

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board call minutes for March 14, 2021

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
- Cheryl Cumings board member
- Mary Haroyan board member
- Rafael Toro board member

Ex Officio

- Steve Dresser Webmaster
- DeAnn Elliott Legislative committee chair

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on March 14, 2021.

All officers and board members and ex officio officers were present except Rose Miller who was excused due to illness. Cheryl had a pre-announced conflict and arrived at 8:00 PM. Also in attendance were Nick Corbett and Jessica Barr.

The agenda was adopted.

David made, Mary seconded, and the board approved a motion to accept the minutes of our February meeting.

Treasurer's report; Rick

(Written report)

list of 7 items

1. South Shore claims they paid their dues to me. I have not received them nor their member list. I kindly ask that they stop payment on any check and reissue it and resend the member list.
2. We just were billed \$611 from Bluehost, our web hosting company. This is for 36 months paid in advance. In 2018, we paid \$214 for 36 months. Rate has tripled.
3. Zoom just charged annual renewals for Pro licenses for 3 users, President, mine, and Bob Hachey's. We were charged the retail rate of \$149.99 per annual license. We should be charged the non-profit rate. I canceled Bob's account. I will cancel mine. Bob and I reimbursed BSCB last year. I opened a ticket with Zoom billing.
4. The policy provisions for the Directors' and Officers' policy are in the shared BSCB Dropbox. Have not had the time to determine if Nick is covered.
I have not yet released any account credentials to Nick pending this determination.
5. Not sure where the issue of password vault sits. I advise the board to put something in place other than a secured Excel spreadsheet or Dropbox folder in advance of disseminating account credentials.
6. The Quickbooks reports are not yet available given the time to research the above.
7. Nick and Mary have been pursuing dues and marking certifications. This needs to be wrapped up by month's end. I will produce a report for Nick of dues
I have received in the last 30 days once I get the QB numbers finalized.

list end

(End of written report)

Brian recommended we create a calendar reminder to review our BlueHost agreement in two years.

After some discussion, David made, Jerry seconded, and the board approved a motion to ask Nick to establish a 1Password account for BSCB. Jerry will assist with training if needed.

Rick committed to having it set up by our may board meeting.

Nick is sending an invoice to the Boston chapter for annual dues.

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

There was no formal president's report.

Publications report; David

(Written report)

The Pubs Committee last met on March 10. Sharon will MC the upcoming Third Thursday Zoom call and Tim will host it. We will not have an April Third Thursday

because of the convention. Sharon will work on putting together a May session on remote voting. Another topic mentioned was policy on public housing.

Officer and Director contact information has been updated in the Philmore box.

The Officers page has been updated on the website. The several people who have not yet sent their updated information to David are requested to do so soon.

The updated page can be found at:

<https://acbofma.org/bscb-officers-and-directors/>

As announced last month, Jerry is the new Social Media coordinator. It would be good for Board members to take the initiative to send Jerry short text

and web links for potential Twitter and Facebook posts. It is a lot of work for him to draft all of these on his own.

(End of written report)

David praised Sharon Strzalkowski's hard work with the monthly Thursday evening Zoom meetings.

The Publications committee will discuss whether to make use of space allocated to BSCB on NFB Newline.

Legislative committee report; DeAnn

(Written report)

The legislative committee met on March 4. During the meeting, members provided good feedback about some draft language for an "ask" for the MCB budget

for FY22. The draft is being jointly developed by several individuals and organizations. Last year, the legislature appropriated \$850,000 for technology

training through the community services account, but MCB did not widely promote its availability and it cannot be used. The goal is to secure funding and have trainings be part of a collaborative effort involving many organizations.

The Disability Law Center is working with the legislature to help them with a bill that would make absentee voting a permanent option in Massachusetts

elections. The Secretary of State's office is open to adding language to making absentee voting accessible, but is challenged by logistics. BSCB members

provided technical feedback.

DeAnn submitted testimony in favor of 3 bills to extend accessible voting in MA to municipal elections and future elections.

The MCB Statutory Advisory Board met on March 12. Information is being sought in response to budget questions and the status of the Springfield regional office. The rehabilitation Council met on March 3. Large numbers of consumers are attending these meetings. The RC discussed an RFR that will assess the return on investment of the MCB's vocational rehabilitation programs. The MCB plans to cut the response time for new registrants from two months to two or three days.

The ACB legislative seminar drew triple the number of participants with the new digital format and was very successful. BSCB will be organizing its own virtual Hill visits soon.

The NFB passed a resolution condemning the MCB's lack of transparency over the handling of the closing of the Worcester and Springfield regional offices.

At the most recent SAB meeting, the commissioner agreed the roll out could have been handled better. BSCB will discuss a response at the March 14 board

meeting.

(End of written report)

We discussed a draft ask for the MCB budget on which several blindness organizations are collaborating.

DeAnn made and David seconded a motion to approve the draft and provide advocacy support.

Frank emphasized the need to include the following wording, any time equipment is mentioned in the ask: "This funding may include provision of computers, tablets, and cell phones"

The motion passed with a rollcall vote. There was one abstention and no opposing votes.

After discussing the recent resolution written by the NFB of MA regarding MCB concerns, David made, DeAnn seconded, and the board unanimously approved a motion to draft a letter for Brian's signature. We will email it to all BSCB members whose email addresses we have, and we will make individual phone calls to those without access. Members will be given one week to provide input. It will then be updated as needed and sent to this board for approval. It will finally be sent to various high-level administrators associated with MCB, along with a copy to the MCB commissioner.

David agreed to draft the letter, which will include our logo.

Social Committee report; Rose

(Written report)

The Social Committee will meet on March 16,2021

Time: 7:00 P.M.

We will introduce a new member to our group, Fouad Boumjahed.

(End of written report)

Spring Conference report; Frank

(Written report)

Dear all, the Spring Conference Committee met last week. A few points of note are:

list of 5 items

- Cheryl Cumings will lead a sub-committee to create a registration form. The current plan is use Google forms. If that is not possible a Word form may

be created.

- Several members have volunteered to help take registrations over the phone for attendees who do not wish to use the registration form.

- We will use Webinar and Rick will try to secure the use of ACB Radio's account.

- Some pre-recorded content will be used at times.

- Clarification is needed, for the purpose of creating the registration letter, as for what purpose the donations are for.

list end

(End of written report)

Donations are to go to general support of BSCB.

Brian will send out a request for pre-recorded submissions for the talent show in the next couple of days.

Membership committee report; Mary

Mary made and David seconded a motion to permit all BSCB officers and board members, ex officio officers, and committee chairs to request a copy of our membership list from the BSCB secretary when needed, provided it is strictly for the betterment of the organization. The secretary will document when a report is provided and will consult the president if the request seems questionable.

The motion passed.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary

