

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board call, April 10, 2022

Officers and Board Members

- David Kingsbury; president
- Frank Ventura; first vice president
- Cheryl Cumings; second vice president
- Brian Charlson; past president
- Jerry Berrier; secretary
- Nick Corbett; treasurer
- Rose Miller; board member
- Jennifer Harnish; board member and chair of legislative committee
- Pam Loch; board member
- Myra Ross; board member

Ex Officio

- Steve Dresser; webmaster
- Sharon Strzalkowski; publications chair
- Dianna Leonard; BayLines Express editor

David called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

All officers, ex officio officers, and board members were present except Jennifer Harnish, who is away. Jerry arrived at 7:45, due to a regularly scheduled Sunday evening conflict.

Also present were Chris Devin; Constitution and bylaws chair, and Nick Claudio; BSCB Students.

The agenda was adopted.

The minutes of our March 2022 meeting were approved by a motion.

Treasurer's report; Nick

(Written report)

4/10/22 Treasurer's Report

By: Nick Corbett, Treasurer

[All numbers are reported through the end of March 2022]

1. Year to date profit and loss and balance sheet reports are attached.
 - a. Income minus expenses = **\$513.53**
 - b. Total liquid assets = \$53,354.96, +0.03% since last month
 - i. Bank of America checking account = \$19,670.03
 - ii. PayPal cash account = \$8,312.12
 - iii. Bank of America savings account = \$25,372.81
2. Certification update:
 - a. The certification report was submitted on 3/21/22
 - b. Updates to membership can be made between 5/1/22-5/23/22
 - c. Chapters were sent an invoice for their dues to BSCB on 4/6/22
3. 2021 Taxes are complete.
 - a. Tax returns have been received
 - b. Secretary of State filing fee has been paid
 - c. PC form associated with Secretary of State has been mailed
 - d. The release for electronic filing of non-profit status has been submitted
 - e. Accountant has been paid
4. Investment update:
 - a. Documents to transfer control of the investment account to Nick and David have been acquired but not yet completed.
 - b. No action has yet been taken to transfer control of the Bank of America or PayPal accounts to Nick and David.
5. Bookkeeping Update:
 - a. The requested daily use budget is about complete and will be shared in the next few days.
6. Story Slam update:
 - a. A \$25 Amazon E-gift card has been sent to each of the three story slam winners.
 - b. A \$25 donation from Elizabeth Johnson was submitted via PayPal to cover the cost of one of the Amazon e-gift cards
7. Donations Update:
 - a. A \$500 donation to Our Space Our Place is pending.
 - b. The above donation was approved in the budget meeting held in January. Other donation line items were also approved at that time. Does approval of these donation line items in the budget meeting constitute a motion to have such funds disbursed?

Nick, BSCB Treasurer

(End of written report)

Nick confirmed that \$500 was approved at our last budget meeting for Our Space Our Place. David agreed that no further action is needed to approve the payment.

We will donate \$250 toward shipping costs for each of the two ACB annual auctions; the convention auction and the holiday auction.

Nick asked that members advise him as the time approaches for seasonal donations we have approved

Myra pointed out that the annual convention auction donation may need to go out earlier than usual this year.

Nick confirmed he has received a detailed email from James Izatt regarding central Mass membership dues.

Nick will send the budget to all board members.

The treasurer's report was accepted by a motion.

President's report; David

Nick Claudio reported that the BSCB students group hosted a successful accessible games day on April 10 at the Carroll Center. He will write a note of thanks to Dina Rosenbaum.

The Carroll Center provided use of the facility at no charge.

Spring convention; David

(Written report)

The Convention Committee last met on March 15, and will meet again on April 12. Updates on preparations are as follows:

- The registration message went out on April 5. So far, there are 18 registrants and \$300 in sponsorships.
- Democracy Live has agreed to sponsor the convention at \$1,500. They have also asked for testimonials by BSCB members who used their accessible ballots last year.
- Several of us met with representatives of ACB Media to discuss the logistics of their broadcasting the Convention. ACB Media was represented by Cecily Laney Nipper, Rick Morin, and Larry Gassman. Based on their experience broadcasting conventions, they strongly recommended using the webinar version of Zoom for both the convention and auction. We said we would reconsider with the Board, especially for the auction.
- Rose is working to confirm volunteers. Once they are identified, we should soon hold a Zoom meeting with them to go over voting logistics.
- (End of written report)

22 registrants and \$300 in donations so far.

Chris said he and Steve are collaborating on a recorded reading of the proposed amendments, which will be played twice at the convention prior to voting.

Brian is working on 3 draft resolutions that have been received. He will meet soon with the resolutions committee to finalize everything.

We agreed to use our Zoom Pro account for the day's activities, and we will use the ACB Webinar account for the auction.

ACB will provide Zoom hosts for the auction.

Democracy Live has asked for testimonials from folks who used their accessible voting system last year. DeAnn Elliott has volunteered, and Brian also will give a testimonial.

Board members will reach out to other BSCB members who participated last year, in case Democracy Live needs more testimonials.

Democracy Live would also like to find a New Hampshire contact for a future project; Kim and Brian are working on that.

Rose has found two volunteers through the volunteer coordinator at Perkins; David said two is all we will need.

David plans to have two Zoom hosts at a time, throughout the conference.

Kim and Brian will not be able to be at the conference on Sunday after noon.

Brian hopes to receive at least 10 additional donations for the auction; 27 items have been pledged so far.

Publications report; Sharon

(Written report)

Publications Committee Meeting

April 7, 2022

Sharon Strzalkowski

We were small in number last evening, but had some good discussion and made a few decisions.

We all agreed that July will be a month with no third Thursday call or BayLines Express, as the focus will be on the national convention in hybrid fashion. There will be no third Thursday in April, and we will resume in May with a presentation about mobility and navigation.

Sharon mentioned a service that she heard about through Hadley through which people having difficulty putting in all the zoom numbers on a landline could be contacted and brought into the call with a simple press of number one. Tim was familiar with this extra zoom feature, and subsequently learned that it is \$100 a month to use this feature. We will see if it can be turned on and off by the month in the same way that webinar can be done.

Steve has placed information about convention registration in the primary menu on our web page and has included the link to PayPal. Cindy is monitoring Phillmore to see if anyone would like help with registration, and she and Sharon will work out needed calls.

Steve and Dianna will review the current web page and make any needed visual changes with regard to placement of content on the page.

Jerry asked to be excused from his role as Facebook and Twitter coordinator, and Dianna has offered to take on this role. Many thanks to Jerry for helping with this. He has also stepped away from the publications committee because of other responsibilities at our usual meeting time. He will be missed!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 5, 2022.

(End of written report)

The publications committee plans to enlist help from a website consultant who has worked for other ACB groups. She charges \$25.00 per month for minor updates, and \$100 per session for more major activities.

There was consensus among us that it is a wise move.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed as follows: Add \$500 to the existing web services line item in our budget, specifically for this committee's use for web consulting services.

Nick pointed out that this increase to our budget will result in a projected \$2,800 deficit for the year, but we have plenty of funding to cover that.

Legislative

There is no formal report, as Jennifer is traveling.

Several of those present reported contacts with local legislators. They will email Jennifer, as she is tracking legislative seminar-related activities.

Membership; Cheryl

(Written report)

- Our next meeting is April 11.
- Our goal is to identify a specific action(s) we can do to begin reaching out to current and/or new members.

(End of written report)

David asked for a list of BSCB members when the updated list becomes available.

We discussed who should have access to our membership list. Jerry will search the minutes for details we agreed on approximately a year ago.

(Secretary's note: From March 14, 2021:

A motion was made and passed to permit all BSCB officers and board members, ex officio officers, and committee chairs to request a copy of our

membership list from the BSCB secretary when needed, provided it is strictly for the betterment of the organization. The secretary will document when

a report is provided and will consult the president if the request seems questionable.)

Social committee; Rose

(Written report)

The Social Committee held its first Story Slam of the year on March 26, 2022.

We had over 25 members that attended over zoom.

Hosted by Rose and lively ElizabethAnn as well as members of The Social Committee.

We had three judges.

The three winners names that received a \$25 gift card for their stories are listed below:

Helen Kobek
Russell Andrews,
Carol Fithian

All the stories were good but, we could only pick three and congratulation to them

(end of written report)

Rose clarified that there were 8 story tellers, and more than 25 participants.

The next social committee meeting will be on June 8.

Old business

ACB Convention discussion

Brian and Cheryl plan to attend in-person.

Brian proposed that the delegate must attend in person, and the alternate delegate may attend remotely. Nobody disagreed.

Nick pointed out that there is a line item in the budget to pay the delegate \$1,000 to defray expenses. Assuming the alternate will attend remotely, no stipend was set for that person.

A motion was made and seconded to pay the alternate delegate an honorarium of \$200.00, regardless of whether the alternate attends in-person or remotely. The motion did not pass

Brian is willing to serve as delegate, and Cheryl is not.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed assigning Brian as delegate at the ACB convention.

We postponed selecting an alternate.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 9 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was officially adjourned at approximately 9:30, and the board went into executive session.

David thanked Kim Charlson for heading the awards committee, and Jerry Berrier and pam Loch for serving on the committee.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to ratify the selections recommended by the awards committee for the community access award and Betty Gayzagian award. The outstanding service award does not require our approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary