Bay State Council of the Blind
Minutes of board call on 02/11/2018

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
- Mary Haroyan board member
- Carey Scouler board member

Ex Officio

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

All officers and board members were present.

Brian called the meeting to order at approximately 7:38 PM.

The agenda was adopted and the minutes of our January 2018 meeting were accepted.

**Treasurer’s report**

Rick provided a somewhat abbreviated report due to a computer failure; also, he was out of state doing ACB work.

He said Emily Luz reported that she knows of a bank where she can establish a zero-fee checking account for the Central MA chapter. He issued her a check for $50 to seed the account.

He is looking for alternatives to Bank of America to determine if there are options with more flexibility at the state level regarding establishing sub accounts and fees.
He provided statistics on registrations as of February 11. All registrations are being entered EventBright. (For details, see Rick’s report which was e-mailed to all board members.

All paperwork has been executed with 3D Asset Management and our investment account has been established at TD Ameritrade. The CD at Watertown Savings has been liquidated and deposited to our checking account. The $100,000 will be transferred to our account Wednesday of the coming week. While the investment horizons are long term, it is a bit fortuitous that we will be making our initial investments after the recent market losses.

Once the initial investment has been made, we will report the performance of the investment on an annual basis and the interim Treasurer's Reports will report only on our Operating assets.

Our treasury balance is:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking</td>
<td>107,297.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>27,243.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>PayPal</td>
<td>4966.89</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>139,508.01</strong></td>
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We received a donation from the United Way of 469.64. In Recent years the donation from United Ways at the beginning of the year was for several thousand.

Rick noticed that students were being charged a monthly fee of 29.95 per month since the inception of the account last March with BOA. He was able to have all these fees refunded.

A full report with reports generated from QuickBooks will be submitted next month.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Morin, Treasurer
Frank made, Rose seconded, and the board unanimously approved a motion to accept the treasurer’s report.

Rick said he would be dropping off at some point during the call to fulfill his ACB duties.

He also mentioned that he has nothing new to report on Transportation.

Legislation committee report; DeAnn

She e-mailed this report to the board along with two attachments related to the Common College Application and one containing a draft resolution requested of us by ACB on voter identification

*The ACB was scheduled to discuss the Common College Application on Feb. 7. DeAnn has prepared two summaries of concrete shortcomings with the accessible PDF (for students and for parents.) She is still working on a summary for guidance counselors.

*The Governor's budget was released on January 24th. No big surprises. Discussions are being had about B.L.I.N.D. day strategies and talking points.

*Wednesday, March 14 at 10:00 at the State House in Gardner Auditorium. Ways and Means. Anyone can testify to do with any aspect of the budget. BSCB should try to have a good showing. Please mark calendars.

*Mass. Eye and Ear has confirmed they'll send two administrators to our spring conference to demonstrate a new system that blind patients can use to read commonly-used hospital forms by telephone.

*Conference call to plan town disabilities commissions panel will be this Tuesday. Speakers are Bruce Howell, Carl Richardson, Jini Fairley.

list of 1 items

• Legislative Seminar planning is underway. Appointments are being scheduled. DeAnn plans to send out some info on imperatives.

*HR 620 has generated some discussion on our chat list

*DeAnn is looking for feedback on a draft resolution sent to the board.

(End of written report)

DeAnn will put a note on BSCB Announce about BLIND Day once the planning is firmed up.

Spring convention; Frank

• The entire conference committee met this past Wednesday.
• Some improvements to the readability of the program were suggested and will be implemented in the final version that will be made public closer to the conference date.

• At the time of the call Friday night guest rooms were sold out. We negotiated with the hotel to add an additional 5 rooms to our block for Friday.

• The hotel has agreed to extend the final date for booking rooms at the corporate rate to Friday February 23.

• All three registration methods are working, Eventbright, .PDF and Phone.

• Total registration numbers are down approximately 1/3 compared to last year.

• Despite the motion passed by the board, GDUM members, including GDUM officers, have not registered as of this date. President Charlson has agreed to post to the GDUm email list concerning the necessity for members to register for the conference.

• All of our events will be held in the “e” suites which are the rooms at the fat end of the hotel. The registration desk will be outside of those rooms, near the rest rooms.

(End of written report)

David suggested we send them a reminder.

We discussed challenges of using a cell phone for part of the program on Friday with Eye and Ear. DeAnn will set up a meeting with them and Steve.

Membership; Mary
She received 4 responses from the 3 question membership and affiliate survey sent a couple of months bac, She compiled the answers and e-mailed them to the board.

The 4 different answers follow each question.

These responses will provide the Membership Committee with really helpful focus. about feedback received from the survey

Publications report; David
Jacqueline Tolisano participated in the last Publications Committee call on January 25. She had already taken a look at the BSCB web site and believed it could be salvaged without a huge effort. While Steve had given her several passwords/credentials for accessing it as an administrator, she still lacks
some of them. Steve has attempted to contact PJ about these but has so far been unsuccessful.

Jacquie has not yet given us a cost estimate for her work. When she does, Board approval will be needed because there are no provisions in the current budget for this.

Cory Kadlik is a new member of the committee and participated on the January call. Without a refurbished web site, he cannot generate Twitter feeds because these need to link to information on the site. In theory, he can work on our Facebook page, but as with the web site, he needs ownership rights for the Facebook account. He also has attempted to contact PJ, but with no success.

(end of written report)

Brian and Rick plan to visit PJ and have lunch with him to try and get some missing credentials for our website.

We discussed Philmore, a blind-run voicemail service that offers many attractive features. Chris Devin may be a potential point person; the publications committee will investigate the service further to see if we could benefit from it.

Steve said TIC moved Council Connection to the third Thursday of the month without notifying us.

Jerry made, David seconded, and the group unanimously approved a motion to ask TIC to return it to its original time; Steve will talk to John Shea.

Finance report
Brian said we are just about ready to confirm our investments with 3D Asset management.

New Business
Brian will talk to Rick and Jerry about getting on an approved list. (not sure what this was about)

Jerry made, and Mary seconded a motion to schedule our next meeting in April but reserve the option to call a meeting in March if needed. The motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.
Respectfully,
Jerry Berrier, secretary