

May 7, 2011
Blind Vendor's Committee Meeting
Swanson Library, Omaha, NE

Members in Attendance:

Howard Simons, Tom Scheibeler, Ray Johnson, Dave Johnson, Todd Schumaker, and Fred Scarpello.

NCBVI Employees Present:

Dr. Pearl Van Zandt, Director
Carlos Servan, Deputy Director of VR Services
Jan Stokebrand
Nancy Flearl

Guest: Barb Scarpello

Sandy Alvarado was absent due to a family emergency.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Simons at 11:10 a.m.

Approval of minutes:

Minutes were mailed and emailed out to the committee as well as all the vendors by Sandy Alvarado. Motion was made and seconded to accept minutes as recorded. Motion passed.

Election of Officers:

NCBVI staff and visitors left the room, elections were held. It was reported that the slate of officers is Howard Simons, Chair. Fred Scarpello, Vice Chair. Sandy Alvarado, Secretary.

Executive Director's Report:

Discussed working with the Post Office in Kearney to have vending for employees and customers. State Office Building in Omaha will be up for bids. Department of Roads will be soon open for bids in Lincoln. Looking to work with the Air Guard for weekend service. Dr. Pearl mentioned that the National Conference of State Agency Directors in Maryland reported that the federal government has heard and listened to vendors about the concern of reporting nutritional value of items that they carry in vending machines.

Vendors have to have 20+ machines to be held accountable for this. It was mentioned that it is more costly to have healthy options in the machines. Vendors need to survey their site as to what patrons would like to see in their machines. Dr. Pearl reported that NFB is starting a relationship with SUBWAY to develop entrepreneurial opportunities for franchises.

Discussion on Universal Management:

We could go into areas where blind vendors are not available, i.e. post office in Chadron. Establish a vendor in the area to cover the vending, and we would receive a percentage of the profit from the vendor. Currently, Missouri and Kansas are doing this and the vendor committee decided to do more research.

Dave Johnson brought the subject of HUD housing projects and setting up vending in these as they have federal funding. More research will be done into this area. His concern is interstate business is down and he needs to look at other avenues

Report from Carlos on use of credit card machines:

The machines will have the options of cash or credit. It is important to have both as credit card functions could break down and would affect the revenue. He is looking at more options in the private sector to pursue vending.

Timely and accurate profit/loss submissions:

Improvement in this area. One person is months behind. Three on probation, one of which was behind again this month.

Vendors on probation:

Three still on probation, with a probationary period of 6 months.

Set Aside:

Carlos Servan informed the committee that we have approximately \$20,000 in set aside, and he mentioned that vendors are paying in less set aside. This may be due to the economy.

State Conference on training for vendors:

This will be held at the Doubletree Suites, 7270 Cedar Street, Omaha. The hotel is located off 72nd and Mercy Road. The date is September 30 and October 1.

Discussion on Dave Johnson's concern about loss from vandalism on interstate sites:

This loss impacts a vendor's ability to fund new products for their site. There was discussion and it was decided to research what other agencies around the country do to address this situation. The Committee decided to table this to the next meeting.

Next meeting Friday, September 30th, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Omaha. The committee is hoping that by combining the vendor meeting with the conference and training we may draw a greater number of people to the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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