Bay State Council of the Blind  
Board Minutes, April 8, 2018  

Officers and board  
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  
Dianna Leonard 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 approximately 7:35 PM.  All officers and board members were present except for Rose Miller, DeAnn Eliott, and Carey Scouler who were excused.  

The agenda was adopted.  

Frank made, David seconded, and the board unanimously approved a motion to approve the minutes from our February meeting; there was no meeting in March.  

Treasurer’s report; Rick  
As usual, Rick e-mailed detailed reports to the board prior to this meeting along with the following summary:  

- We have invested $100,000 through 3D Asset Management. These funds are held in a TD Ameritrade Institutional account. Since we are investing for the long term, the performance of our investments will be reported annually only.
• The Year To Date Profit and Loss (Cash Flow) Report shows the $100,000 investment in the expense category. It is not an expense but rather a transfer between accounts and the books will be adjusted to reflect this.

• Our cash flow since January 1 is +9,174.92. This is misleading since $6774 of this year’s convention expense was pre-paid last year and we have yet to receive the final bill from the Marriott for the balance. The convention will be a bit better than break even.

• Our total Treasury balance, without the investment account, is 44,130.87.

• We certified 196 members with the National office. We will be billed by ACB National $5 per certified member, except life members within the next few weeks.

• Dues have been received or accounted for all but 5 of the members we certified. A big thank you to Mary Haroyan. Thanks to Mary, dues are as clean as they ever have been.

• I will be billing the chapters $9 per member according to our modified by-laws. This will occur over the next few weeks. South Shore has already submitted their dues. I must reconcile chapter members who paid their dues to me directly.

• The Annual report to the Massachusetts Secretary of State has been filed.

• I am preparing the data needed by our accountant to submit our tax returns by the May 15 deadline.

• BSCB purchased 5 Braille Forum Raffle tickets as we customarily do and donated $250 to the Braille Challenge. We will be donating a $150 Legal Seafood gift certificate to the ACB Auction held at the ACB Convention.

• Monthly fees are waived if we maintain a daily balance in our main checking account of at least $15,000 or an average balance $35,000 in aggregate across our three accounts. I will ensure that we maintain a $25,000 balance in our checking account so that the main checking account never dips below $15,000 in any given month.

• If we were to dip below the minimums, the $29.95 monthly charge would apply to all these accounts, not $29.95 charge on each account.

• Ideally, all checking accounts of our chapters would be linked to our master account. It is not possible to do this with Bank of America beyond the 2 checking accounts we have, BSCB and BSCBS.

• I am conferring with our financial advisor to see if TD Bank offers any products that would allow us to have 5 checking accounts and considers our TD Ameritrade account against the minimum requirements.
• There is also the matter of the chapters using BSCB’s Tax ID. I am researching whether and how we might establish an IRS Group Exemption letter for each of our chapters. It may be that we need to have this in place before setting up new checking accounts. This matter came up in this year’s ACB President’s meeting and merits our immediate attention.

• I ask that each chapter president and treasurer put on hold any efforts to open new checking accounts while all this is being sorted out.

• I will present the results of what I find out to the Board for consideration and will not take any action without board approval.

(end of written treasurer’s report)

Mary made, Jerry seconded, and the board unanimously approved the treasurer’s report.

President’s report
Brian said he continues to communicate with Paul Saner of MCB regarding funding issues

Discussions continue with Hulu regarding accessibility.

National Braille Press and the Carroll Center for the Blind have recently requested money from us.

Since BLIND day was canceled due to weather, we will bear no expense for that event, other than possibly the cost of award plaques.

Membership report; Mary
Mary submitted the following report prior to the meeting:

Scheduling a conference call with Brian and chapter presidents.

Assisting Rick with confirming some membership renewals.

Determining membership committee members schedules and planning and upcoming conference call.

Discussing with the Publications Committee the possible design of a large type business card for BSCB, something that can be easily handed out.

(End of written report)

Mary welcomed Dianna Leonard to the board.

Rick thanked Mary for her help with member registrations and said our database is in very good shape.

Brian said we will have 8 votes at the ACB convention.
BSCB convention report; Frank

He provided the following written summary prior to this meeting:

Registrants:

Full Conference 59
One Day Only 11
Banquet Only 5
Saturday Lunch 25
Hospitality Suite 29
Annual Dues 7

Numbers of Sponsors:

Bronze Sponsor: 12
Silver Sponsor: 2
Gold Sponsor: 3
Sapphire Sponsor: 4
Emerald sponsor: 2
Ruby Sponsor: 1
Total Sponsors 24

Total Donations $2,125.00

Feedback was mostly positive with the exception of the following items:

Lack of recognition of individual sponsors in the program. This is due to the lead in time for the program being well ahead of the conference.

The food selections at the hospitality suite were not as good as last year's pasta bar selection.

There was not enough time in the hospitality suite to socialize.

The conference committee recommends that the GDUM and BSCBS main programs be integrated into the daytime program.

(End of written report)

Frank said we have not yet been billed by the hotel; he will check into it.

Mary suggested we consider something earlier in the weekend for first-time attendees next year.
David and Rick will discuss EventBright accessibility issues and offer a recommendation to the board.

Legislative report; Brian reported for DeAnn
DeAnn was traveling but provided this written statement:

BSCB has been very active in advocating for changes to the state budget to support the Mcb.

We had a great meeting with Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary which was acquired by Partners on April 2.

They're changing the website, and Rick Morin will be working with them to make sure it continues to be accessible

(End of written report)

Brian said we had a good presence at the recent legislative hearing.

Transportation report; Rick
He sent the following written report prior to this meeting:

I Received overwhelming interest regarding the announcement I made that we will be planning for a Transportation Summit. Will be scheduling a planning session soon.

Ben Schutzman, the Director of The RIDE, immediately accepted our invitation to participate in this summit.

I presented about Transportation at the last Central Mass Chapter meeting and I am returning to Worcester on April 21 to conduct a 2 hour work session.

I am a member of the selection committee at the MBTA to select a vendor for eligibility.

The MBTA plans to conduct surveys of Uber/Lyft pilot and non-pilot users regarding preferences of options to make the program financially viable.

(End of written report)

Publications report; David
(Written report submitted by David prior to this meeting)

A couple of weeks ago, Treasurer Rick Morin established a BSCB account with Philmore. Bob Hachey and Steve Dresser will manage the BSCB phone line. All postings will be prepared as MP3 files. Material that was originally text (Bay Lines, Bay Lines Express, etc.) will be recorded with a high quality synthetic Vocalizer Expressive voice. Anybody with content to post will submit it to either Bob or Steve.

Regarding the recorded message, we propose as short an intro message as possible, telling callers about how to leave a voice mail, informing them that calls are subject to
long distance charges, and going through menu options (listed below, but not necessarily in this order):

Latest edition of Council Connection.

Latest edition of Bay Lines.

Latest edition of Bay Lines Express section on news from the Board.

About the BSCB (can be taken from the BSCB brochure).

Upcoming calendar of BSCB events (can be partly taken from the Bay Lines Express events calendar).

Upcoming calendar of blindness community events (can be partly taken from the Bay Lines Express events calendar).

Advocacy/legislative announcements.

Comments and suggestions from the Board on the above are requested.

With regard to the web site, Jacquie Tolisano will send links for two different themes to Pubs Committee members so we can check out navigation issues. Jacquie also said that she will set the site up to make content posting as workable as possible for non-developers. In the coming weeks, the Pubs Committee will develop a plan for creating initial content prior to launch (what content is needed and who to get it from).

Recently there was some confusion about a message that appeared to be directly posted by Dina Rosenbaum of the Carroll Center to the announce list. Actually, it was first sent by her directly to the Announce list. When this happens, the webmaster has a choice of rejecting the message or posting it himself. In this latter case, it may appear to be posted directly by the original sender.

In the future, unless the Board indicates otherwise, the webmaster will indicate to the sender to resend directly to the webmaster who will then forward the message to the announce list. This way, it will be clear that the original sender does not have posting rights.

(end of written report)

Filmore phone number is 773-572-6312

David made, Mary seconded, and the board unanimously approved a motion to establish a BSCB phone number with menu options on the Filmore system.

He pointed out that we will no longer have a presence in Directory Assistance, so we will need to publicize the new number.

There was no new business.
Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Monday May 14.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.
Respectfully,
Jerry Berrier, secretary