

Biofeedback Society of California Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 4, 2014, 7pm  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Call in: 559-546-1000  
Code: 1080072#

**I. Call to Order**

Present: Nick Dogris, Bob Grove, Gary Schummer, Julie Madsen, Ali Hashemian, Joy Lunt, Robert Guiles, Tiff Thompson, Steve Kassel. Absent: John LeMay, Katee Wynia, Jay Gunkelman, Mark Stern.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Robert and Ali made minor changes to the minutes. Gary makes a motion to accept the minutes, Ali seconds, motion passed.

**III. 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Birthday Party**

- a. Speakers discussed for invitation: Eric Peper, Dr. Moss, Robert Levenson, Paul Hamilton, Von Bozzay and James Gross – Rick has not yet heard back from any one of the speakers. Steve mentioned Maureen Haney for BFB for a presenter. Steve mentioned Sherry Shamshiri in Mexico to be a presenter. Tiff will pass on the info to Jay. Bob mentioned that he would like something about HRV and physical disorders. Robert is doing his dissertation on HRV and trauma—he volunteered himself as a potential speaker.
- b. Exhibitors & Vendors (past regulars) – Tiff is beginning to get in touch with vendors for the conference

**IV. Liaisons**

The idea of liaising with other organizations has been brought up a number of times. Tiff had a conversation with the Executive Director of the AAPB, Michelle Cunningham, to get an initial discussion underway. Items they discussed included:

- a. AAPB
  - i. AAPB Student Scholarship Program
  - ii. AAPB Calendar
  - iii. AAPB Member Benefits
  - iv. AAPB Booth (free—not an exhibit booth but a draped table at the exhibit hall)
  - v. Co Sponsorship for Webinars b/t AAPB and BSC
  - vi. BSC's Wish list, suggested by ED of AAPB

The benefit of partnering with or becoming a sub chapter of AAPB was questioned. Bob Grove mentioned that there are difficulties BFB practitioners have with choosing an organization to affiliate with (i.e. choosing between AAPB and BSC). One way to collaborate with AAPB would

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be to establish a unilateral discount. Tiff mentioned the notion of BSC as a subchapter of AAPB, in the light of the survey results. Ali spoke out against us identifying as a subchapter of AAPB, citing no real benefit to the relationship. Steve makes a motion that we table the topic of AAPB and our affiliation with them until next meeting when all board members are present.

b. ISNR

During the month past, Tiff chatted with Cindy Yablonski of ISNR to discuss mutually beneficial roles that each organization can play for the other. Cindy mentioned BSC having a presence at ISNR as well as becoming an institutional member.

i. BSC's Presence at ISNR

ii. BSC can become an institutional member.

Joy Lunt thought that this type of affiliation would do us no good. Ali wanted to know what the cost was and what was involved in attendance. Steve mentioned that the best BSC could likely do is have links on our pages and have special ad rates, free booth space, etc.

A follow up conversation focused on getting a list of all the neurofeedback providers in California. This could be acquired through a diligent web search, through tapping individuals who already have member databases, or through looking at the subscriptions to the field's various listservs. Ali thinks that we should have an up to date list of folks in CA that do neurofeedback and biofeedback. He offered one of his employees for this job. Gary will be sending the group a list of the neurofeedback and biofeedback practitioners in CA that he has already developed. Joy has volunteered to reach out to Siegfried Othmer, Nick volunteered to reach out to the neuroguide listserv. Tiff will reach out to Val Brown (Neuroptimal) and to Brian Milstead (Bio-medical.com).

Bob mentioned that he has been queried by biofeedback folks about not using just NFB, but also using BFB.

c. Others?

- i. ACA – Robert had reached out to some ACA members to no avail, but will continue to reach out.
- ii. CAMFT

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**V. Summer Newsletter**

The newsletter in its decent shape, there appear to be enough articles (especially including those written by Ali, Nick, Gary and Robert). Robert is spearheading a student section for the newsletter.

**VI. Renaming and Rebranding & Regional Expansion (Mark & Ali)**

**VII.**

- a. Finalization of results to be delivered by Mark. Topic tabled until next meeting.

**VIII. Subcommittees/Reports**

- a. Education Subcommittee (Gary)
  - i. Mentorship Program – Gary and Mark did not meet regarding this. Gary mentioned FB as a good platform for use to set up a mentoring information center to connect people to potential mentors. Bob mentioned the use of Google Plus for advertising the mentorship subcommittee.
- b. Marketing and PR (Mark) no discussion given Mark's absence.
- c. Legal and Ethics (Ali) Nevada is proposing legislation limiting the scope of MFTs, discluding biofeedback and neurofeedback as treatment modalities they can get reimbursed for. AAPB is monitoring this and we ought to be monitoring it. California has the Alternative Health Care Practitioner Act, which allows practitioners to have practices without culpability.

Blue Cross will not reimburse MFT's biofeedback services because they believe it is outside the scope of practice. Joy mentioned the use of the BSC as an association meant to advocate on behalf of our practitioners.

Bob mentioned that the hypnotists are interested in getting involved in the BSC, though membership money is a problem for most of them. Bob mentioned expanding our base to include neuroscience communities. Joy will contact Lisa Tataryn to see if we can establish an introduction to BSC. Steve is going to reach out to an old BFB practitioner, Howard Bloominthal (?)

- d. Student Committee (Robert)

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Robert met with the student committee, Taryn has connections with the Sharp Pain Unit—she is generating interest with that group, as is Jason with his cohort. Robert is talking with web Jay tomorrow about creating a student section on the website that will have information about student benefits.

- e. Financial, Grants & Budgetary (Ali) Tiff to follow up with Jay on this.

**IX. Licensure/ASET Update**

**X. Other**

The group wants to wish Jay all the best in his healing process.

Gary also is sending to Ali and the group a spreadsheet that already exists for the NFB and BFB practitioners in California and the regional.

**XI. Adjournment**

Ali makes a motion to adjourn, Gary seconds. Meeting adjourned by 8:09pm.