

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board call on September 10, 2017

List of officers and board members:

- Brian Charlson President
- David Kingsbury First Vice President
- Frank Ventura Second Vice President
- Jerry Berrier Secretary
- Rick Morin Treasurer
- Rose Miller board member
- Jim Denham board member
- Mary Haroyan board member
- Carey Scouler board member

Ex Officio

- Steve Dresser Webmaster
- Bob Hachey BayLines editor
- DeAnn Elliott Legislative committee chair

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:43; we were still missing Rick, Steve, and Rose at that point, but they all eventually joined the call. All officers and board members were present.

The agenda was adopted

Rick made and David seconded a motion to accept the minutes of our August meeting as amended per several e-mail suggestions. The motion carried unanimously.

Rick was unable to provide a treasurers' report due to other time commitments.

[Legislative report; DeAnn](#)

The board agreed that posting a link on the BSCB announce list to an online petition against HR 620 (the ADA Education and Reform Act,) was consistent

with ACB policy.

Carl Richardson is working on finding a keynote speaker for the fall BSCB conference. Senator Karen Spilka who chairs the Senate Ways and Means Committee would be a great choice and we're hopeful she'll be available.

We'd like to confirm a speaker by September 25 in order to include the information in conference registration notices.

The meeting with the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary will be moved to the first week of October to accommodate their schedule and permit their chair

to attend. This is the first annual meeting following our agreement. They'll present a report outlining progress to date.

The legislative committee met August 30 and agreed to take legal action against the Common College Application. DeAnn has worked with the Technology Department

at the Carroll Center to document the 2015 and 2016 contacts in which the CCB informed the Common App that their product was not accessible. DeAnn will

contact Dan Manning at Greater Boston Legal Services to see if he's willing to help.

The City of Cambridge posted the new taxi regulations on September 6. The language about service dogs is much better, but other things appear worse. The

regulations were shortened from 44 pages to 9 to make taxi drivers more competitive with ride sharing services. Deann will talk with the Disabilities

Commission in Cambridge and with attorney Dan Manning to see about possible responses.

The legislative committee will host a member call-in on Wednesday, September 27 at 7:30. Board members are invited to call in.

Brian received a call from Iainey Feingold regarding the recent Equifax data breach. She said there is a problem with the audio CAPTCHA on the website where individuals can go to determine whether their personal data has been compromised. It does not put the user in the edit field when they listen to the audio. Also, Matt Chao was unable to read the results when he tried using the site. Brian will follow up.

Transportation report; Rick

AACT is working on new bylaws.

The transportation committee has been asked to take the lead on getting concierge services established in the new TRAC agency from which The Ride dispatches requests.

They are also working on an RFP related to Uber and Lyft.

Rick will give a transportation report at our fall conference.

Finance; Brian/Jerry

Subsequent to the document Jerry recently forwarded to the board from 3D Asset Management, a conference call is being scheduled for the first week in October to give the board an opportunity to ask questions of 3D representatives. All board members are encouraged to attend.

2018 convention report; Frank

As discussed in a recent special board call, Frank and others have been negotiating with the Marriott to come up with an alternate date for our convention that does not conflict with major religious holidays.

It is not feasible to change the date to fall, as the hotel would charge us a \$6700 cancellation fee and room rates and other costs would be higher.

The hotel has offered the weekend of March 9--11 2018 as an alternative. We would still have to pay the cancellation fee, but it would be applied to our bill.

Friday evening rooms would have to be negotiated, but meeting rooms are available during the day on Friday.

David made, Rose seconded and the board unanimously approved a motion to accept the March dates.

We realize this weekend conflicts with the regularly scheduled VIBUG meeting.

We will not be able to cancel due to inclement weather.

Bob recommended we consider a different hotel for future conventions.

Fall conference; David and others

David will coordinate the conference, with assistance from Mary, Rose, Brian and Bob.

Brian will give a president's report, Greg Donnelly from the Carroll Center will speak, David Kingsbury and Diane Croft will talk about our new logo, and Rick Morin will give a transportation update. Carl Richardson is working on booking a legislator as our keynote speaker.

There will also be a panel discussion on AIRA.

We will have a plenary discussion with Eclipse Soundscapes' Principal Investigator, Dr. Henry "Trae" Winter.

Breakout sessions: Cheryl Cumings is seeking a nutritionist to speak to us, Brian will demonstrate the air fryer and InstantPot multifunction cooker, and there will be a session on new iOS apps.

Hannah Fairbairn will discuss her book on social interaction challenges faced by people who are blind.

There will also be a demonstration of the Orbit reader.

Minh Ha has requested meeting space for GDUM. We discussed giving them time in the afternoon. The fall conference committee will work out the logistics.

GDUM attendees will be required to pay the conference registration fee.

Frank made, Jim seconded, and the board unanimously approved a motion to donate \$300.00 to the Carroll Center for permitting us to hold the conference there.

David and Brian will help clean up after the conference.

Frank made, Mary seconded, and the board unanimously approved a motion to set a registration fee of up to \$25.00 per person.

Rose will coordinate a raffle and will follow local rules. Brian said Janet Perry who works at the CCB is a notary and will help with the forms.

Rose made, Mary seconded and the board unanimously approved a motion to raffle off one room for one night at the 2018 spring convention. The raffle will also include other items.

David hopes to announce the event via EventBright by October 1 and will need help. Jim and Rick can assist. Rose recommended that we also have a call-in registration option.

New logo

The Board accepted the Publications Committee recommendation to adopt two logo versions, one with the lower case letters "bscb" and the corresponding Braille lettering beneath, and a second with the same lettering and Braille, but with the Braille included inside a picture of the state of Massachusetts.

The first has the letters in blue and the Braille dots in green. Regarding the version with the image of the state, it has the letters in green, the state filled with blue, and the Braille dots white or whatever the background color of the piece of paper, T shirt, etc. happens to be. It was also agreed to

produce a third version with the image of the state, same color scheme mentioned above, and the words "Bay State Council of the Blind" written out below

the image of the state. These words should appear with the same font and color green as the letters bscb above. Letterheads incorporating these logos should

also be designed.

Membership; Mary

The new Worcester group comprising 12 individuals met yesterday and plans to meet again. They expect to become a chapter by the end of September.

Brian said a spectacular guide dog event was held yesterday at the Perkins BTBL. There were 20 guide dog handlers and 4 puppy raisers present.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday October 8 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary