

Blind vender's committee meeting

Saturday December 10, 2011
4600 Valley Rd
Lincoln, NE 68510

In attendance:

Chairman Howard Simons
Secretary Sandy Alvarado
Ray Johnson
Todd shumaker
Vice Chair Fred Scarpello via phone
Dave Johnson via phone

NCBVI employees in attendance

Executive Director Dr. Pearl Van Zant
Don Ward
Jan Stokebrand

Guest:

Oscar Alvarado

Meeting called to order by Howard at 11:18 a.m.

Sandy Alvarado made a motion to accept September's minutes as distributed. Seconded by Dave Johnson.

Motion passed

Report from Dr. Pearl:

Post office contract signed for 5 locations in Lincoln. No vender at this time is available so Universal will be running them starting February 1, 2012. A snack and soda machine will be set up at each location.

Ogallala rest area will be opening in mid-December. No vender available at this time, one may be available in three months. Universal will be running this until end of March 2012. May be extended if necessary.

Norfolk post offices are in negotiations with us and we have a vender available once the agreement is finalized.

We are still in negotiations with DOR for lowering utilities for our vendors along the interstate and getting machines in their office in Lincoln.

“...The current state law gives us priority in State of Nebraska buildings, as long as our prices are comparable with other bids. Unfortunately we can't compete with national corporations, thus cannot offer higher rent. We talked to Senator Fulton and Senator Avery, who have agreed to cosponsor a bill to amend this section of the law. The idea is to define the word “prices”. It should say that “prices” are only the items sold and not rent for the space. We will need vendors to start contacting their legislators to ask them to support this bill. We will send more information as the bill is drafted”.

Timely Reporting:

Jan reported we did a great job on getting them in on time and fewer errors.

Vendor's on Probation:

Jan reported that we currently have 4 on probation. Two vendors will be removed from probation at the end of December. One just came on recently. Fred asked what some of the reasons for probation were. Jan and Don gave a few examples as improper reports on a consistent basis & timely reports. They stated that there has been some additional training or upgrades made to help the vendor.

Notice of vendors leaving:

As reported earlier, Mike holschure is leaving the Ogallala rest area. Melvin Forester left his site as of October 31, 2011. He gave very little notice of his departure. Antonio was in training at the state office building cafeteria with Melvin. Antonio is currently managing this location on a 90 day probation period while waiting for his license. This location is still available.

Discussion on set aside money for vandalism:

Dave J. explained his proposal for the idea to use a portion of set aside funds to cover the cost of product loss due to vandalism. Discussion held about what other states have done and if there is a big problem. Carlos sent out a questionnaire to other states and had about 16 responses. The consensus seems to be that no other state does this and it is really infrequent and is mostly money the vandals get not product. Dr. Van Zant will check to see if we can even use set aside money for the purpose of covering cost of vandals.

Follow up from retreat:

Howard was disappointed in the hands on for machines. Need more variety of machines.

Sandy commented on how it can be difficult to meet the interests of all members of the program but perhaps there could be some smaller breakout sessions specific to address specific issues for those who have vending machines and for those who manage cafeterias and so on. Don and Jan informed us that they were going to be having a retreat along with Carlos Servan and Bill Brown to go over all the responses from the survey that was sent out to the vendors.

Old business

Howard has not received all reimbursement for repairs he paid for out of his own pocket. He filed forms just as Dave Robinson wanted. There was a small discussion held about how at the meeting in September we talked about how Dave R. wanted things done. Howard stated he had done just as Dave asked and still wasn't satisfied. Pearl stated she would make sure things get looked into so this does not become a problem in the future.

Next date

Saturday March 3, 2012 at 11:00 AM in Lincoln.

Sandy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Dave Johnson.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.