

## Bay State Council of the Blind

Board call, April 14, 2019

- Brian Charlson President
- David Kingsbury First Vice President
- Frank Ventura Second Vice President
- Jerry Berrier Secretary
- Rick Morin Treasurer
- Rose Miller board member
- Dianna Leonard board member
- Cheryl Cumings board member
- Mary Haroyan board member

### Ex Officio

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

Brian started the meeting at approximately 7:36 PM. All officers, board members, and Ex Officio members were present.

Also on the call were chapter presidents Sharon Strzalkowski and Ann Donna.

Rose Made, Mary seconded, and the board passed a motion to accept the minutes of our February meeting.

### Treasurer's report; Rick

(Written report)

- As of April 14, 2019, we have positive cash flow of \$1270.65. This is in keeping with an annual run rate of -\$4000.
- Total liquid assets are \$39,661.83.
- Certifications are complete. We certified 202 members including 3 ACB life members.
- We remitted \$995 to ACB National for our member dues.

- A special thank you to Mary Haroyan for all the terrific work she is doing to cultivate BSCB's membership.
- All chapters have remitted their dues to BSCB except GDUM.
- We have not yet been billed for our portion of BLIND Day. Current cash balance is \$1\$1,270.65. He (End of written report)

Rick pointed out that we were at a similar level at this time last year but then lost \$4,000 after all convention transactions were completed.

A motion was made by Jerry, seconded by Dianna, and approved by the board to accept the treasurer's report.

David suggested that we receive periodic reports of how our investments are doing; Rick said we are currently less than \$1,000 above our original investment.

### BayLines; Bob

He reported that he is seriously ill and cannot manage BayLines at this point. Brian referred it to the Publications Committee, and David will put it on the agenda for their next meeting. Dianna and Sharon offered to assist. Steve pointed out that he, Jerry, and Judy Savageau are co-editors for BayLines.

### President's report; Brian

The Hulu settlement is in process, and there are a growing number of audio-described offerings.

We have sent a strong letter to HBO.

We are looking also at other providers.

### Legislative report; DeAnn

(Written report)

Legislative Committee Report, April 14, 2019

Common College Application has decided not to work with us on accessibility. They're contracting with Level Access, and we'll check their August 1st release

to ensure it works as it should.

The Legislative committee posted a letter to MBTA over Ride fare increases.

Mass Eye and Ear meeting is coming up April 26. We need to plan a conference call for our committee

An ACB legislative call was held by Zoom on April 3.

Net Neutrality passed the U.S. House this week. Senate will be an uphill battle.

Steve requested a board discussion of insulin question and petition on change.org.

Cheryl wants to talk about the 2020 Census.

Next legislative call is this Wednesday, April 17

(End of written report)

We discussed difficulties we face with legislation because we are a low-incidence population.

Cheryl suggested that we provide advocacy training; David suggested we make that our afternoon theme at this year's fall conference.

DeAnn mentioned that we are 2.5 years into our agreement with mass Eye and Ear, and we need to continue to monitor and interact with them to help keep things moving forward.

We discussed a recent ACB legislative call, on which Cory was the moderator. David suggested the moderator play a more active role in keeping the conversation moving appropriately and limiting speakers who become long-winded. DeAnn suggested that specific topics be defined prior to the meeting.

It was pointed out that BSCB-announce should be limited to approved announcements from BSCB. Rebroadcast of announcements from other agencies fit better on chat lists. David will discuss on the next Publications committee call the need of a policy to govern what goes on BSCB-announce.

We discussed the skyrocketing cost of insulin. It can be discussed on BSCB-chat, and Sharon will forward our concerns and a petition she recently received to our ACB diabetics affiliate for consideration and possible action. Brian recommended she reach out directly to Chris Grey. Bob will raise this issue on the BSCB chat list and encourage people to respond with their concerns. He will offer DeAnn's e-mail address for those who wish to reply privately regarding what they have experienced.

Cheryl said we need to be involved in planning for the 2020 census to ensure that accessible options are offered. She attended an initial planning meeting and said there was no focus on people with disabilities. DeAnn has reached out to Claire Stanley to find out what ACB is doing at the national level.

### Transportation; Rick

Rick talked about plans to centralize drop-off and pick-up at Logan by ride sharing services. He and potentially others in BSCB will participate in ongoing dialog with Massport and others involved.

Cheryl expressed strong opposition to the concept of centralization. She feels we should let Massport know we object. Rick said his sense is that it is going to happen, whether or not we object.

Brian said the board that will have the authority to vote on this will be doing so on April 25.

On an unrelated issue, David said he has been contacted by the co-chair of the RTAG sub-committee for The Ride and hopes to be appointed to that sub-committee.

David will draft a letter to the MBTA from Brian asking that web accessibility issues related to schedules be fixed. The schedules were very accessible a few years ago but are no longer usable.

Jerry made, Rose seconded, and the board approved a motion authorizing David to write a letter for Brian to approve.

### Membership; Mary.

Brian thanked Mary for inviting chapter presidents to this and future board meetings.

Regarding transit, Mary said the house budget recommendation for regional transit authorities is deficient this year just as it was last year. Negotiations continue.

Mary will schedule a Membership committee meeting in early May. The agenda will include a discussion of how to promote life membership and give attribution to those who have become life members. The cost of becoming a life member is \$250.00.

She invited us to e-mail her with our ideas.

Sharon pointed out that state life members are not recognized at the ACB convention.

The call will also continue to focus on planning a state-wide call for at-large members.

Brian asked Mary to create a motion to present at our next board call regarding life membership.

Brian mentioned an article he read that suggests creating an online chapter for folks who cannot get to face-to-face meetings.

#### Social committee; Rose

Rose gave details of the upcoming trip on May 4 to the Willard clock museum in Grafton.

She also mentioned tentative plans to hold a "Slam" in mid-June.

#### Spring convention committee; Frank

Frank said feedback has been limited but positive regarding the convention. He thanked all who helped out and said he feels it went well.

Attendance has dropped some over the past few years, but he has talked to affiliates where it has dropped very significantly.

David reminded us of the Saturday afternoon discussion about the future of spring conventions, and he asked that we consider the feedback we got and plan accordingly.

Brian asked Frank to continue as convention coordinator for 2020, and Frank accepted.

We briefly discussed surveying members to learn more about why some do not attend the conventions.

Brian recommends we hold a special board meeting to discuss it, and he likes the idea of surveying both those who attended and those who chose not to.

Brian will reach out to an agency in Waltham that has been recommended to him as a possible venue for our conventions that would cost much less than the escalating cost of hotel conventions.

#### Publications; David.

David praised Cory for doing a lot of tweeting and Facebook entries since our last meeting. He recommended a team approach to take some of the burden off Cory. Dianna volunteered to help.

Brian established a Spreaker account for podcasting. He will have the capacity to host Council Connection.

Steve said he will do nothing until Brian provides a promised e-mail with information needed to link Council Connection with the service; Brian will comply.

#### Old and new Business

Rose said the students want to put together an event using Aira at a Walgreens.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 13 at 7:30, and Brian promised a hard stop at 9:00 PM.

Jerry said a hard stop may not be realistic considering we are now inviting more people to participate in the meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary