

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board call minutes, October 11, 2020

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

DeAnn Elliott Legislative committee chair

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM on October 11, 2020.

All officers and board members were present, along with Sharon Strzalkowski and Jessica Barr,

The agenda was adopted.

Our September 2020 minutes were approved by the bord.

Treasurer's report; Rick

(Written report)

Dear Fellow BSCB Board Members,

Attached please find the following financial reports for BSCB as of October 11, 2020:

Year to Date Profit and Loss

Asset balances as of October 11, 2020

Following is a summary of key items from these reports:

Year to date, our income exceeds expenses by \$1,971.99

Our liquid assets on hand is \$43,430.94

A refund of \$1500 has been received from the caterer we booked for our cancelled convention. Thanks to Brian and Kim for pursuing this with the MA AG's office.

\$8,586.49 has been received as BSCB's proceeds from the Presidents' team. Special thanks to the donor who matched all individual donations and all who donated to that team spear-headed by Kim and Brian.

Federal and State tax reports were professionally prepared and submitted. The tax preparer fee was \$1400.

The annual report to the MA secretary of state has been submitted.

Dues to BSCB remain outstanding for two chapters. Expect them to be paid imminently.

(End of written report)

Rick said our insurance policies have been renewed.

Rick will reach out to Nick Corbet regarding Nick's interest in being considered for BSCB treasurer. Rick has started the process of having all BSCB documentation in place in case of emergency.

He will send Jerry a copy of the BSCB membership database. He said Mary also has access to it.

The student chapter dues are paid.

We briefly discussed potential benefits of including students in the Next Generation ACB affiliate.

President's report; Brian

Brian updated us on current ACB activities.

Brian said this evening Donna McCurdy agreed to use a PayPal.me account Brian has set up. URL is paypal.me/hacheyfamily

He will announce it on BSCB and ACB lists very soon so folks will have a way to donate money for her use as she adjusts to life without Bob Hachey.

Kim and Brian are co-authoring an obituary to be sent to the Braille Forum.

Fifty-six people attended the recent BSCB memorial service conducted via Zoom

Publications report; David

(Written report)

The Pubs Committee last met on October 8.

Sharon will take over as moderator of the Chat list.

Steve will prepare a new recording of the Philmore voice menus to replace the recording done by Bob.

We have not yet found a new Bay Lines editor. There was some speculation about whether publication of Bay Lines was required by the BSCB Constitution, in case we are compelled to stop publishing it. The only relevant reference is contained in By Law 2, Section 5 as follows:

“The president shall appoint the editor of the newsletter with board confirmation, and the editor shall be a non-voting member of the Board of Directors unless currently serving on the board.”

Thus, publication of a newsletter is implicitly assumed while not being explicitly required. The existence of Bay Lines Express presumably satisfies whatever constitutional requirement that might exist. Yet if it matters, I don't think I was ever formally approved by the Board as Bay Lines Express editor.

(End of written report)

David will send a note to BSCB-announce stating we are seeking an editor for BayLines.

We also need a social media coordinator, as Dianna Leonard is no longer on the publications committee.

BSCB list unsubscribe requests should be forwarded to Steve Dresser.

Legislative report; DeAnn

(Written report)

The legislative committee met on September 16 and will meet again on October 14. The committee is organizing a discussion on accessible voting for the fall BSCB conference to be held October 17.

Preparations are being made for accessible voting in the general election on November 3rd. ACB is organizing a call to give members a demonstration of VotingWorks, which is being used by six states, including Massachusetts. The Disability Law Center is continuing to support this effort with BSCB involvement.

October is Disability Employment Awareness month, as well as White Cane Day. BSCB member and ACB Students president Minh Ha will read the White Cane Law at the ceremony on October 16, which will be held by Zoom. October also marked the 10th anniversary of the CVAA.

(End of written report)

Brian said an injunction he and Kim authored is being considered. He hopes to have an education piece out on that by Tuesday.

Membership; Mary

No activity to report.

In two weeks there will be a combined ACB meeting scheduled to discuss recruiting minority members.

Social committee report; Rose

Nothing to report; no social activities planned until 2021, due to the continuing pandemic.

Fall conference; David

The agenda has already been sent out. Nothing else to report.

We discussed how to disseminate information to BSCB members who have no online access.

Sharon will reach out to Jan Doremus.

David will put information on Filmore.

Brian said chapter presidents should reach out to any of their constituents who do not have email.

David said all speakers have been notified of the agenda. He will be sending out reminders this week.

Spring convention; Frank

Frank said he will hold his first committee call after the fall conference.

He said committee members this year felt that a lot of their work was undone at the board level.

David made, Mary seconded, and the board approved a motion to hold our 2021 spring convention as a virtual meeting.

Frank urged us all to send him suggestions regarding the format and length of the convention.

Old business

After the fall conference, Brian will create a committee to plan a fund-raising auction for the Bob Hachey scholarship fund.

We will support the ACB auction as we have done in the past. Brian will work out the details with Rick.

Frank made, David seconded, and the board approved a motion to pay the \$1,000.00 cost to make Bob Hachey an ACB Angel. Payments will be made from the BSCB treasury and are to be spread out as much as possible to avoid conflicting with other related activities.

No fund-raising will be done for this initiative.

We are splitting the cost of making Charlie Crawford an ACB angel with Maryland.

New business

Mary asked whether any new legislation has been created that would enable us to hold our elections virtually. Brian said he will check, but he doubts that anything has changed.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, BSCB Secretary