

Nebraska Business Enterprises Program

Nebraska Blind Licensees Committee Meeting Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually impaired 4600 Valley Rd. Suite 100 Lincoln, NE 68510

September 16, 2022

Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM by Chairperson Sandy Alvarado.

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 Newsline®. The notice was sent to Commission Staff and Commissioners.

Board Members in Attendance

Sandy Alvarado, Chairperson; Andrea Chizek, Vice Chairperson; Alex Curtis, Ronnie Kellogg

Absent: Atty Svendsen, Secretary

Blind Licensees and Trainees in Attendance

Jim Jirak, Jason Thompson, Wiley Elmshouser, Antonio Aguilar

NCBVI Staff in Attendance

Carlos Serván, NCBVI Executive Director; Eric Buckwalter, NBE Supervisor; Dave Robinson, NBE Staff

Guests:

Oscar Alvarado, Krystal Elmshouser

Approval of Minutes:

Sandy asked if anyone had any changes that needed to be made to the minutes from the June 3, 2022 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Andrea, seconded by Alex. Motion passed.

Sandy, Aye
Andrea, Aye
Ronnie, Aye
Alex, Aye

Committee Chairperson Report: Sandy Alvarado Operator's Agreement

The new agreement was approved by RSA just after our last meeting in June and everyone will need to sign the new agreement. The changes were some new wording about insurance and we only have to supply quarterly meter readings. This will be

submitted with our September, December, March and June's profit and loss reports starting this year.

Annual Inventory

Start preparing for your annual inventory counting. Dave has already sent out the form and Jim helped label it for JAWS. These will need to be submitted with our September P&Ls. September's reports: It's very important to get your P&Ls turned in as soon as possible for Dave. He has his fiscal year reports to fill out and get sent in by a certain time.

BLAST on the Boardwalk

BLAST will be in person again. It will be happening from September 28th – 30th. I don't believe they are offering any virtual sessions for this conference. If you go to the website blindmerchants.org they do have some of the past sessions available to listen to.

Sagebrush 2023

Sagebrush will be a combination of in person and virtual sessions. Registration information was recently sent out and it will be held in Las Vegas, NV from February 6th – 10th at the Golden Nugget Hotel. The cost is \$200 for in-person attendance before January 1st; and \$250 after that. If you want to attend virtually it will cost \$100. Go to the RSVA website to get registered, www.randolph-sheppard.org. They have some recordings from past trainings on this website as well. Monthly call-ins: Both RSVA and NAMB hold monthly calls to keep us all up to date on what's going on in the vending world. The NAMB is usually held on the second Tuesday of each month and RSVA is held on the third Tuesday. I participated on a panel this past July. I do my best to forward you all the call in information when I receive them.

SLA Report: Eric Buckwalter

Vending Site Update

NDCS

The SLA installed ten new Vendo 621 machines at the CCCL campus. These machines fulfilled the new contract with NDCS to provide beverage service at this location. Previously, NBE only held the snack/food contract. Like the snack/food contract, VVS will be servicing this site for the Licensed Vendor assigned to the location.

NBE Licensee Update

There are currently 12 Licensed Vendors actively servicing sites in the NBE program. There are several individuals who are interested in the NBE program. The SLA will be working this fall to set these individuals up with job shadow experiences and begin the process of application.

Vending Site Complaints

This past quarter the SLA received complaints regarding expired product in vending machines. Vendors are reminded that expired product in vending machines is not acceptable and that they are responsible for keeping track of expiration dates so this issue does not occur. While NBE Vendors do own and operate their own businesses; they also represent the NBE program as a whole, as well as the abilities of the blind across the state of Nebraska.

Cantaloupe

There have been some issues with some Vendors individual accounts under the new Master Account. Most of these issues are due to Cantaloupe system glitches as a result of the transfer. Cantaloupe is working to fix these issues – and most have already been resolved. If you have questions regarding your account or statements that you have received that are confusing, please reach out to Eric.

The SLA will be reaching out to Cantaloupe to set up a trial of Seed Cashless Plus by the end of the month.

Other Updates

Vendor Requests

It has been an incredibly busy summer for the SLA. Several unexpected projects and emergencies have put us behind in taking care of some Vendor requests for smaller, less emergent items. If you think that we have forgotten about a request that you made; for items such as different coils, different drawer configurations, etc., please reach out to Eric with a friendly reminder. The SLA is going to try our best to get caught up on these items this fall.

Inmate Interactions

The SLA would like to put out a friendly reminder to all Vendors about interacting with NDCS inmates; both within NDCS facilities and when encountering inmates who may be working in buildings on work release assignments.

Inside NDCS facilities, there should be no interaction with inmates when conducting business. Inmates on work release assignments should be treated cordially; “hello”, “how are you”, “thank you”. But, interactions should not extend past this. NDCS has some strict guidelines on interactions getting friendly; these are to protect NDCS inmates, NDCS employees, and the people they encounter while on work release.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

There is little to report on the topic of electric vehicle charging stations at interstate rest areas. The Department of Education is still considering whether electric vehicle charging stations are to be considered vending machines; for purposes of Randolph-Sheppard.

Additional Money Disbursement

Both NABM and NCSAB have asked RSA to make a disbursement of extra funds to SLAs for the purpose of one-time program expenditures to improve BEPs. This money

would come from returned grant or social security reimbursement funds that states were unable to spend; and therefore had to return. NBE will hold a Zoom call next week for those interested in joining to discuss possible ways NBE could utilize these additional funds; as it is more likely to pass if states are able to provide concrete examples of how they would spend the money.

Looking Ahead

The SLA, in conjunction with your NBE Committee is planning a retreat-style event in the spring; most likely in May.

The Orientation Counselor II position with NCBVI that will work exclusively with NBE has been reposted to the state jobs website. If you know of a person who would be a great fit for this position, please encourage them to apply.

Update on New Licensees and Trainee(s)

There are no new updates to report.

Update on SeedCashless Plus

Noted above in the SLA report.

End of Year Inventory/P&Ls

Please get your end of the year inventories and your September 2022 paperwork into Dave as soon as possible. This is very important because Dave has reports to submit.

Update on Operator's Agreements

Dave will be emailing everybody a copy of their operator's agreement. Please make sure all the information is correct and accurate it and sign it and get it back to Dave as soon as you can.

Update on Spring Retreat

The SLA and the NBE Committee is planning a spring retreat some time in May of 2023. Sandy suggested we have it in the middle of the state either in Grand Island, or Kearney. Some ideas that were suggested were One-Touch, mini show from Vistar, and reps from Coke, Pepsi, or various other companies. The retreat would be from a Thursday to a Saturday. Please let Eric and Sandy know if you have any other suggestions for the retreat.

Discussion of Training for Next Quarterly Meeting

Discussion was held and we came to a decision to not have a training next quarterly meeting. We made that decision because we will have a lot of training opportunities at the retreat in May.

Set Date for Next Quarterly Meeting

Alex made a motion to have the next meeting on December 9, 2022 in Omaha, NE at 10:00 a.m. Andrea seconded it. The motion passed.

Sandy, Aye
Andrea, Aye
Alex, Aye
Ronnie, Aye

Date: December 9, 2022
Location: Omaha, Nebraska
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Andrea made a motion to adjourn, Alex seconded it. The motion passed.

Sandy, Aye
Andrea, Aye
Alex, Aye
Ronnie, Aye

Adjournment Time: 10:49 a.m.