

Blind Vender's Committee Meeting
March 5, 2011
4600 Valley Road
Lincoln, NE 68510

Called to order by Chairman Simons at 11:05 am

Minutes graciously read by Oscar Alvarado

Carlos asked for a minor change to last meeting minutes. Sandy referred to him as Director Servan and that is not his title. Sandy said she would change the minutes to say Carlos or Mr. Servan.

Motion made to accept amended minutes by Sandy Alvarado seconded Ray Johnson.

Motion passed.

Members in Attendance

Chairman Howard Simons
First Chair Fred Scarpello via phone
Ray Johnson
Secretary Sandy Alvarado

NCBVI Employees in attendance

Deputy Director Carlos Servan
Jan Stokebrand

Guest

Oscar Alvarado

Carlos asked Fred if Dave Robinson had gotten back with him. Fred confirmed that he had. Howard asked that someone check with Jim Budde as to why we never received an updated statement as was promised at last meeting.

Report about Las Vegas conference from Carlos Servan

He stated that a lot of the information was about marketing and how to promote our machines.

Report from Director Van Zandt, read by Carlos Servan. Carlos reported that Western Community College in western Nebraska wants to get rid of our vender. The BEP will fight to keep the placement. Carlos, once again, encouraged us to contact our state Senators to consider some legislation to reflect the Randolph-Sheppard Act to make us a priority and not a preference.

Carlos contacted the DOR about getting into their building. He had a bit of trouble finally getting to talk to an actual person. Things are looking better. Carlos met with GSA in Omaha yesterday. They spoke about Sandy Alvarado and they are pleased with her service. Carlos also spoke with them about adding credit card readers to the machines. They approved the idea and Carlos will speak with Sandy about doing such a thing later.

Carlos informed us that the new machine we spoke of in our last meeting will be installed soon at one of Howard Simon's locations along with a credit card reader.

Carlos will be in Omaha on Monday speaking with the VA hospital about the cafeteria. We may also be able to bid on the cafeteria in the Zorinsky Building. Sandy was asked if she had an interest in that and she stated that she was not but perhaps someone else would be.

Howard asked if the Commission was informing clients about our program. Carlos stated that it is getting done better.

Carlos stated he has been in contact with Offutt Air Force Base about possible placement. The problems are that the machines have to be open to the public and most of them are not. Another potential issue is a law may state that a building has to have been built after 1975. Fred strongly questioned that and wanted to know if it is really in writing somewhere.

Carlos will double check this information out to make sure.

Carlos informed us that there will be some random audits of vending machines this year.

Probation two venders will be placed on probation.

Fred asked what the letter said and Jan read the letter that is sent out. Fred suggested that in the letter to have a statement about offering help with whatever they may be having trouble with.

Howard announced that unit 131 and unit 151 are now one unit to be called 131.

Howard asked who would like to be on the blind vender's committee.

Those who said they would are:

Howard Simons
Fred Scarpello
Sandy Alvarado
Dave Johnson
Ray Johnson

Chairman Simons asked Jan to send out a memo to all the vendors asking if they would like to be on the committee with an April 7, 2011 deadline. If there are more than five (5) people who wish to be on the committee a voting ballot will be sent out and to be returned before April 23, 2011. The final five (5) people who are voted in will make the choice as to who is in what position at the May 7, 2011 meeting.

A discussion was held to keep the meetings on Saturday. Majority of members liked the Saturday meetings. Therefore, the meetings will remain on Saturdays.

A conference for all blind vendors is being planned. Agenda ideas are: have Greater America Distribution bring in a couple of vending machines to demonstrate simple maintenance and cleaning. How to do your profit and Loss reports and the set aside account. Customer service training. Carlos suggested the NFB & the ACB merchant divisions come and talk. Training on the credit card readers.

Time line for workshop is 5 pm the evening before and one entire day starting at 8:30 am the next day.

Location is to be in Omaha

Tentative dates are Friday September 23, 2011 and Saturday September 24, 2011. Second choice is September 30 and October 1.

Motion made to adjourn by Sandy and seconded by Ray.
Motion passed.

Next meeting is to be on May 7, 2011 in Omaha.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sandy Alvarado
Secretary, Blind Vender's Committee