

Blind Vendor's Committee Meeting  
3:00 PM Friday September 30, 2011  
DoubleTree Suites, 7270 Cedar Street, Omaha NE

Called to order by Chairman Simons at 3:05 pm

Vendors in attendance:

Chairman Howard Simons, Vice Chairman Fred Scarpello, Dave Johnson, Secretary Sandy Alvarado, Ray Johnson, Tom Scheibeler, Marlin Roesler, Hardy Holm, Greg Stroh.

NCBVI employees in attendance:

Dr. Pearl Van Zandt Executive Director, Carlos Servan Deputy Director, Don Ward, Jan Stokebrand, Dave Robinson, Jan Brandt, Guest speaker: Jim Budde. Guest vendor applicants: Veronica Cuellar, Tony Battershaw, Antonio Aguilera, Guests: Barb Scarpello, George Fischer, Greg Stroh's brother.

Guest speaker:

Jim Budde spoke on his company's investments for our vendor retirement plans. He started by apologizing for not hearing the complaints from our members about their inability to read the monthly reports in the current electronic format. He told us the reports will revert back to paper reports. He then explained how the interest earned on certain investments work. He then continued to explain about the stock market. He feels that things will be slow for a while but the country is good for the long run as far as the investments are concerned.

Last meeting minutes:

Minutes were mailed and emailed out to all the vendors. Motion made by Sandy Alvarado to accept minutes as submitted by Jan Stokebrand, as Sandy Alvarado was absent from the May meeting. Motion seconded by Dave Johnson. Motion passed.

Dr. Pearl Van Zandt's report:

Discussion held on the email sent out by Carlos regarding insurance for theft. He received 16 responses to the email stating that it is too expensive to purchase that type of insurance for individuals. Dave Johnson shared with the group a possible option to use set aside funds to help with this type of insurance and how it could be financially feasible. Dave's thoughts on the insurance cost have prompted further investigation for options to be looked into by the commission staff.

The National Guard in Ashland has lost its' contract with a food service subcontractor. Mr. Shumaker, the blind manager of the facility, has negotiated a new subcontract with a different food service company. The National Guard is very pleased with the new arrangement.

The Hall County vending route currently does not have a blind vender. Universal Vending has been subcontracted to come in to help until one is available.

We will be writing a proposal for the Zorinsky Federal Building in Omaha for the cafeteria. There is an Omaha client who is interested in managing this location. He is currently at the training center in Lincoln and assisting in the cafeteria at the state office building in Lincoln.

The Kearney Post Office now has a blind vender placement.

We are still waiting to hear from the Lincoln post offices for confirmation that we can contract with them.

A bid proposal was delivered on 9/29/2011 for the vending machines at the State office building in Omaha.

We will be setting up a meeting with the DOR to discuss renegotiating a new contract since our other contract is over 10 years old. We also would like to approach them with getting vending machines in their Lincoln offices.

Carlos, Don and three clients attended the BLAST conference. Some of the more relevant topics/issues are:

#### ON GOING TRAINING:

The private sector does this constantly. It is vital for ourselves and those we will be managing.

#### SUBWAY:

They have a program where the franchise fee is waived if you are a blind person.

#### COMMERCIALIZATION OF REST AREAS:

This is something that the Congress will be looking at for the transportation bill coming up in a couple of months. Dr. Pearl has written a letter to Senator Mike Johanns who is on that committee. His aid contacted her after receiving the letter. They spoke of the possible implications of this bill. She plans to follow up when time gets closer. This led into a discussion about our own state's wording for us to have the same priority like the Federal laws provide.

Carlos has encouraged us all to get involved so when a bill/amendment is sponsored, we may have some additional support for it.

Meet new vendors:

Tony Battershaw is ready to start as a new member of our BEP program. Tony has worked for most of his life. Has the drive to succeed. Antonio Aguilera still needs to pass math and English exams. Has a background in operating a bar and grill for 4 years. Veronica Cuellar wants to manage her own bakery. She is currently going to school for business.

Profit and Loss reports

Jan reported that we are getting them done in a timely manner. She stated that simple addition mistakes are being made. She requests that we double check our numbers for accuracy, by doing the addition twice.

Vendors on probation:

There are currently 3 vendors on probation. Commission staff and Howard are working with them to help get them the assistance they need to get removed from probation status.

Update on procedures:

Many complaints have been received about not getting payment for services rendered. Dave Robinson explained the best way to submit receipts for payment. Many times the improper methods are delaying payment. Many ideas were discussed and a couple were satisfactory. One way is to do it electronically with an invoice template and all information on it, i.e....name of business or person, date of service, what was done and cost of services.

Dave said he would send a confirmation of receipt of invoice. Barb Scarpello informed us that Office Depot has booklets of generic invoices. These could be used as well.

Update on retreat for this weekend:

Dr. Pearl simply read the agenda for the retreat.

Set next meeting:

Saturday, December 10, 2011 in Lincoln Nebraska.

A motion was made to adjourn by Dave Johnson, seconded by Sandy Alvarado.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Sandy Alvarado  
Secretary, Blind Vendor committee