

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board minutes, October 10, 2021

(Revised 10/31/21)

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

DeAnn Elliott legislative chair

David called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

All officers and board members were in attendance, except Rose Miller who was excused.

Also in attendance were Jessica Barr; South Shore, Sharon Strzalkowski; Publications chair, Nick Corbett; assistant treasurer, and Nona Haroyan; nominating committee chair.

The agenda was approved.

Mary made, Steve seconded, and the board approved a motion to accept the minutes of our September 2021 meeting.

Treasurer's report; Nick

(Written report)

Treasurer's Report

Submitted on 10/10/2021

Note: Bank of America transactions after 10/07/21 have not been included.

By: Nick Corbett, Assistant Treasurer

1. Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet reports are attached.
2. Our year to date profit and Loss cash position (income minus expenses) stands at \$6,600.69
3. Our total liquid assets stand at \$50,269.65, and these are broken down as:
 - ☑ Bank of America checking account: \$19,036.71
 - ☑ PayPal cash account: \$5,861.41
 - ☑ Bank of America savings account: \$25,371.53
4. Long term investments stand at \$121,384.41
5. Chapter dues are underway:
 - A. Boston: Paid in full
 - B. South Shore: Paid in full
 - C. Students: Paid in full
 - D. Central MA: Outstanding balance of \$18.00 (Disputed, under resolution)
 - E. GDUM: Check is in the mail to Rick 10/08
 - F. Charles River: Invoice forwarded to treasurer 10/07
6. The Zoom Webinars account under the president@acbofma.org account has been canceled at the request of David, Brian, and Steve. This Zoom feature became inactive on 09/19/21 and our monthly Zoom expense is now reduced by \$40 per month.
7. For Zoom Pro, we have 3 licenses, and only 2 are assigned. What is the status of the utilization of the Zoom Pro account, and do we need the third license?
8. Tax filings needing President's signature are due by 11/15/21; Rick will be mailing and emailing scanned copies to David.

9. 40 GB of treasurer records are ready to be transferred into a BSCB held Dropbox account; these are presently being stored on personal accounts separately

by the President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Secretary.

10. Transitioning BSCB accounts managed by treasurer to a single email address remains on the to-do-list.

11. Transitioning two factor authentication of BSCB accounts managed by treasurer to assistant treasurer remains on the to-do-list.

12. Transition of signature authorization on Bank of America accounts to Assistant Treasurer remains on the to-do-list.

13. Review of the BSCB investment policy by Assistant Treasurer remains on the to-do-List.

14. Non-profit discounts are being pursued for BSCB Zoom accounts, but these seem to be only eligible for new accounts, Rick reports contrary information

that he needs to locate in his email

(End of written report)

Zoom: Rick said we had 3 accounts, one of which he was using and reimbursing BSCB for; he canceled that one today.

He is working on resolving a discrepancy regarding our discounted accounts.

He closed our Zoom Webinar account, but that can be re-activated on a monthly basis any time, at our discretion.

Mary thanked Nick for the excellent treasurer's report.

David will write a note of thanks to Kim Charlson for making it possible for us to receive significant funds from the ACB walk. He will also give attribution during our fall conference, and he will put it into BayLines Express.

We discussed the need of a document retention policy.

Jerry made, Nick seconded, and the board approved a motion to purchase a Dropbox account. Nick/Rick will make the purchase.

[Nominating committee report; Nona](#)

Nona expressed gratitude to those who served on the committee; Daisy Russell Kadlik, Chris Devin, Patricia Ahern, Jannette Kutash, Carl Richardson, and Myra Ross.

Slate of officers for board positions:

Pam Loch

Rafael Toro

Jennifer Harnish

Rose Miller

All have been contacted and are willing to serve.

[President's report; David](#)

He wants to revitalize the transportation and fund raising committees.

David will chair Transportation, and Brian will chair Fund raising and grants.

David urged those present to reach out to Brian or David if interested in serving on one of the committees.

David recommended that committees set regular meeting times, such as once every two months.

Rick is relinquishing his position on the MBTA RTAG committee; David is considering possible replacements to fill the BSCB position on the RTAG Executive

Committee.

Brian will speak about the fund raising committee at our fall conference.

The upcoming legislative seminar and national ACB convention will be hybrid.

Rick made, Jerry seconded, and the board approved a motion to allocate \$2,000 as stipends for BSCB delegates at the legislative seminar.

We began discussing what should be required of delegates, and Mary reminded us that we have a policy for handling delegates. (Copy inserted here)

Legislative Delegate Policy

The Leadership and Legislative Seminar is an ACB annual event held in Washington DC from Sunday through Tuesday. Members of state and special interest affiliates travel to the Capital to learn about the legislative imperatives identified by ACB Leadership, receive training, and visit their state's elected representatives to advocate for these initiatives.

Responsibilities

For anyone receiving a delegate stipend from BSCB, the following duties and expectations need to be fulfilled.

Attend in its entirety, the Presidents Meeting scheduled the Sunday before the Legislative Seminar. This will require a Delegate to arrive on Saturday.

Well in advance of the Legislative Seminar, schedule an appointment with one's own US House Representative for the Tuesday Capitol Hill visit.

Based on the number of Legislative Delegates going, assist in the scheduling of as many Congressional appointments as possible for the day on Capitol Hill.

Plan to stay until the end of business hours on Capitol Hill, working with other BSCB delegates in both, keeping all scheduled appointments and helping to distribute printed ACB produced materials in cases where Congressional office appointments could not be scheduled. It is recommended that a Delegate not schedule a return flight home prior to 6:00 PM.

Participate in any follow up evaluations conducted by both ACB and BSCB upon return from the Seminar.

It is essential that one person with the experience in the process of the Legislative Seminar oversee the completion of the preliminary tasks that need to occur before delegates leave for the event. This person does not have to be attending the seminar themselves.

Selection

the selection process should start at least 3 months before the start of the Presidents Meeting and Legislative Seminar. A notice inviting interested members to apply for the Delegate stipend will be put out on the BSCB Announce list.

Members who are interested should, by the stated deadline, submit a paragraph to the Secretary of BSCB, stating why they would like to be a Delegate, their level of activity within BSCB and their congressional district.

Created December 2019

(End of insertion)

Jerry made, Brian seconded, and the board approved a motion to pay \$500 to each of four delegates. We will select delegates on our November board call.

Brian made, Frank seconded, and the board approved a motion to arrange for ACB to administer the scholarship, provided that the cost for attending in 2022 does not exceed \$2,000.00.

Fall conference; Mary

(Written report)

The Fall conference planning committee met on September 26 and will meet again on October 24.

list of 2 items

- The organizing of sessions is well under way.
- A Save the date e-mail has been sent out.

list end

David is - creating a registration form.

A subcommittee will meet on Tuesday October 12 to discuss procedures for the BSCB virtual voting of Directors. Jerry Berrier has researched a couple of different methods utilized by ACB affiliates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Haroyan

(End of written report)

Mary reviewed the agenda for the day.

There will be games and door prizes toward the end of the afternoon.

The conference is a free event.

David has created a registration form, which includes an option to donate to BSCB.

Mary asked that Rick or Nick confirm whether the PayPal button from our last spring conference can still be used.

Publications; Sharon

(Written report)

This third Thursday call on 10-21 will be led by Josh Pearson, and the topic is ablism. Tim has procured Dale from Blind Mice Mart for November 11; this is a second Thursday because we didn't want to have our call right before the Fall conference. We decided to skip the month of December. Topic ideas are welcome!

Myra is accumulating a few articles for Baylines Express. David will write a presidential article in December to end out the year, and other articles may include baking recipes, a tour of Polar Park in Worcester, and something from our student division. The editorial responsibilities for Baylines Express may be divided up shortly, and a meeting about that will be happening next week. Steve will take on the responsibility of posting each Baylines Express to our website while he is preparing the braille file.

Jerry has been adding some articles and posting to Facebook, and we decided that he will post Baylines Express there as well as on Twitter. The Council

Connection audio link will also be posted.

David reported that the Dropbox folders for various committees are now set up. Sharon wondered if we might have a training about the use of Dropbox, and

this idea will be brought up on the board call.

We decided to create an email entitled info@acbofma.org,

as a possible replacement for the contact form, which tends to invite a lot of spam and advertising. Perhaps other emails such as nonpersonal ones for the treasurer and legislative chair will follow. (Note: Steve has already created the info email which will be monitored by Jerry for now. The info email address now appears on the contact form.)

Submitted by Sharon Strzalkowski

(End of written report)

Sharon is soliciting ideas for topics for the “Third Thursday” Zoom meetings.

No Third Thursday in December, but Rose is planning a hangout call, probably on a Saturday.

Some people would like to have training on Dropbox.

Committee chairs can decide the level of access to their Dropbox folders for committee members.

The contact form on acbofma.org has been updated, and emails to the info@acbofma.org address are currently going to Jerry as secretary. A goal is to find a member to take over monitoring and responding to emails. Sharon will mention it at the fall conference.

Steve will put a note about the new info address on BSCB-announce.

[Legislative committee; DeAnn](#)

(Written report)

Legislative Report

October, 2021

After the settlement agreement between BSCB and the City of Boston to make voting by mail accessible after COVID, DeAnn posted an announcement on the BSCB announce list to publicize the agreement. Cheryl shared information on the announce list about the steps for voters with disabilities who live in Boston to take to cast their ballot using the new DemocracyLive system. We are hoping to get lots of Boston voters with disabilities to participate, so there will be good data on which to advocate for expanding the program to other parts of the state.

BSCB members who are blind and who would like to advocate for an accessible ballot in their town should request an absentee ballot and submit it to their local election office with a request for an accommodation like the one implemented in Boston. This can be done by email or in person. Please refer to detailed post of October 3rd for steps to follow. Keep a copy of all correspondence and contact the Disability Law Center with the response.

DeAnn has downloaded the new legislative folder in Dropbox and will share it with legislative committee members. Guidance is sought about recommended settings for viewing and editing files.

DeAnn and Cheryl have started planning for the panel discussion at the Nov. 20 BSCB fall conference.

Respectfully submitted by DeAnn Elliott

(End of written report)

At our fall conference, DeAnn will summarize work done by the ACB resolutions committee.

DLC has a strategy for expanding the availability of accessible voting.

DeAnn asks that all board members request an accessible ballot from their town.

Social committee report; Rose

(Written report)

Date: Sunday October 10, 2021 Board meeting and Social Committee Report.

The Social Committee Held its last meeting for the year on September 20, 2021.

The Social Committee Members On the conference call: Nina and David and Rose. The meeting time 7:30 to 8:15 P.M. We also invited a new member ElizabethAnn Johnson to join the team.

not on call Jerry and Fouad due to conflict with time.

It was agreed to hold a social hang out on Sunday December 12, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. to share International and local food and drink recipes. We will ask BSCB Members to share recipes ahead of time with us. Also tell how it is made. and send it to me to share with the group.

Save the date will go out this Monday or after the fall convention.

I seek your thoughts on when to send the notice.

(End of written report)

Membership committee report; Cheryl

(Written report)

The Membership Committee met in September. Our next meeting will be in November.

We decided to do two projects:

list of 1 items

1. Check in on members. ON October 13, we will get together and make calls to our BSCB members- asking if there are issues they would like to bring to BSCB's attention and letting them know about upcoming activities

list end

list of 1 items

2. Speaker's Bureau- invite members to actively do community outreach. Our goal is to provide some training and work with volunteers to develop their outreach story. As part of this effort we will ask about languages volunteers speak in order to reach out to diverse individuals.

(End of written report)

Our next BSCB board meeting is scheduled for November 14 at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary