

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board call, February 10, 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

In Brian's absence, David brought the call to order at 7:45 PM.

All officers and board members except Brian were present.

After role call, a motion was made and passed to approve the minutes of our January meeting.

Brian arrived and assumed leadership of the call at 7:46.

Treasurer's report; Rick

(Written report)

1. We are currently showing positive cash flow of \$3532
2. Total assets \$41,923
3. In addition to the \$1200 that was paid in 2018 for legislative seminar stipends, an additional \$600 was disbursed to Sharon Strzalkowski for Legislative

Seminar

4. Convention donations thus far total \$1975. Gerry Boucher donated \$1000
5. Convention Registrations \$2290 with 240 in PayPal/Eventzilla fees.
6. No donations received from United Way.
7. Donated \$250 to Braille Challenge
8. BSCB's portion of White Cane Day was \$178
9. Lions Club donated \$200 at Bowling Event
10. At Large dues trickling in. Will send a third notice out next week. Chapter reports have gone out to each chapter.
11. Checking account established for Central MA Chapter. BSCB owns the account with chapter principals managing the day to day. No fee / No minimum balance account.

(End of written report)

Rick summarized the written report he had sent prior to the meeting, noting the \$1,000 donation from Gerry Boucher and a \$200 donation from Woburn Lions.

Brian said Rose has already sent a personal thank-you to the Lions, who helped at our recent bowling event and then made a \$200 donation.

Brian has drafted a thank-you letter which he will send in the next two days, once Rose sends him their address.

Brian noted that he typically sends hard-copy thank-you notes as needed.

The treasurer's report was accepted by a motion, and Brian thanked Rick for his hard work.

President's report; Brian

MCB commissioner David D'Arcangelo has indicated he will be unable to speak at our upcoming spring convention.

Three people from Massachusetts have been chosen by ACB to attend the upcoming legislative seminar at ACB's expense; Cory Kadlik, Minh Ha, and Daisy Russell.

Brian tried to e-mail the 8 Massachusetts participants, but the email bounced. He will try again tomorrow. He hopes to schedule a conference call with them for this coming Thursday.

Brian and our legislative committee are crafting letters to HBO and the Common App group regarding accessibility issues.

Brian sent an e-mail inviting chapter presidents to tonight's board call, but evidently some of them did not receive it.

David will include upcoming board meeting dates and times in BayLines Express. The notice will invite interested members to contact Mary Haroyan at least two days in advance for meeting credentials.

Legislative; DeAnn

(Written report)

The legislative committee met on January 30th.

For the upcoming conference, the availability of one panelist is being confirmed, and a descriptive paragraph for the conference program should be available

early next week.

The Governor's budget was released on January 23rd. The MCB Community Services account is down about \$700,000, but we believe this is largely administrative.

The VR account is down \$100,000, based on projections for the coming year.

Tuesday, March 19th will be the 10th annual BLIND Legislative Day at the State House. Registration is now open.

Final step in the Marrakesh Treaty was taken this week, and the U.S. becomes the 50th signer. Good work to Kim Charlson and others who worked so hard on

this important issue!

We've received a second draft from the attorney who is helping us with the Common App. Two personal statements have been collected, and two more are expected

from BSCB members.

DeAnn has heard from one attendee for the legislative seminar. She is unaware of other appointments that attendees have made. Next steps?

Bob Hachey and Carl Richardson have been following up on bills that were the subject of previous BSCB resolutions. These had to be reintroduced, since

a new two-year session has started. (Bob will give update.)

Respectfully submitted by DeAnn Elliott

(End of written report)

DeAnn said Clark Rachfal has been hired as ACB's Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs.

DeAnn said she will probably need to talk with David and Brian later this week regarding the second draft of our letter regarding the common app.

Bob was inadvertently muted, so DeAnn talked about the three bills Carl and Bob have discussed; the family bill and healthcare equity office bill relate to previous BSCB resolutions. an initiative related to the architectural access board was also discussed.

A motion was made and passed to include BSCB as a signatory on these initiatives.

DeAnn credited Bob for his hard work on these re-introduced bills.

Transportation; Rick

Following up on an e-mail Rick had sent prior to this meeting, he updated us with details of a potential work stoppage with one The Ride vendors.

He also discussed the potential of Ride rate increases.

He provided other miscellaneous updates, and he encouraged us to attend the upcoming RTAG meeting scheduled for February 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Transportation building at 10 Park Plaza, rooms 1 2 and 3 on the 2nd floor.

Rick will post the meeting on BSCB-announce.

Mary said the Regional Transit Authority advocates group has written a letter to the Regional Transit Authority Task Force recommending state-wide priorities. She shared the letter with Rick, and he said BSCB can be a signatory.

Membership; Mary

Although the committee has not met in February, they continue to reach out to BSCB members at large regarding dues and assessing interest in a state-wide conference call of members at large.

Social committee; Rose

The recent bowling event went well, but turn-out was low. Four BSCB members and fix lions showed up.

Rose said the Woburn Lions assisted and also donated \$200 to BSCB.

Spring convention; Frank

(Written report)

- Attendance by The MCB commissioner is still a question.
- GDUM has agreed to pay for any food and beverages they order at their business meeting.
- Auction donations are nearing the \$2000 mark.
- Rick and I visited the hotel and will clarify some A/V issues with their A/V contractor

(End of written report)

Frank will contact Commissioner D'Arcangelo and encourage him to send another MCB representative such as John Oliveira if commissioner D'Arcangelo is unable to be present.

Per a recent e-mail we received regarding a planned GDUM meeting, Frank informed Carl Richardson that any refreshments GDUM provides must be purchased from the hotel. The meeting will be open to all attendees.

Brian said he should know, no later than Tuesday, who the nominating committee chairperson will be.

Kim will chair the awards committee, and Mary and Jerry agreed to serve on it.

Brian encouraged David to nominate the Huntington Theatre for an award.

DeAnn recommended Greater Boston Legal Services.

Dianna said Students will meet on Friday evening and will also participate in a GDUM panel discussion on Saturday.

Publications; David

(Written report)

Diane Croft participated on our last call to give suggestions on how to prepare a glossy brochure to be used for fundraising. The most important thing

will be to have several high-quality photographs portraying blind people doing the types of activities BSCB engages in. Photos must be professional quality,

(not just cell phone shots) with high enough pixilation to look good in a published brochure.

Text should be minimal and relate to the photos. The brochure could be folded in two, with the first three pages with photos and text. The back page should

give BSCB contact info and mention BSCB's legal non-profit status. Bob is attempting to contact Perkins to see if they have photographers, we could use

at low cost or for free.

A spring convention registration page has been added to the website at:

<http://acbofma.org/spring-convention-registration/>

(End of written report)

Brian and Steve are working on getting Council Connection back up and running as a podcast.

Bob said BayLines is due to come out soon after the convention.

Other business:

Frank will manage a fund-raising gala in 2020, and David will run a story-telling event this year.

Brian said we need to update our permits to do fundraising in Newton, Watertown, and Burlington. He received a letter from Newton asking us to renew our permit there.

Brian will add fund raising to the agenda for our first post-convention board call.

A motion was made and passed to present Gerry Boucher with a lifetime BSCB membership at the convention banquet.

Brian will talk to Cory Kadlik to solidify what is expected of the social media rep, and Jerry will assist with Twitter.

We discussed various web-based event registration programs.

We agreed to hold our next board call on April 14.

Brian said he will send the agenda out to us and to chapter presidents no later than April 12. He will make sure Cory Kadlik also receives them.

Fund raising will be included on future agendas.

Zoom credentials will be included.

David will announce the upcoming meeting on BayLines Express, and Mary will be the contact.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary