

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board call minutes from November 10, 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 at 7:34 PM.

All officers and board members were present, except Rick who was ill, and Rose who had a conflict.

Also in attendance were Bob Hachey, Steve Dresser, Sharon Strzalkowski, DeAnn Elliott, Jessica Barr and Carl Richardson.

The minutes of our October meeting were approved.

There was no treasurer's report. Per a recent request from Rick, Frank expressed willingness to learn the treasurer duties and serve as a backup.

President's report; Brian

He filled us in on some restructuring and expansion taking place in ACB committees.

Fall conference; David

Approximately 48 people have paid so far.

Plans are going smoothly.

Spring conference; Frank

After discussing the matter of what time the spring convention should end, David made and Steve seconded a motion to end the convention at 3:00 PM. The motion was then amended and seconded to end at 5:00 PM.

David said we should have no outside speakers late in the afternoon.

The motion carried with one opposing vote from David.

Frank pointed out that we will need extra volunteers at this new venue.

Frank described the proposed fee structure, which will not include breakfast or Sunday dinner. There will be three optional meals, along with soft drinks and coffee break.

The full package will cost approximately \$110.00 per person.

Mary made, David seconded, and the board accepted a motion to approve Frank's fee structure.

Kenneth Semien Sr semien.k@att.net

Cindy Vanwinkle cvanwinkle@acb.org

Publications; David

He thanked Bob and others who worked on BayLines.

He hopes to have the Council Connection podcast back up and running sometime soon; Steve is in the process of creating a Libsyn account.

Legislative report; DeAnn

DeAnn will call Brian on Wednesday to discuss some legislative matters.

Perkins and Our Space Our Place have filed grant applications with the Massachusetts Census Equity Fund.

We agreed to postpone our next meeting with Mass Eye and Ear until January; David suggested we not enter into 5-year structured negotiation agreements in the future, as

interest sometimes wanes after such a long time. Carl and DeAnn will talk this week, and Carl will then coordinate a meeting with Mass Eye and Ear. Brian will attend the meeting.

David suggests that we get the lawyers we have worked with from GBLS to attend, and they should meet separately prior to this meeting with mass Eye and Ear.

Emphasizing that we are not endorsing any specific political candidate, David mentioned one who has put significant effort into improvements for people with disabilities. He will forward an informational link to the board and chapter presidents.

Membership; Mary

The committee has not met since our last meeting.

Brian will forward to Mary the names and e-mail addresses of people from Massachusetts who attended the ACB National convention and who are not ACB or BSCB members.

Mary and others plan to meet with Cindy VanWinkle from ACB soon to discuss membership.

Brian will re-send some e-mails to Mary received from individuals wishing to volunteer to reach out to at large members who attended our annual ACB convention.

Members at Large is the fastest growing membership group in ACB.

Social committee

Rose was not on the call.

Carl expressed interest in scheduling a social outing to a PaSox game; David will invite Carl to the next social committee meeting.

Old Business

Brian has invited Myra Ross to join our grants committee; he will have more news at our next board meeting.

Properties and passwords policy; After considerable discussion, we agreed that Rick will lead a full board discussion at a special meeting to come up with a policy. Brian will ask Rick to propose some potential dates.

Frank made, DeAnn seconded, and the board approved a motion to approve the national convention and legislative seminar policies as recently amended; Brian said the new policies should be included in a future edition of BayLines.

Jerry made, Mary seconded, and the board approved a motion stating that funds available to send individuals to a legislative seminar or national convention are to be divided equally among those whom the board has agreed to fund.

Jerry made, Mary seconded and the board approved a motion to send four members to the upcoming legislative seminar.

Jerry made, Cheryl seconded and the board approved a motion to reduce the cost of awards by at least 50%. The plan should be implemented in time for the spring 2020 convention.

Brian said he will appoint a chairperson for the awards committee prior to our next board call.

To encourage attendance at audio described events, Bob made, David seconded, and the board approved a motion authorizing Brian and David to conduct an e-mail auction of tickets for upcoming audio described performances.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday December 9 at 7:30 PM. Cheryl will be unable to attend, as she is scheduled on an ACB committee meeting at that time.

There being no further business, the call was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary