Bibles in these versions: the King James, the New King James, and for children, the Beginner's Bible and the Children's Bible in 365 Stories. Audio Bibles are also available on cartridge in the King James, the English Standard and the New Living Translation versions. Contact Braille Bibles International at 800-522-4253 or visit www.braillebibles.org for more information.

Battery charge

The National Library Service considers a battery acceptable if it can hold eight hours or more on a full charge. All rechargeable batteries lose some charging capacity over time. TBBS can only replace players for battery charge issues if the battery drops below the eight-hour standard. However, you are not required to replace your player at that point, especially if you leave your player plugged in most of the time.

Receive TBBS newsletters by email

Sign up for the TBBS email distribution list to have the newsletter and other items of interest sent directly to your email address. Family members and caregivers are also encouraged to subscribe to the newsletter. Call 800-426-0709 or email isltbbs@ilsos.net and request to be added to the list.

Kiplinger's Retirement Report

Kiplinger's Retirement Report is available for download from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website and also for subscription through the Magazine on Cartridge program. Published monthly, Kiplinger's Retirement Report covers practical strategies to help grow retirement savings, how to make money last during retirement, maximization of Social Security and Medicare benefits and other retirement-related topics.

Toll-free numbers

Illinois State Library TBBS800-426-0709, 800-757-4654

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. TBBS cannot be responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE SERVICE



JESSE WHITE • ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

300 S. Second St.

Springfield, IL 62701-1796

Free Matter for the Blind