

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board minutes for November 14, 2021

#### 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
- Rick Morin; Treasurer
- Rose Miller; board member
- Mary Haroyan; board member
- Rafael Toro; board member

#### Ex Officio

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

Frank emailed that he would not be in attendance, and Jerry indicated he would arrive late due to a conflict.

DeAnn is away attending to a family matter, and Dianna was unable to attend.

All other officers and board members were present, along with Nick Corbett, and Jessica Barr.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of our October meeting.

[Treasurer's report; Nick](#)

(Written report)

Submitted on 11/14/2021 By: Nick Corbett, Assistant Treasurer

#### Priority Report Items

1. BSCB's long term investments = \$125,014.45 as of 11/12/21, +2.99% since last month
2. Year to date profit and loss and balance sheet reports are not attached due to transaction processing issue in Quickbooks; these reports will be forwarded once assistant treasurer is able to connect with treasurer for advice.
  - ☑ Income minus expenses = Not reported, last month it was \$6,600.69, which means a comfortable cushion that can absolutely accommodate presently unprocessed transactions.
  - ☑ BSCB's balance sheet report again is not attached; nonetheless, present and up-to-date account balances are as follows:
    - ☑ Total liquid assets = \$52,527.62, +4.49% since last month
    - ☑ Bank of America checking account = \$19,637.74
    - ☑ PayPal cash account = \$7,518.13
    - ☑ Bank of America savings account = \$25,371.75
3. All BSCB Chapters are paid in full for 2021 dues.
4. Reminder that Zoom Webinars can be reactivated at any point for a single month; email [Nickcorbett4883@gmail.com](mailto:Nickcorbett4883@gmail.com) to request this.
5. The [President@acbofma.org](mailto:President@acbofma.org) Zoom account has been reduced to 1 license. This will go into effect on 02/19/2021 and reduces BSCB's Zoom expense from \$449.70 to \$159.27 annually.
6. The [president@acbofma.org](mailto:president@acbofma.org) Dropbox account has been updated to professional for an annual cost of \$211.44 including taxes. This provides BSCB with 3 terabytes of storage. BSCB can now store all of its records in the cloud, and individuals can download only those specific folders/files shared with them to their personal Dropbox accounts.

This subscription had its first annual charge on 11/12/2021, following a 1 month free trial.
7. All long term BSCB treasury records have been uploaded to the [President@acbofma.org](mailto:President@acbofma.org) professional Dropbox account; these will exist here permanently or until decided otherwise.
  - ☑ Do copies of this data still exist on the president, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and secretary's personal computers?
8. The tax filings needing the BSCB President's signature that are due by 11/15/21 have been signed and mailed.
9. BSCB is up to date on its IRS tax filings, despite contrary and out of date information on the IRS website, as reported by Nancy Marks-Becker. According

to our accountant, Jon Furey, "We filed the 990ez which meets the requirement of the 990n....all set for this year."

10. Sharon Strzalkowski reports from Minneapolis that BSCB's estimated obligation for scholarship logistics costs will be \$1,200, and BSCB has agreed to provide up to \$2,000 for these costs. This is in addition to BSCB's \$4,000 obligation to fund the scholarship itself. Logistics costs will be paid to Minneapolis following a received invoice.

☐ For the scholarship itself, does BSCB pay that directly to its recipient or to Minneapolis as well?

11. It is on the treasuries radar that \$2,000 is to be spent on four delegates to the legislative seminar. Please inform Nick and Rick when this money needs to be distributed.

Respectfully submitted, Nick Corbett

(End of written report)

Once it is confirmed that all treasurer data is in our Dropbox account, Nick recommends that personal copies be deleted for enhanced security.

It was confirmed that scholarship money is to be sent directly to the national office of ACB. They will alert us when payment is due.

Our annual tax forms have been mailed.

Several tentative fall conference donations have been submitted, totaling almost \$2,000.00.

Nick will begin providing investment updates on a quarterly basis instead of monthly.

David pointed out that our budget is simply a guide; The board is willing to consider requests for additional funding for specific projects.

### President's report; David

As this will be Mary's last board meeting, David and others thanked her for her 6 years of excellent service.

David will edit the legislative seminar announcement for clarity.

The publications committee will consider whether to switch from Philmore to Google Voice for our BSCB phone line.

## Fall conference report; Mary

(Written report)

As of today there are 41 registrations for the fall conference. Several people have made sponsorship donations totaling about \$2000. Of the 41 registered, 39 are members.

Zoom link and agenda will go out in the next day or two.

Mary will let committee chairs know what order they will be asked to present.

Jerry has recently reached out twice to Boston University with no response asking whether two volunteers have been secured to assist us during our election. With no assurance that we will hear back, Mary has explained the situation to a good friend who has agreed to help us if we don't hear from BU.

Brian is writing up procedures on how to use the Google voicemail system so that the volunteer (s) will have an opportunity to work with it prior to Saturday.

(End of written report)

Later in the week, David will send out on BSCB-Announce an updated version of the guidelines for voting.

Brian and Mary collaborated on what to tell volunteers regarding counting of votes, and Brian created a Google Voice phone number for BSCB. If DeAnn is not able to be back for the conference, David and Cheryl will fill in for her.

## Publications committee; Sharon

(Written report)

Third Thursday ideas were discussed, and Sharon will be trying to engage people from the DPC to talk about MassHealth in January. Go Go Grandparent will also be contacted to set up a session.

Myra expressed interest in getting an article on Ski for Light for BayLines, and David will send her an end-of-the-year article from the president.

Dianna is now the editor of BayLines Express, with David continuing to send in a song, with all others being on the alert to feed articles or websites of interest to Dianna. Sharon will send her the David Goldfield tech information. Steve will make sure that she is able to post to the BSCB announce list.

Jerry will post the regular and BRF file links to BayLines Express on Facebook.

The info@acbofma.org on the contact form has had a little activity, according to Jerry, but much of it continues to be spam.

Maintaining updated content on our website was discussed. David will remove some former announcements, and Steve will verify current officer contacts.

David and Steve are the only people right now who are able to post through WordPress.

We will host a drop box training in January of 2022. More details to follow.

Chris Devin will be reading the amendment to our Constitution regarding remote voting, and Steve will post it to Philmore on menu 6, and put out an announcement to the BSCB -announce list.

David and Steve will work on creating a Calendar of Events section on Philmore for easy reference to BSCB and ACB events.

Thanks to all for their continued great teamwork!

(End of written report)

Article submissions for BayLines Express should continue to be sent to Myra Ross at myraross@comcast.net.

## Advocacy Committee report; Deann

(Written report)

November 2021

Municipal elections in the Commonwealth were held on November 2. Several BSCB members worked with the Disability Law Center to advocate for accessible balloting in their cities, and were able to secure accessible voting in Worcester, Watertown, Cambridge, West Springfield and Quincy. This was in addition to Boston, which was secured in a legal agreement earlier this fall. Great work and many thanks to all the BSCB members who made this possible!

The Director of Litigation at the Disability Law Center will speak at the upcoming BSCB fall conference. She will be part of a panel discussion on voting that DeAnn and Cheryl are organizing.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is requesting public comments on a Draft Promoting Access to Voting for people with disabilities.

Cheryl is drafting comments for the board to consider. The deadline for submission is Nov. 22.

On Nov. 18, there will be a Zoom call for any BSCB members who are interested in advocating for accessible voting in the future. We're interested in forming a voting subcommittee to work with the advocacy committee (formerly the legislative committee.) If interested, please call in at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted by DeAnn Elliott

(End of written report)

Brian said the company that is managing accessible voting will be speaking on Friday at the Kentucky Council of the Blind conference on Zoom. He recommends we consider inviting them to our spring conference.

[Social committee; Rose](#)

(Written report)

November 13, 2021 Social Committee Report

Please be advised there will be a Social hang out on Sunday December 12, 2021 at 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. on zoom. SC is Asking members to share their favorite international and local food or dessert recipes

Rose is requesting members to share a few ahead of time. By December 6, 2021

The zoom will be sent week of the event by Tim or David.

“Let’s get social”

Thanks,

Rose M. Miller

(End of written report)

The pubs committee will decide who will host the call for Rose.

Elizabethann Johnson accepted an invitation from Rose to become a member of the social committee.

## Membership; Cheryl

(Written report)

### Membership Report

November 2021

- As part of our Outreach efforts, we met at the end of October to call BSCB members.
- To date we’ve contacted 123 members.
- We plan to contact all members by the end of this year.

Here is a list of advocacy topics members have identified

- Transportation disconnected and problem in the western part of the state
- Would like a BSCB chapter in the western part of the state
- Greater focus on deaf blind issues
- Concerned about quiet cars
- Concerned about bicycles and pedestrians using the sidewalk
- Need to make online check deposit accessible
- How to increase the number of rides given in the Ride Flex program
- Experienced a problem with access seating at local theater
- Problem with intersection in Braintree; no longer accessible
- Appreciate the oversight BSCB is providing to MCB
- Issues with the Ride: long wait times when call, trips being cancelled, pick-up late
- Lillian Johnson who joined the Committee in 2015 is no longer able to be part of the Membership Committee
- We value her participation and appreciate all the time she gave to the Committee

- Her wit and assistance will be missed
- Due to scheduling conflict, our November meeting was canceled
- Next meeting is Monday December 13 at 7:00 pm.

(End of written report)

Folks in western Massachusetts Have recently expressed interest in forming a chapter. Cheryl or Rafael will reach out to them, and Cheryl will talk to Mary about her past attempts to start a chapter.

Some suggested Seven members are required for a full-fledged chapter. We are not sure how strict the requirements are.

### Other business

We discussed a recent letter disseminated by Joe Aply in which he listed major concerns regarding the current commissioner of MCB. He included perceived reductions in core services, a lack of transparency, and other issues. The letter was posted as an FYI on our announce list.

Several attendees at this meeting expressed many of the same concerns mentioned in the letter, and it was mentioned that financial data on the MCB dashboard website is poorly designed and not usable with a screen reader, because columnar data is not in standard tables.

David will create a list of points to cover at the next commissioners meeting. He will share them with us ahead of time and solicit our comments.

We did not reach consensus on writing a letter at this time.

It was pointed out that statistical data supporting Joe's claims would put us in a better position to take some action.

Our next board call is scheduled for December 12 at 7:30 PM.

At this point, those not on the board were asked to leave and the board went into executive session.

No actions were taken, and no decisions were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully, Jerry Berrier

BSCB secretary