

# **American Council of the Blind Maine Board Meeting**

**October 6, 2022 | Location: Virtual**

---

The meeting opened at 7:01 P.M.

## **Rollcall**

McKenna, Leona – President - P

Belka, Sherry – Vice President - P

Batson, Nathanael – Secretary - P

Peabody, Cheryl – Treasurer - P

Bebee, Carolyn - P

Frost, Mary Ellen - P

Fuller, Roger - P

McQuade, Joel - P

Archer, Bruce - A

Walker, Debbie - A

---

## **Minutes from August 1, 2022**

- The Board unanimously accepted the minutes from August as distributed

## **Special Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2022**

- The Board unanimously accepted the minutes from the special meeting in September as distributed
- 

## **Treasurer's Report**

- Mary Ellen motioned that the Board accept the Treasurer's Report
- Sherry seconded the motion

## **Discussion**

- The Board did not discuss the matter any further
  - The Board unanimously accepted the Treasurer's Report as distributed without any objections or abstentions
- 

## **Convention Update**

- ACB Maine has \$2,500 to use toward the Convention
  - Out of that \$2,500, approximately \$1,000 will go towards paying the guest speakers

- Mary Ellen motioned that ACB Maine offer 4 \$100 gift cards for door prizes at the conference on November 5, 2022
- Sherry seconded the motion

### **Discussion**

- The Board discussed whether they wanted to offer 6 (six) gift cards rather than 4 (four) gift cards
  - Note: the Board will not have an auction during the Convention
- Carolyn motioned to amend the original motion to increase the gift card offerings from four to six
- The Board unanimously voted to amend the original motion so that ACB Maine can offer six \$100 gift cards as door prizes for the November Convention

### **Discussion for the Amended Motion**

- The Board will offer any member who pays their dues before the Convention on November 5 an opportunity to win a gift card
    - This allows new and returning members an equal opportunity to earn a gift card
      - Last year, the Board offered five \$100 gift cards to returning members and one \$100 gift card to a new member
  - The Board unanimously voted to pass the amended motion to offer six \$100 gift cards to be used as door prizes for the ACB Maine Convention in November
- 

## **2022 ACB Maine Convention Schedule**

- 9:30 – 10:00 Welcome and Introductions President Leona McKenna
- 10:00 – 11:00 Keynote Speaker Svetlana Ehlers
  - Svetlana Ehlers is an 18-year-old from Missouri with a unique story. Due to a premature birth, Svetlana's eyes did not fully develop, and she was left blind. She was born in Armenia and her parents could not care for her so she was left in an orphanage where she was abused.
  - At the age of 9, Svetlana was adopted and came to the United States. She is now a senior in high school and was chosen as the student of the month by Freedom Scientific. She is very involved in many groups and activities both at school and in her community. The Civil Air Patrol and the Cane Drivers are two of the groups in which she belongs. Svetlana will speak about adversity and the challenges she has faced in her own life. Time for audience questions and conversation with Svetlana will be included in her presentation.
- 11:00 – 12:00 Scholarship Applicants Panel Discussion
  - This will be an opportunity to discuss with our scholarship applicants the challenges they face and what ACB of Maine as an organization can do to assist younger people with their goals.
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:00 Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB)

- FFB will present information regarding research, treatment and innovations for retinal diseases that affect 10 million American's.
  - 2:00 – 2:15 Break
  - 2:15 – 3:30 Business Meeting
    - Approval of minutes and Treasurer's report.
    - Endowment
    - Constitution & Bylaws
    - Scholarship Winners Announcement
    - Election of Officers and Directors
  - 3:30 Open discussion.
- 

## **Bylaw Change**

- The Board would like to amend §8.1 of the bylaws so the scholarship money can be increased
    - The current bylaw only allows \$1,500 in scholarships
      - To amend or change the bylaws, there must be at least seven days' notice before it can be voted on
  - Leona will review suggestions from the members and decide on what the language will look like
- 

## **Nominations**

- The Board needs someone to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee
    - Sherry offered to fill this position
- 

## **Committee Reports**

### **Membership Committee**

- ACB Maine has 52 members, which is down one from the 53 reported in August
- 

## **Other Information**

- Nathanael asked how to post the minutes on the webpage
    - Currently, the most recent minutes are from February
    - Leona will contact Steve Kelly to verify that he has the minutes from April onward to post on the website
  - Leona motioned to adjourn
  - The meeting closed at 8:15 P.M. without any objections or abstentions
-