



Join the Bay State Council of the Blind

The Bay State Council of the Blind (BSCB) is a Massachusetts organization of blind and low vision individuals, affiliated with the American Council of the Blind (ACB). Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of blind and low vision individuals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond.



BSCB member Jennifer Harnish summiting Mount Willard in New Hampshire during a winter hike

We Are a Community

First and foremost, BSCB is a community. Through our events, members meet regularly to catch up on blindness and low vision issues, strengthen social networks, and have fun!

The weekend-long spring convention and auction is our flagship annual event. Members come together from around the state to discuss issues related to accessible transportation, technology, employment, and lifestyles. In recent years, outside guests have spoken about their experiences as Olympic athletes, marine biologists, and optometrists

Our annual fall Conference is a one-day meeting with specialized workshops and discussions. Recent advocacy-related topics have included accessible voting, as well as media and website accessibility. Lifestyle topics have included cooking techniques and blind travel.

We also organize social events for members, such as get-togethers at restaurants, museum trips, birding, and bowling.

BSCB is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Organization, ID: 04-2775259



We are in the forefront of enabling people who are blind and low vision to take part in the rich, cultural fabric of the Commonwealth. Thanks to BSCB and our partners, Massachusetts leads the nation in accessibility to cinemas, live theater and museums through audio-described movies, plays and tours.

In addition to statewide events, we have four local area chapters (Boston, Charles River for the west Boston suburbs, South Shore and Central Massachusetts), and a special interest chapter (Guide Dog Users of Massachusetts). Our chapters also sponsor social events and work on advocacy efforts.



BSCB members and friends pose on a paved path at Arnold Arboretum in Boston

We Are Advocates

Our advocacy efforts focus on access to jobs, education, public transportation, health care, technology, and the arts. Our members work to provide critical input to state and local government, non-profit organizations and private companies.

In conjunction with ACB National, we have successfully reached settlements with Netflix to add audio description to their video streams, negotiated with a major Boston hospital to make healthcare services more accessible, and fought discrimination against guide dog users by local taxi companies and ride-sharing services, such as Uber and Lyft. We actively lobby Beacon Hill to ensure that blindness and low vision services receive sufficient resources in the annual state budget.



We Communicate and Educate

We work hard to keep our members informed about policies, services, and initiatives that impact those with blindness and low vision. We also educate the sighted community about the realities of blindness and low vision. Our communications services include:

- *Council Connection*, a monthly radio program produced and hosted by BSCB members, broadcasts interviews on a wide variety of timely topics of interest to our community. It airs on the statewide radio-reading network, and a podcast version can also be downloaded from our website and other platforms.
- *BayLines Express*, a monthly bulletin that summarizes recent BSCB board decisions, upcoming events, and blindness and low vision-related news articles from the web.
- A weekly email blast, prepared by the staff at Perkins Library, lists audio-described and captioned movies, live theater performances, and TV shows around the state.

BSCB maintains an email announce list for members and friends, as well as an email chat list.

Join Us

Whether you are blind, have low vision, or are a friend or relative of such a person, BSCB membership can enrich your life. Join us to explore new opportunities to shape your future, access publications containing information you cannot get anywhere else, and become part of a close-knit community. For membership information contact us by phone at (773) 572-6312, or by email at president@acbofma.org.

Find out more about us:

On our website: <https://acbofma.org>

On our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ACBOfMA/>

And our X (formerly Twitter) handle is: @ACBofMA