

Bay State Council of the Blind

BSCB Board Call, June 9, 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 called the meeting to order shortly after 7:30 PM. All officers and board members were present, along with Sharon Strzalkowski, Ann Donna, Jessica Barr, Bob Hachey and DeAnn Elliott. Steve Dresser had a conflict and arrived later in the meeting, and Cory kadlik was not present.

The minutes of our May meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's report; Rick

As usual, Rick had provided a detailed treasurer's report prior to this meeting, along with the following summary:

There was no significant financial activity since the last report.

list of 3 items

- Our total liquid assets total \$38,800.35
- We show a year to date Profit of \$409.17
- During the last board call, the question was raised regarding how our spending was tracking against what we spent last year. The attached Profit and

Loss Comparison Report compares this year's spending against the same period last year. While it appears that we are significantly ahead of last

year, please note the following:

list of 5 items nesting level 1

- Our total year to date income is \$1,651.11 ahead of last year. At this time last year, we had not collected dues from the Charles River Chapter and GDUM

due to delays on my end calculating the dues owed by these chapters.

- Convention registration Income was up \$570 over last year
- Convention expenses are down \$290
- Donations are up only \$228 over last year
- National Convention stipends is down \$1000 this year over last

list end nesting level 1

(End of written report)

Rick noted a recent \$30 donation made by Roz Nadler along with a note of gratitude to Frank Ventura for his work with BSCB. Roz has made other generous donations to BSCB.

Jerry made, Mary seconded, and the board approved a motion to accept the treasurer's report.

President's report; Brian

We are at 57% of our goal for the Brenda Dillon walk fund. Brian encouraged our participation and reminded us that a generous donor has pledged to match up to \$5,000 of BSCB donations.

The Disability law Center has asked if we would host a focus group to help them prioritize their long-range initiatives. DeAnn will assist with this as Legislative chair; Brian will forward details to her.

Rick suggested that we include NFB of MA.

Brian updated us regarding some changes at the Carroll Center, and he said they are seeking a technology instructor, as Heather Campbell's duties have changed.

Legislative; DeAnn

(Written report)

Update about MCB Rehabilitation Council meeting on June 5

list of 3 items

- Discussions about state budget continue. House and Senate are basically in agreement about \$250,000 addition to MCB community services (social rehabilitation)

account. Language will get worked out in committee.

- Changes in annual job fair
- Updated procedures for doctors to report legal blindness

list end

Draft resolution about communication policies regarding recordings in medical centers sent to ACB Resolutions committee. Next meeting is tomorrow night

Update on Logan airport drop-off policy for rideshare pilot consumers with disabilities

Cheryl is working on the voting survey report

GBLS has requested our assistance with a training in December to help blind clients. DeAnn will check to see how long the training will be and if attorneys

are the audience.

Dan Manning has drafted a letter to Mass. Eye and Ear and needs our feedback. DeAnn will communicate with committee and get back to them.

There's a bill that will get a hearing on Monday. It strives to leverage state contracts to encourage the employment of people with disabilities:

Bill H.2671

An Act relative to the employment of persons with disabilities on state contracts

Bill text:

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/House/H4534>

Initiated by the Employment Advocacy Group, a cross-disability group representing a collection of many of the state's well-known disability advocacy organizations

and leaders (Joe Bellil, Co-Chair.) They're working with MOD and the Supplier Diversity Office.

Legislature passed the 'employment bill' in 2016 that requires the Supplier Diversity Office to consult with the MA Office on Disability to establish goals

for participation of individuals with disabilities in all areas of state procurement contracting.

Hearing date: 06/10/2019 from 01:00 PM-03:00 PM in B-1 at the State House in Boston.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

The MCB has a role to play in its implementation. I've written to Bruce Howell, the RC Chair, and also a couple of others on the RC to learn MCB's views

on it

The next meeting of the legislative committee will be held on Wednesday, June 12

(End of written report)

DeAnn gave numerous updates.

She said Greater Boston Legal Services has asked if we would be willing to participate in a training session for their staff in December. There was consensus among us that it's a great opportunity to help a group that has assisted us greatly over the years.

David reminded us that we have a plaque that we were unable to give to GBLS at our spring convention due to a schedule conflict. He will put it on the agenda for our fall conference.

DeAnn will e-mail Rose about unconfirmed reports of doctors or hospitals only accepting credit card payments.

Transportation; Rick

Rick said no information has been forthcoming from the MBTA about recent proposed changes.

David has been appointed to a small cross-disability advisory committee for The Ride. They recently held an introductory meeting, and they

are scheduled to meet again tomorrow.

Rick said a blindness committee to be chaired by Jennifer Ross is also being formed. He will be a member.

Membership; Mary

A members-at-large call will be held on June 17. She welcomed board members to attend.

Rafael Toro has scheduled a meeting in Springfield for September 28 to try to start a BSCB chapter there. Mary plans to attend, and Jerry also expressed interest. There was talk of making the meeting available online via Zoom, but some felt that may not be appropriate for a first meeting.

Sharon mentioned that some states are creating online chapters in areas with limited transportation.

Social; Rose

We have a story slam at the Carroll Center scheduled for June 21. Dianna has publicized it, and she is now working for Access AI; they will include it in a newsletter that goes out to AIRA users. Rose has also been busy publicizing it and soliciting volunteers.

Ann Donna will publicize it to the Perkins alumni association.

Steve arrived at this point and confirmed that he and Tim will record the event. He suggests that we create a page on our website to post the recordings of stories.

Spring convention; Frank

Frank had difficulty creating a survey with SurveyMonkey, and others expressed a lack of accessibility with it.

David suggested that we discuss with our network of agencies the general lack of accessibility from survey providers.

DeAnn will put it on the Legislative committee agenda and consider seeking help from the DLC and/or GBLS.

She will also bring up the topic on an ACB resolutions committee meeting she plans to attend tomorrow.

Jerry will attempt to create a survey with Google Forms.

Cheryl has contacted Survey Monkey in the past, and Frank will reach out to them to make sure they are aware of the accessibility issues.

Chapter presidents are urged to solicit input from their members regarding the spring convention; we will handle their feedback anonymously.

Publications; David

David praised the BayLines co-editors for an excellent job with the recent edition.

Several praised Dianna for her excellent work.

David said Philmore has recently been unable to accept updates, so some of our material is rather old.

We also discussed ongoing issues related to e-mails not getting through to our BSCB lists.

Old/new business

Based on a board recommendation at our May meeting, Brian appointed himself as delegate to the ACB convention. Dianna will be alternate delegate, and Steve will serve on the ACB nominating committee; Brian will inform Ray Campbell.

Dianna will send a note to the BSCB announce list to find out who all plans to attend the convention.

Frank suggested that in a future meeting we consider a resolution opposing a recent trend in school districts that prohibits audio recording during classes.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday August 4 at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary