

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board Minutes, February 20, 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

#### Ex Officio

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

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

Cheryl was excused due to illness. Jerry was unable to attend. Jennifer was unable to attend.

All other BSCB officers and board members were in attendance, along with Dianna Leonard; BayLines Express editor, Jessica Barr; South Shore, and Jeanette Kutash; Boston chapter.

The minutes of our January meeting were approved by a motion.

Treasurer's report; Nick

(Written report)

## 2/20/22 Treasurer's Report

By: Nick Corbett, Treasurer

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

1. Year to date profit and loss and balance sheet reports are attached.
  - a. Income minus expenses = \$ 480.90
  - b. Total liquid assets = \$52,322.33, -1% since last month
    - i. Bank of America checking account = \$19,790.19
    - ii. PayPal cash account = \$8,159.74
    - iii. Bank of America savings account = \$25,372.40
2. Certification update: All Central Mass members have been certified, but no other chapters have reported their member lists. At large members' dues payments are trickling in.
  - a. Please use your influence as members of the board to encourage people to pay their dues and to encourage chapter officers to be on top of reporting their member lists to [Nickcorbett4883@gmail.com](mailto:Nickcorbett4883@gmail.com).
  - b. All members to be certified need to be submitted by 2/28/22 to [Nickcorbett4883@gmail.com](mailto:Nickcorbett4883@gmail.com).
  - c. BSCB chapters were requested to submit renewing member lists on 2/4/22.
  - d. A concern has been expressed about chapter officers requesting BSCB life members to pay annual membership dues; perhaps we as the board can discuss the autonomy chapters have to determine if chapter members need to pay other costs to chapters while remaining life members of BSCB.
3. Before we transfer large amounts of money between accounts, particularly to the BSCB investment account, ownership of accounts needs to be settled.
  - a. The bank of America accounts need to be in the names of Nick and David, and this will take some coordination between Nick and David as personal tax identification information is required.
  - b. A meeting between Nick, possibly David, and the 3D Asset Management (BSCB's investment company) is tentatively scheduled for the week of 2/21/22.
  - c. Coordinating PayPal designations (controlling parties) remains on the to do list.
4. Tax filing documents were sent to the BSCB accountant on 2/4/22 and 2/8/22.
5. Many accounts have been restructured for clearer tracking and trend identification in BSCB's bookkeeping software, but an issue of accessibility was identified between Quickbooks and Windows 11 on 2/17/22.
  - a. The creators of the JAWS scripts for Quickbooks were reached out to on 2/17/22.
  - b. Once this accessibility issue is resolved, the requested daily reference of the BSCB 2022 budget will be finalized and shared with the board.
6. \$250 has been donated to ACB to support its national auction.

Nick

(End of written report)

David will try to attend the meeting Nick has scheduled for February 22 with 3D Financial advisors. (See Nick's written report above.)

Nick and David will also meet with Bank of America to update signatories on our accounts.

Nick is not sure of the minimum balance we need to maintain with Bank of America to retain preferred status.

BSCB currently has a debit card with Bank of America, but no credit card.

Nick is almost finished updating our budget per suggestions made at our recent budget meeting.

### President's report; David

He commented on the joint meeting held with MCB last week to discuss training opportunities for SR consumers. Approximately 220 people attended the Zoom meeting.

David praised Carla Cath from MCB for her work coordinating the meeting.

David was praised for his thorough description of BSCB initiatives.

### Spring convention update; David

(Written report)

#### Spring Convention Committee Report

The Convention Committee last met on February 15. Below is a summary of convention preparation progress.

- The convention will begin on Saturday April 30 at 10:00 and go until 4:00, with a one hour break for lunch. There will be an auction in the evening. Day 2 will begin at 10:00 and go until 1:00. However, hours might be slightly adjusted as the program agenda is finalized.
- There will be a business session including election of officers, and ratification of several resolutions and constitutional amendments.
  
- The Nominations Committee, chaired by Nona Haroyan, will have its first meeting on March 1.
- Brian Charlson is chairing the Resolutions Committee. There will be at least two resolutions, including one related to the MCB budget and another about accessible voting.
- Chris Devin is chairing the Constitution and By Laws Committee. Proposed constitutional amendments are: renaming the Publications Committee to Communications, renaming the

Legislative Committee to Advocacy, and shortening the lead time for forming the Nominating Committee to less than 90 days.

- David will draft a preliminary program agenda within the next week and circulate it.
- The Saturday evening auction is being organized by Brian Charlson. A number of auction items have already been collected. Brian and Tim “Cookie Monster” Cumings will serve as auctioneers.
- Democracy Live has offered to sponsor the convention and this offer will be pursued in the coming weeks.
- Tim Cumings will coordinate Zoom hosting and we will use our Pro account (not a webinar account). There will be two co-hosts at all times, with one having the responsibility of keeping non-speakers muted to minimize unwanted noise.
- Brian will coordinate remote voting procedures, which will remain similar to those prepared for the Fall Conference. He will reach out to Mary Haroyan to see if the Fall volunteers are still available to count votes if any of the officer elections are contested.
- David has requested that ACB Media broadcast the convention. A final response is pending.
- David will prepare the registration form soon, based on the Google Forms registration form for last year’s convention.
- The next Convention Committee meeting is scheduled for March 15 at 7:30 PM.

(End of written report)

Democracy Live will speak on Saturday afternoon; they are involved with accessible voting.

Brian provided an update on the BSCB auction. Some said they did not receive a BSCB-announce update sent by Brian; he will re-send it.

Awards will be presented on Saturday afternoon.

## Legislative

(Written report)

Legislative Advocacy Committee report February 20, 2021

Prepared by Jennifer Harnish

1. I have been receiving lots of good content from DeAnn from her work and am trying to make time to read and organize it all.
2. Participated in three of the ACB leadership seminar webinars, learning more details about the imperatives and recommendations for best practices for presenting to legislators.
3. Received contact info from four individuals planning to participate.
4. Question on scheduling a meeting: how to do this easily (e.g., to not conflict with other BSCB meetings ). Are these meetings posted somewhere?
5. Presented on the imperatives with the Central Mass Chapter
6. I have not had time to focus on anything else that this committee has done in the past.

(End of written report)

David mentioned that we need to hold a Zoom meeting for those who will participate in the legislative seminar.

Brian has a partial list of members and their legislators.

## Publications; Sharon

(Written report)

Bay State Council of the Blind Publications Committee Meeting

February 10, 2022

We discussed a variety of potential third Thursday topics, including access to the Red Sox, self-publishing, use of various NFT resources, and ZoomaX reader. The March session will be about Go Go (formerly Go Go Grandparent) and we will skip April because of our upcoming Spring convention.

We reviewed the recent Drop Box training that David and Jerry provided, with the help of Tim as host. It is not clear how many chapter presidents would use this tool, but it was an excellent training and will be available as a recording for people needing to use it.

We discussed articles submitted for Baylines Express, and agreed that they should be a reasonable length (maybe 1000 words or so) and have a connection to living with blindness in some way.

Steve continues to work on producing a membership form in Google and will talk with David about this, as he has created these forms before.

Those interested in being on the website committee are asked to look at our website, [www.acbofma.org](http://www.acbofma.org), and suggest to Steve any format suggestions that could be helpful. The committee will probably not meet regularly, but those interested are asked to look at the website periodically to help make sure that content is current.

The Events mailbox that Steve set up to use for calendar entries on Philmore and in Baylines Express has not been used very much by chapter presidents and others who may have information to share. We will evaluate whether to keep it intact or to simply ask chapter presidents and board members to send items to bscb-announce.

Cindy has been monitoring Philmore, and received a question about how to get transcripts of the third Thursday recordings for a deaf-blind person. We agreed that this might be very difficult to do, but asked Cindy to check with Carl Richardson and Ray and Karen Campbell of the deaf-blind affiliate for ideas. In the meantime, we decided to set up a page where the third Thursday recordings will be placed for future reference.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 10, 2022

(End of written report)

## Membership; Cheryl

(Written report)

### Membership Report

February 2022

- The Membership Committee met at the end of January
- We spent time creating the presentation content for the Third Thursday in February
- We invited the new President of the Student Chapter to join us
- We have started gathering words which current members use to describe their experiences of being a BSCB member. We think these words can help us to create something to help with outreach
- Cheryl is contacting At large members to encourage them to pay their dues
- Talked about providing Zoom support to the group of people in Western MA, who are exploring starting a regional chapter
- Discussed ways of adding benefits to BSCB Life Membership- talked about breakfast with BSCB president and Board members, write up in Baylines, certificate
- Question of whether there should be an electronic membership form on the website
- Next meeting: Monday March 7 at 7:30 pm

(End of written report)

David said the session on membership will be a valuable resource, and he asked that a link to it be added to the BSCB website.

It could also be emailed to prospective members.

Social committee; Rose  
(Written report)

Social Committee met on January 18, 2022 at 7:30 to 8: 25 P.M.

From this date forward Meetings will start at 8:00 P.M.

Attendance David, Nina, ElizabethAnn and Rose.

Not on call Fouad he missed a few calls and some social events.

Jerry excused

Next meeting first Tuesday in June at 8:00 P.M.

tonight's meeting was to discuss various social events to have over the next few months.

Suggestions:

David Suggestions \$25 gift card for winners of Story Slam in March 2022.

Liz will give donation \$25 amazon on line

Story Slam: March Date 19, 2022

Who wants to tell a story? time line will be 10 minutes

Story time will be 1 to 3 or 2-4 on the date.

Suggestions: Boston on foot -Nina May or June

Nina: suggestion Rose Kennedy greenway walking tours

Historic Park in Quincy

or Quincey Adams Museum

Liz talks about walking or hiking tours

Boy scout to assist with hike of blue hills or a sighted adult.

Rose -walking tours of Boston downtown freedom trail

David Suggestion visit baseball game in august Worcester" Who sox

Rose lunch outing "Clam Shack June "Quincy

Rose Asking Lions club to help with sighted guide tours.

ASKING THE BOARD for \$25 to get gift card

March 26, Hope no conflict on dates

Rose will ask board about March 19, or 26

David got off the line AT 8:00 p.m.

Meeting ends 8:25 P.M.

(End of written report)

The story slam will be on March 26. First prize will be \$50 from the Social Committee budget. ElizabethAnne has offered to donate \$25.00 for second prize.

There was some discussion of having more prizes. Rose will call a meeting of the social committee to discuss whether to change the amounts and/or add more prizes.

A social event involving a Worcester baseball game and a meal is being considered for the summer.

### Old business

Because the legislative seminar has been changed to a remote event, we will not be spending \$1,000 that had been allocated to defray costs for 2 members to attend the in-person legislative seminar,

A motion was made and passed to use that money to pay the \$20 cost of dues for up to 50 members who express interest in attending the remote event.

PayPal is the preferred payment method.

### New business

The board will elect an interim board member to replace Rafael Toro, following the same basic procedure used to elect the last couple of interim members.

David will send a request for responses; deadline for responses will be prior to our march board meeting. After the deadline, Jerry will send copies of the responses directly to board members only.



## ACB Scholarships

Frank, who is on the national scholarship committee, provided some details:

The Durward K. McDaniel award is given annually to one person east of the Mississippi and one to the west.

The award provides funding to attend an ACB convention.

Recipients are people who have shown leadership potential but never attended an ACB convention.

The Chase Fellow award is given to individuals who have shown leadership potential. Interested candidates are asked to complete an application and request a letter of support from their state affiliate president.

Application deadline is at the beginning of march.

A candidate may apply for both awards if they think they meet the criteria.

Local BSCB affiliates are encouraged to inform their chapter members of these opportunities.

We discussed the need to get younger members involved in BSCB leadership.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary