

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board minutes, March 13, 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 and chair of social committee
- 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 at approximately 7:30 PM.

All officers, board members and ex officio officers were present. Jerry arrived 10 minutes late due to a conflict, and Nick had to leave at 8:00 PM.

Also in attendance were Chris Devin--South shore chapter and chair of Constitution and Bylaws, and Jessica Barr--South shore.

The agenda was adopted.

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

Treasurer's report; Nick

(Written report)

3/13/22 Treasurer's Report

By: Nick Corbett, Treasurer

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

1. Year to date profit and loss and balance sheet reports are attached.
 - a. Income minus expenses = \$307.04
 - b. Total liquid assets = \$53,148.47, +1.5% since last month
 - i. Bank of America checking account = \$19,545.60
 - ii. PayPal cash account = \$8,230.28
 - iii. Bank of America savings account = \$25,372.59
2. Certification update
 - a. All members (both at large and by chapter) who have renewed their membership have been entered into ACB's membership management system.
 - b. The certification report will be submitted on 3/14/22, one day prior to the certification deadline of 3/15/22.
 - c. Income from dues and number of members who renewed their membership will be reported in next month's report, if not already reported in the membership report.
3. Investment update:
 - a. Documents to transfer control of the investment account to Nick and David have been acquired.
 - i. BSCB's current asset allocation is a conservative 60%/40% split between equities and fixed income investments.
 - ii. An 80%/20% asset split between equities and fixed income investments yields on average 1% higher returns annually (presently, BSCB sees a 6% return on investment through 3D Asset Management).
 - iii. BSCB's investments are globally diversified, which is a conservative approach to investing suitable for nonprofit institutions.
 - iv. The BSCB board might consider a switch to a socially conscious investment strategy, which takes into account environmental and social impacts produced by companies that are invested in (socially conscious portfolios perform in line with investment portfolios that do not take into account social impact).
 - b. No action has yet been taken to transfer control of the Bank of America or PayPal accounts to Nick and David.
4. 2021 Tax Update:
 - a. All tax documents have been prepared and will be signed by Nic and David on 3/18/22.
 - b. Following the signing of tax documents, all associated costs will be paid.
5. Bookkeeping Update:
 - a. The accessibility issue between Quickbooks and JAWS was mostly remediated, but Quickbooks remains largely difficult for JAWS users to work with. This is an issue for the current treasurer and will likely remain an issue for treasurers in the future, as the associated scripts have not been updated in many years.
 - b. Income account restructuring is complete; expense account restructuring is 85% complete.
 - c. The requested daily use budget document will be produced soon.

(End of written report)

We discussed how to handle requests for reimbursement from members who are attending the legislative seminar. Brian will request from the ACB office a list of BSCB members who have paid to attend, and Nick will arrange to reimburse them.

We discussed whether to take a more aggressive approach with our investments, and we agreed to take no action at this time.

President's report; David

David reminded us of a meeting on Wednesday March 16 sponsored by MCB, at which BSCB and NFB of MA will discuss advocacy issues. David will represent BSCB.

Spring convention report; David

(Written report)

The Convention Committee last met on February 15, and will next meet on March 15. At this next meeting, we will finalize the program agenda, a draft of which will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Democracy Live has tentatively agreed to act as a sponsor. Kim Charlson will soon finalize the level of sponsorship with them.

The registration form has been finalized in Google Forms and tested. It will go out on a date decided at the March 15 meeting.

(End of written report)

Democracy Live has confirmed they will be a \$1500 sponsor for our convention.

Brian asked that he be notified soon of any auction donations. He has 16 so far and is shooting for 30 items.

Constitution and Bylaws report; Chris Devin

The committee, composed of Chris, Steve Dresser, and Jessica Barr, met last week.

They propose to change all references to "blind" to "blind or visually impaired", to clarify that a person with partial vision can serve as a BSCB officer.

A board member expressed reluctance to include "visually impaired", but there seemed to be general agreement among those present that the proposed wording is appropriate.

They will recommend changing the name of the legislative committee to "advocacy committee".

The publications committee will become the "communications committee".

The committee proposed and the board agreed to change the timeframes for the nomination committee. The nominations committee would meet at least 60 days prior to the convention, and nominations from chapters must be in 45 days before the convention.

Publication committee report; Sharon

(Written report)

Bay State Council of the Blind Publications Committee Meeting

March 10, 2022

Sharon Strzalkowski

The committee discussed a variety of small but important issues at this meeting.

The third Thursday page where recordings are archived is now live. Dianna wondered if the link to it could be placed closer to the top of the page for easy finding by those with some vision, and offered to help the webmaster in moving links around the page. We discussed the transcription of these recordings for deaf blind people, but could not find a way to do that within our budget and time constraints. Tim will experiment with creating a transcript from the Zoom recording, but it is not clear if this will be consistent and accurate enough to be understandable.

Dianna will format calendar events listed in BayLines Express and place them on the calendar events page on the website. Steve will then create an audible file of this information to be placed on Philmore.

Myra continues to find articles for BayLines Express, and will post a request to the ACB editors list for ideas and submissions.

We discussed how we might be able to provide accessibility for deaf blind people during a live event such as a convention. CART reporters are very expensive, and Tim mentions that using a braille display to read the reporting is very difficult because of the speed of the transmission. Cindy will investigate further with ACB to see how this is being handled at the national level.

We mutually decided to scrap the events mailbox which Steve had set up, as no one was really using it to post events, but instead just sends them to the bscb-announce list.

Steve has amended the page on the website devoted to audio described events, as at the moment Vicki Vogt is only providing movie content and not television or live plays.

The next meeting will be on April 14, 2022.

(End of written report)

David praised the committee for their work on the website and other initiatives.

The committee is considering using a consultant to assist with the website.

Legislative report; Jennifer

Jennifer recently emailed to us an overview of plans for the upcoming legislative seminar.

Sandra Burgess has confirmed a meeting with one of her legislators, and Jennifer is concentrating on coordinating other meetings.

Membership committee report; Cheryl

(Written report)

Membership update

March 2022

- The membership committee met on March 8
- Our guest was Nick Claudio the new President of the student chapter
- The student chapter is selecting its officers, and plans to do outreach to local universities
- We asked for a Student Chapter representative to join our committee
- The Student Chapter has a Facebook page
- The Student Chapter asked the Membership Committee and the Board to help them with identifying possible members
- The Student Chapter is open to students in high school

- The Membership Committee talked about ways of getting BSCB members more involved and ways of getting new people to join us

(End of written report)

Social committee report; Rose

(written report)

Report Notes from meeting on Monday short meeting: 2-21-22 12noon was held with David and ElizabethAnn and response by e-mail from Nina agreeing with three prizes. To offer of three equal prizes of \$25 each.

Rose has asked tim and Brian to judge story slam

If not able will ask Mary and Cheryl to judge again or a member of BSCB.

March 26, 2022 will be the story slam at 1-3:30 P.M. on Zoom

Asked Jerry to send out save the date and to collect the stories from our members and others that want to participate.

Will need at least 3 judges

Tim has agreed Brian is willing but wants to tell a story of his own. If Brian declines will ask another person from the membership to be a judge.

(End of written report)

Jerry said 6 people have signed up to tell stories so far.

David suggested that Rose send another reminder about the story slam soon, along with the Zoom link. Send the Zoom link again closer to the date of the event.

Carl Richardson has indicated he would like to help arrange a trip to see the Woosox play in Worcester. Rose will reach out to him.

Old Business

None

New Business

A question arose regarding why an MCB issued ID is not acceptable at banks. David recommended that the question be asked at the MCB sponsored advocacy meeting on Wednesday.

David mentioned two competing legislative requests, one sent by the Carroll Center, and the other signed by several individuals. The requests are for earmarked funding for social rehabilitation. Brian advised David that he can recuse himself from the discussion but continue to chair this meeting.

Jennifer also recused herself.

After some discussion, a motion was made and passed directing Brian to sign the more general request on behalf of BSCB.

Brian will then send the document to our BSCB-announce list, encouraging members and friends of BSCB to contact their state legislators to ask that they support the request.

Jennifer and David abstained. There were no votes in opposition to the motion.

Next the board went into executive session to elect a board member to fill the current vacancy.

A motion was made and passed, electing Myra Ross to the interim board position.

Our next board call is scheduled for April 10, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, BSCB Secretary