

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board minutes, January 9 2022

Bay State Council of the Blind 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
- Rafael Toro; board member

Ex Officio

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

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

Sharon and Rafael were unable to attend. All other officers and board members were present, along with Jeanette Kutash-Boston Chapter, and Jessica Barr-south shore.

The minutes of our December board call were approved.

[Treasurer's report; Nick](#)  
(Written report)

## Treasurer's Report

Submitted, January 9, 2022

By: Nick Corbett, Treasurer

- All numbers are reported through the end of December 2021.

### Priority Report Items

- Long-term investments = \$125,262.39
- Year to date profit and loss and balance sheet reports are attached.
  - a. Income minus expenses = \$ 9,172.47
  - b. Total liquid assets = \$52,841.43 +0.47% since last month
  - c. Bank of America checking account = \$ 19,864.76
  - d. PayPal cash account = \$ 7,604.49
  - e. Bank of America savings account = \$25,372.18
- 2. Steve Dresser has been reimbursed \$480.00 for 24 months of \$20.00 monthly payments for the Libsyn podcast hosting cost.
- 3. BSCB has taken over the \$20 per month Libsyn payment to host its Council Connection podcast.
- 4. \$300 has been donated to the Carroll Center to support the Braille Challenge.
- 5. Nick Corbett is awaiting bill pay information from Brian Charlson to issue a \$500 legislative stipend.
- 6. The 2022 budget is under development and this will be shared with the BSCB Board in advance of the budget meeting which will be scheduled by David.
- 7. Nick Corbett is beginning the 2022 certification process, and chapter/special interest chapter presidents and the Membership Committee should expect associated correspondences over the next two weeks.
- 8. 2021 tax preparations will be begun in January 2022.

(End of written report)

Brian will confirm his billing information with Nick, but he wants to wait to find out whether the legislative seminar will be in-person or virtual.

We agreed to hold a board meeting specifically to discuss our 2022 budget on January 23.

At the budget meeting, we will consider moving some of our liquid assets into our investments. Nick will provide some numbers to help us decide how much to move.

### President's report; David

Jennifer Harnish has agreed to become our new legislative/advocacy chair. David will schedule a call with her and DeAnn to discuss current initiatives.

David will chair the spring convention committee.

We agreed to hold the spring convention remotely on Saturday march 26 and Sunday march 27. Jessica and Jeanette expressed interest in serving on the committee. Aaron Spelker's name was mentioned. Shirley Dopson has also helped out in past years.

David will ask Nona Haroyan to chair the nominations committee, and Chris Devin to chair the constitution and bylaws committee. David will ask Chris to propose changing the name of legislative committee to the Advocacy committee, and Publication to communications. he will suggest other housekeeping changes.

Steve will post the most current constitution on the BSCB website.

David will seek a resolutions chairperson.

There will be an MCB town hall meeting on February 16 at noon to inform consumers about SR funding for training and equipment. Each of the 5 agencies that have been provided with funding will have the opportunity to speak.

On March 16 at the regular quarterly MCB town hall meeting, BSCB and NFB of MA have been invited to talk about advocacy initiatives.

## [Publications report](#)

(Written report)

### Publications Committee Meeting

January 6, 2022

We had a very full meeting, with two guests.

Aaron Spelker, as referred by David, explained his new Facebook page about recreational activities for blind people in Massachusetts at Mass. Blind and Visually Impaired Network. He is very willing to collaborate on a couple of projects with the pubs committee, including Facebook entries and appearing on the next Council Connection.

We discussed providing a membership form on our website, and were pleased to have Cheryl Cumings with us to discuss needed and optional information for ACB and data that we would like to include. She provided a couple of other affiliate forms for our consideration. Steve is looking into how to create this form on WordPress and being able to link it to PayPal.

We may also try to have a separate form for current members who simply want to renew dues, though much of this is already done at the chapter level.

Dianna will send out a note to chapter presidents about our new events mailbox, which is to be used for announcing events like chapter meetings and the like. These events will go on our website, on Philmore, and in BayLines Express if they are within the time line of the current issue.

Sharon will send out an email to chapter presidents, asking them to update their current material on the chapter contacts page. Much of this information is outdated. We need to have just generic information about the chapter, and use the events mailbox for current happenings. Jerry will contact David Morrison for his contact information, as he is now the president of the Charles River chapter.

We discussed having a website committee to review our current offerings and format, and to continue to maintain it. Steve will chair the committee, and Dianna, Cindy, Jerry and David expressed interest in being a part of it. Committee members are asked to review our site and come to the first meeting with suggestions. Steve will initiate a meeting shortly.

Third Thursday, BayLines Express and articles for it are all going well.

The drop box training will be on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 2 PM, and David will facilitate the training, with Tim as host.

Our next meeting will be on February 10, 2022.

(End of written report)

Sharon was unable to attend this meeting.

David confirmed he will conduct Dropbox training on January 22 at 2:00.

He will send an invite to committee chairs and chapter presidents, who can decide whether to invite other officers from their chapters.

David will request RSVP from all who plan to attend.

Membership; Cheryl  
(Written report)

Membership Update

January 2022

- The Membership Committee met in December.
- We are still working through the list to contact all BSCB members.
- We talked about actions we can take to increase the diversity of our membership.
- We look forward to working with Rafael and other members to set up a meeting to create a Western Massachusetts chapter.
- We will meet in January to finalize the content of our presentation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in February.

(End of written report)

The membership and publications committees will work together to create a membership form for our website.

Cheryl and Nick are collaborating to ensure that chapter and member dues are paid.

Social committee; Rose

We agreed it would be good to have a story slam in the coming months.

No other activities are planned at this time.

Old business

Jennifer Harnish was approved by a motion to receive a stipend for the upcoming legislative seminar, assuming it is in-person.

New business

David asked us to consider ways we might suggest that future MCB reallocation funds be used. It was mentioned that we may want to have a session at our spring convention on this topic. Also possibly a request to the membership for suggestions.

Brian mentioned that there will be a meeting on March 16 with Hulu regarding accessibility issues that have yet to be resolved.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the second Sunday in February.

(Note: This is no longer the meeting date)

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

Respectfully,  
Jerry Berrier, Secretary