

Bay State Council of the Blind

Board call minutes, September 13, 2020

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. All officers and board members were present except Rick Morin. Sharon Strzalkowski and Jesssica Barr were also in attendance.

The agenda was adopted.

Steve made, Rose seconded and the board approved a motion to accept the minutes of our August meeting.

Treasurer's report

There was no treasurer's report, but Brian made the following comments:

Reimbursement from caterer booked for our aborted in-person convention:

The cater said he had purchased some food that could not be repurposed. He offered to give us full credit for a future event, or a reimbursement of \$1500.00. Brian said he opted for the \$1500. No board members opposed his decision.

Brian dropped off tax documents at Rick's house this morning. Our taxes are not due until October, and it appears that we will only owe \$35.00.

ACB has not yet distributed proceeds from the Brenda Dillon memorial walk. We received an anonymous donation of \$10,000. The total raised by BSCB was \$17,000. It will be split equally between ACB and BSCB.

Last year's total was \$10,000.00.

Mary asked Brian if Rick has been in touch with Nick Corbet who has expressed interest in pursuing the BSCB treasurer position; Brian is not sure.

President's report; Brian

ACB will hold a virtual board meeting November 13 and 14.

A celebratory event is being planned to honor the CVAA.

The legislative seminar is being planned as a virtual event.

MCB will help with funeral expenses for Bob Hachey who passed away this morning. Brian has a call scheduled with the funeral home tomorrow to work out details.

We briefly discussed how to support Bob's wife Donna. A board member mentioned there has been recent fraud with GoFundMe.

Brian's report was accepted by the board.

Publications report; David

(Written report)

The Pubs Committee last met on Thursday September 11 and discussed two topics.

- 1. Because of Bob's continuing poor health, we discussed seeking a new editor of Bay Lines. Our first choice was Diana, but unfortunately she will not be available for this. We are in the process of querying several other members, but do not have anybody yet. Suggestions are welcome. We may ultimately place a call for candidates on the Announce List.**
- 2. Steve Dresser has updated the web page related to Council Connection and ways to subscribe to it or download episodes.**

(End of written report)

Dianna announced that she will be moving out of state in a couple of months. We will therefore need to find a new social media person.

Sharon agreed to serve on the publications committee.

The committee is looking for a new BayLines editor.

We need someone to moderate our listservs.

The ACB board of publications is currently updating its list guidelines.

David will call Brian to discuss publications issues.

Legislative report; DeAnn

(Written report)

The legislative committee met on August 19 and will meet again on September 16. We agreed to organize one session about voting for the fall BSCB conference.

A group of BSCB members, together with the BCIL, took legal action against the Sec. of State over the accessibility of the absentee ballot for the September 1 primary. We were represented by the Disability Law Center. The DLC helped secure an accessible option through Voting Works, which enabled voters with disabilities to use their computers to mark a ballot and print it. The hardcopy ballot was then returned by mail or dropped off at a polling place. The announcement of an accessible option came only a couple of days before the election and was therefore used by very few voters. The need for a printer, as well as the difficulty of complying with a request for a signature, prevented many from availing themselves of the option. BSCB will probably conduct a brief survey to assess the reasons that people did not vote with a digital ballot, so the process can be improved for November.

Cheryl and Kim organized a successful panel discussion about accessible voting on ACB radio in August.

DeAnn sent emails to the legislators who supported the amendments this summer, thanking them for their work and asking for their continuing support.

The ACB board met and passed 2020 resolutions.

(End of written report)

DeAnn said the legislative committee is seeking new members.

We need to educate folks prior to the November election.

Officials failed to advertise the accessible option for voting in the Primary.

Membership report; Mary
(Written report)

The Membership Committee has not met since the last Board call.

I have begun to reach out to BSCB members asking if they would like to be part of the phone call with the Membership Committee to discuss outreach to minority communities.

On a separate but related topic, The ACB Board through the adoption of a resolution on racial justice has agreed to undertake an ACB census to better understand the diversity of the organization at all levels by February 1, 2021. In addition, going forward, collecting this data on ACB's diversity will be incorporated into the membership certification process.

(End of written report)

Mary said she has not received a list of BSCB registrants for the recent virtual ACB convention; Brian suggested she email Cindy Hollis.

Old Business

Only one person requested first-timer reimbursement for the ACB convention. It has been provided.

Charlie Crawford, who died on September 11, should be included in the memorial service we are planning.

Sharon made, Rose seconded, and the board approved a motion to challenge Maryland to match us in raising funds to make Charlie an ACB Angel.

The cost is \$1,000.00, and funds could be managed through the Minnesota office.

Brian will reach out to pat Sheahan.

We will also consider Angel status for Bob Hachey.

We agreed to hold a fall conference, which will be managed by David.

His organizing committee includes Cheryl, Jerry, Rose, Tim, Nona, and Mary.

Cheryl suggested Frank assist with captioning.

Frank said we should begin plans for our spring convention.

We briefly discussed holding an online auction. Frank said we should have a specific stated goal in mind.

Rose made, Steve seconded, and the board approved a motion to create a scholarship in Bob Hachey's name, to be funded by the online auction.

It was mentioned that Sharon Lovering has a template for ACB member obituaries.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 11.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary