

Bay State Council of the Blind

Minutes of board call, January 13, 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

All members were present except Dianna Leonard and Rick Morin, both of whom were excused.

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:32.

President's report

Brian said the bank account for the Central MA chapter has been established. He and Rick will be talking to GDUM and the Charles River chapter soon.

Brian will invite chapter presidents to our next monthly board call.

Social Committee:

(Written report)

We had a phone meeting on December 13, 2018.

Similar below info has been sent out to the list at least two times to make members aware of the event. It may be sent another time in a few days

We must have at least 10-15 members participate for discounts on the lanes.

Today we have 8 people confirmed.

Rick e-mailed or called about the credit card deposit to Ms. Greene.

We have six ladies from the Woburn Lions club that will be assisting us on the lanes and BSCB social team will offer to pay for their meals.

If we do not have enough folks by Jan.21,2019 we may need to cancel this event.

This event has been announced in The Bay Lines Express December Newsletter.

Save the date: January 26,2019

Let's get social and come join the social committee

BSCB Social Bowling Event At "Boston Bowl"

Location is 820 Morrissey BLVD. Dorchester 02122

check in time 12:30 for lanes and shoes. end time 3:30 P.M.

Cost: \$15 per person including refreshments

Space is limited

Let's get social

contact

Rosemarymiller3266@gmail.com

or call 617-823-0983

Please RSVP by January 20,2019

Rose Miller and the Social committee

(end of written report)

Membership

(Written report)

Committee members are currently in the midst of calling the 48 BSCB members at large. A primary goal of the call is to give these members an opportunity

to ask any questions or express thoughts about the organization; the hope being that this can help to strengthen their connection to BSCB. There has been

a good contact rate so far and the initial response has been positive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary

(end of written report)

Annual dues are due to the ACB office in March.

Spring Convention

(Written report)

- Registration is open
- Hotel reservations can be made on the phone or on the web site, web site is easier.
- 3 dinner options, two boxed lunch options
- The program is ready and I am only waiting on Brian to get back to me with the names of who he appointed chairs of the awards, resolutions, and bylaws

committees. Once I have those, I can send it to Perkins for BRL and LP.

list end

(End of written report)

Brian will let Frank know who is chairing the awards committee, resolutions committee, and the constitution and bylaws committee.

Legislative report

(written report.)

We have five confirmed attendees for the upcoming ACB legislative seminar in Washington D.C. between February 24 and 26. Sharon S. will be our third sponsored

attendee. David Kingsbury has updated the Excel file with contact information for new representatives. DeAnn proposes that each attendee contact his or her own representative to set up an appointment, since it's an opportunity for members to make contact with their legislators and aides, and since constituents will have a better chance of securing an appointment. Members can also get the times that will best fit their schedules. For districts without a member in attendance, a committee will distribute the calls. Last year, we held a conference call in January to talk about strategies for the conference and to coordinate calls. DeAnn would like to propose that we schedule a one-hour call next week for this purpose.

The voting survey had 91 responses. This was a good showing, as there were 106 responses in 2016 during a presidential election. More than half of those

who started the survey did not complete it, but this seems to be normal for online surveys? One individual wrote something rather unpleasant about the

BSCB conducting a voting survey, but other responses were helpful. David ran some pivot tables to put the data into numbers that can be used to draft the

final report.

The attorney who is helping us with the Common App has promised a draft letter by the week of January 15. Brian, David, and DeAnn will review it. DeAnn

talked to Claire Stanley at the ACB office about talking on the legislative podcast about the Common App, but both agreed that the timing wouldn't be

advantageous right now. DeAnn promised to keep her in the loop as we review the attorney's letter. Claire said she's willing to offer feedback on this and other advocacy issues.

The legislative committee was tentatively planning to meet the first week of January, but member schedules didn't coincide, and a BSCB board meeting was

simultaneously held on one of the nights. A new meeting will be scheduled. DeAnn and

Jennifer Harnish, who is coordinating the committee's workshop for the spring convention, plan to talk by phone this weekend.

Respectfully submitted by DeAnn Elliott

Legislative Chair

(End of written report)

DeAnn will reach out to the attorney who is assisting with the common college application initiative to set up a call with him, Brian, David, and DeAnn. Brian said he is available on Friday.

David is available after 3:00 PM.

Publications

(written report)

On January 5, Jacqueline Tolisano conducted WordPress training with Steve Dresser and David Kingsbury. Topics covered included: steps for publishing pages

in different menu areas on the site; inserting graphics (including adding alt text); inserting a section on the landing page where we can post major announcements;

and using the media library. With regard to reestablishing the Council Connection podcast, Brian Charlson agreed to work with Steve to get this up and

running before the end of February.

Tim Cumings has agreed to join the Pubs Committee, in part to assist with managing the website.

On our next committee call, we will discuss preparing a glossy brochure for use in fundraising.

Regards,

David

(End of written report)

Bob said BayLines will come out after our spring convention.

David wants to invite Diane Croft to assist with our glossy brochure.

David asked Bob to send him the last edition of BayLines.

We agreed that reprinting of our articles is okay, as long as attribution is included.

Brian is working with LibSyn to fix a problem preventing Council Connection from being broadcast as a podcast.

Fund raising

(After this meeting, Jerry e-mailed a list of points discussed at our recent fund-raising call.)

We discussed selecting one long-term and one short-term project to begin with. Our long-term major project will be a Gala, chaired by Frank.

A motion was made and seconded to hold a fishbowl raffle at our spring convention, but after some discussion, the motion failed due to a full convention schedule and limited time to plan.

A motion was made and passed to hold a Story Slam in May or June. David agreed to chair this initiative, with help from Rose and the social committee.

Cheryl pointed out the need to fully document an outline of each major initiative we decide to engage in.

Zoom Cloud Meeting

Jerry offered to provide meeting credentials from his personal Zoom contract for the board to try out.

A motion was made and passed to use Zoom for our next board meeting.

Our next board call is scheduled for February 10 at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary