

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board minutes for December 10,, 2019

Bay State Council of the Blind 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
- 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 brought the call to order at 7:34 PM.

Rick, Dianna and Cheryl indicated ahead of time they would not be able to attend. Ex-officio members Steve Dresser and DeAnn Elliott were on the call. Chris Devin also attended.

The minutes of our November meeting were approved by the board.

There was no treasurer's report, but Brian said Rick informed him that the sum allocated to the legislative seminar last year was \$1200.00. Rick told Brian he feels comfortable increasing the amount for the upcoming legislative seminar to \$1800.00.

President's report; Brian

Carl Richardson will chair the nominating committee.

Sharon Strzalkowski will serve for the central Mass chapter. Brian encourages other chapter presidents to appoint a representative to serve on the committee.

Brian asked Kim Charlson to chair the awards committee.

Fall conference report; David

Brian praised David and others for an excellent fall conference.

We discussed the need to take sanitary precautions when serving food. Frank suggested we create a serving station.

Spring conference; Frank

Programming requests should be put in very soon.

We will need more volunteers than in past years.

Jerry will reach out to MAB and others.

If stable internet service is not available at the new venue, we may need to record rather than stream our sessions.

Publications report; David

Steve said he has set up the Libsyn account, and he has gotten sized logos from Gretchen Thompson.

The Council Connection podcast should be up and running soon.

David said the theater tickets auction will have raised around \$400.00 once it is completed, and he said the work involved was minimal.

Legislative report; DeAnn

Imperatives for the upcoming legislative seminar have not yet been announced.

DeAnn will meet with Greater Boston Legal Services this Friday to talk about blindness initiatives. She will show a video by Haben Girma.

Cheryl Cumings has drafted a report summarizing voter survey results for the legislative committee to review.

Brian said he has a draft of an e-mail to go out to BSCB members regarding the legislative seminar. He will talk about it under old business.

We discussed the rights of Ex-officio members. Chris agreed to discuss it with the constitution and bylaws committee.

Membership report; Mary

The committee has not met since our last call. They will meet in January to discuss the next members at large call.

The next Western Massachusetts meeting is scheduled for January 4.

The recent call with Cindy VanWinkle went well.

Mary spoke about BSCB recently to a support group in Marlboro.

Social Committee report; Rose

She had nothing to report, but she asked the board to consider providing a budget for the social committee.

Old Business

Brian said Rick will hold a meeting in early January with those interested in discussing how to best safeguard our passwords and other important information.

Brian will send an e-mail this evening inviting interested members to E-mail Jerry with a paragraph in support of their request for funding to attend the legislative seminar.

David made, Rose seconded, and the board approved a motion stating that we will review and select candidates at our January 12 meeting.

The legislative seminar will take place on February 22.

Mary made, David seconded, and the board approved a motion to fund four candidates for the legislative seminar. Each will receive \$450.00.

Brian said Sharon Strzalkowski is chairing the BSCB grants committee, comprised of Sharon, Cheryl Cumings, Rick Morin, Myra Ross and TC Breazeale.

Our next board call is scheduled for 7:30 PM on January 12.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary