

**Nebraska Business Enterprises (NBE)
Blind Licensee Committee Public Meeting Minutes**

Friday, May 9th, 2025
1313 Farnam St.
Omaha, NE, 68102
Room 227

Chairperson Sandy Alvarado called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM

A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was available. The Notice of the Meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star, on the NCBVI website, and on NFB® Newslines. The notice was sent to the ncbvi.everyone Email List.

Attendance

Board Members

Sandy Alvarado, Chairperson; Andrea Chizek, Vice Chairperson; Ronnie Kellogg, Secretary; Atty Svendsen, Jeremy Richey

Blind Licensees and Trainees in Attendance

Amy Eidenmiller, Jim Jirak, Tanya Cady

NCBVI Staff in Attendance

Eric Buckwalter, NBE Supervisor; Lizzie Heidenreich, NBE Orientation Counselor

Guests

Chris Cady

Approve Minutes from March 7th, 2025

Atty made a motion to approve the 03/07/2025 minutes as written.

Jeremy seconded the motion.

Andrea: Aye

Ronnie: Aye

Atty: Aye

Jeremy: Aye

Sandy: Aye

Motion passed.

Committee Chair Report – Sandy Alvarado, Chairperson

Lizzie and I have started planning our retreat. We have ideas but would appreciate input from all vendors.

Sagebrush podcasts are available to view on RSVA website www.randolph-sheppard.org.

There will be some RSVA sessions during the ACB national convention in Dallas, TX. The convention runs from July 4th – July 11th. Some of the RSVA sessions are hybrid, look for details on the RSVA website.

NAMA - I still encourage everyone to check out NAMA' website to see what they offer in training online and other opportunities.

As always Eric and I speak frequently on topics for active participation.

I wish to thank Andrea, Ronnie, Atty & Jeremy for serving on the committee with me for the past two years. I appreciate each one of you for helping to keep the program moving forward.

SLA Report - Eric Buckwalter, NBE Supervisor

Vending Site Update

STRATCOM

Deterrence Diner

The remodel of Deterrence Diner continues to move along. The remodeling work has started. NBE Staff will be there next week to take a look at the space and how it is progressing.

NBE Licensed Vendors

Including those who received their Licenses today, NBE currently has 16 Licensed Vendors who are actively servicing sites. NBE also has one individual who is in training and actively servicing sites.

Vending Site Complaints

The SLA received several complaints again this month about understocked or empty vending machines and/or micro markets. The SLA is working with the sites affected by this issue to address these complaints. Vendors and Trainees are reminded that not only does their work and performance reflect on themselves and their businesses; but also reflects heavily on the entire NBE program and on blind individuals as a whole.

Other

Operator Agreements

In the last year many Vendors have had changes to the sites that they service, and even more since Operator Agreements were last updated. In early 2025 the SLA will be working on updating Operator Agreements with correct site locations and distributing to Vendors for signatures.

SBD Agreement

NBE is still working on the new agreement with SBD for the sites covered under that agreement. NBE should be receiving information back from SBD today. Once it is in hand we will review, and counter if need be. Two of the main issues that we asked for were:

- 1) For price approval to be removed.
- 2) For Vendors be allowed to sell items that fall outside of strictly food/beverage – this could include items like OTC medications (ex. Advil, Tylenol, Pepto) and personal electronic accessories (ex. phone chargers, earbuds).

Set-Aside and Unassigned Funds

There will not be information on Set-Aside and Unassigned Funds today. The SLA discovered some discrepancies in the accounting system and are working to ensure that everything has been assigned to the correct fund.

P&L Documentation – Lizzie Heidenreich

Vendors that pay sales taxes quarterly must write off the sales taxes on their P&L so that they are associated with the sales for which they are paying the sales tax.

As an example, if the sales tax is associated with sales made from January through March, paid in April, the paid amount should be included on the March P&L.

Discussion and questions followed.

Discussion on NBE Retreat – Lizzie Heidenreich, Sandy Alvarado

Lizzie said that Sandy and she still have to discuss some things regarding the retreat, so she doesn't have a lot of information to share right now.

Lizzie said that she thinks that it will happen in August.

She said that she thinks she's narrowed down a location, perhaps in Grand Island, but it will remain TBA for now.

No contract has been worked out yet because Lizzie wants to talk with Sandy about some matters.

Discussion followed.

Sandy reminded everyone that the committee would have its quarterly meeting at the retreat.

Discussion followed.

Blind Licensee Committee Elections (New Committee) – Eric Buckwalter

Eric explained that the elected committee members Ballot went out a week ago yesterday. Five names were placed on the ballot. The committee needs five members to be fully constituted. All licensed vendors received a ballot and 32% of them responded.

The names on the ballot were:

Sandy Alvarado

Tanya Cady

Amy Eidenmiller

Jim Jirak

Ronnie Kellogg

Andrea explained the different roles on the Committee. The Committee members chose people to fill all roles as follows:

Sandy Alvarado - Chairperson

Jim Jirak – Vice Chair

Ronnie Kellogg - Secretary

Tanya Cady and Amy Eidenmiller will fill out the rest of the committee.

Sandy reminded the committee members that if there are three or more Committee members present at any place and at any time, they cannot discuss Committee business due to the regulations in the State of Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Sandy reminded everyone that the Committee members are here to support every Vendor, especially if they aren't sure how to help themselves.

This includes situations where a Vendor has an issue with the SLA that they are afraid to bring forward by themselves.

If any committee member is unsure how to help a Vendor, they should contact another experienced Committee member or Sandy herself.

Discussion and questions followed.

Prompted by a question from Tanya, Sandy said that Committee members need to contact her if they can't make a meeting due to illness or another reason.

Sandy reminded everyone that Committee members can miss one meeting only in their two-year term.

If someone misses two meetings, then they will be removed from the Committee, and an election for the vacancy will occur.

Set Date for Next Quarterly Meeting

Discussion occurred.

Andrea made a motion to have the next quarterly meeting during the retreat.

Atty seconded the motion

Andrea: Aye

Ronnie: Aye

Atty: Aye

Jeremy: Aye

Sandy: Aye

Motion Passed.

Adjournment

Atty made a motion that we adjourn the meeting.

Jeremy seconded the motion.

Andrea: Aye

Ronnie: Aye

Atty: Aye

Jeremy: Aye

Sandy: Aye

Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.