

## Blind vendor's committee meeting

Saturday March 3, 2012  
4600 Valley Rd  
Lincoln, NE 68510

### In attendance:

Chairman Howard Simons  
Secretary Sandy Alvarado  
Dave Johnson  
Todd Shumaker  
Antonio Aguilar  
Chris Nolan vender in training

### NCBVI employees in attendance:

Carlos Servan Deputy Director NCBVI  
Don Ward

### Guests:

Oscar Alvarado  
Ms. Nolan  
Justin Bowden with Coca Cola

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

Minutes from last meeting

Dave J. made a motion to accept the minutes from December 2011 as distributed. Sandy A. seconded the motion.  
Motion passed.

Update on Vendor and unit changes:

Mike Holsher left the program. Universal is taking care of his unit #145 for now.

Ray Johnson has retired. Chris Nolan has joined the program and has taken over management of unit #141.

Fred Scarpello has retired and Randy Swanson was the only interested vendor who responded to the notice sent out. Fred's unit, #203 was combined with Randy's unit #3.

Antonio Aguilar has received his vendor's license and is doing very well at unit #133.

Coca Cola presentation:

Justin Bowden with Coca Cola gave a brief presentation to the board explaining how he has worked with programs in Missouri and Kansas like ours. If we sign an agreement with them all vendors in the program can have a better opportunity to get product and services from Coca Cola. We would purchase as one larger entity which would give us the ability to purchase product at a more discounted price. We have a small guideline of growth that we, as a group, would have to meet quarterly. Many questions were discussed and Mr. Bowden was very informative in his responses.

## Elections

Todd Shumaker was moved from an alternate to a committee board member, taking Ray Johnson's place. Antonio Aguilar was accepted to the committee board as well. At this time there is no alternate board member as Chris is in training and no other person responded to the inquiry sent out by Jan.

Board met in private to elect a replacement for Vice Chair Fred Scarpello. Dave Johnson was elected to be the Vice Chair.

## Coke agreement

Motion made by Dave J. to accept the contract with Coca Cola. Sandy A. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Motion made by Dave J. to appoint Chairman Howard Simons to be the signature on Coca Cola contract. Todd S. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Report from the Executive Director:

Report was given by Carlos Servan. A copy of his written report follows below. I placed additional comments in prentices after a section if any were made.

## NBE report for March 3:

1. Universal Vending is running now the five small Postal Services offices in Lincoln, as well as the Ogallala rest area.

2. We also heard from the Norfolk Post Office and should be getting there a new vendor.

3. We have a new potential vendor, Chris Nolan, on training running the site Ray left.

4. Fred retired, we asked the vendors if anyone was interested; and the only person who showed interest was Randy. Thus, the main Post Office in Omaha is now being run by one vendor. Let's keep in mind that the U.S. Postal Service has reduced the number of employees for the last few years and the trend seems to continue.

5. The hearing for LB1006 was on February 22. Vendors should contact the senators from the Government Committee and urge them to support this bill. Dr. Pearl Van Zandt, Marc, and Carlos Servan testified in favor. Steve testifies against from Administrative Services.

This bill was voted out of committee, now you need to call to ask to be attached to LB858

(Carlos explained the importance of all of us taking an active interest in this matter so we can keep our program thriving and have more strength to keep the larger entities from taking away jobs from us. Carlos said he would send out an email with contact information of who we should contact if we want.)

6. Antonio is now officially a licensed vendor and the State Office Building is happy with the changes he is implementing.

7. HR7. Congress introduced this bill and it has the potential to reduce the number of vendors in the Interstate vending sites as it would give access to the private sector. Consumers contacted Congress and an amendment may occur. Carlos sent an up-date on this bill the week of February 13. However, we need to be alert and express our voices when needed.

(Discussion was held on who we should contact and exactly what could happen. Carlos said he would send out updates for us with names to contact and how to contact them.)

8. Last year we had up to five vendors on probation. Now we only have one, but because he already sent his paperwork two weeks ago, we will not have anyone on probation.

Timely profit and loss:

We have improved the timely and accuracy of the profit and loss statements over the past couple of years. Seldom is there alate report. Additional training and the enforcement of probationary actions has helped immensely.

Old business:

Discussion continued on Dave's proposal on using a portion of set aside money from all vendors to be held in a separate account for the use of a vendor who may need to use the money to purchase product because money has been lost due to vandalism.

Sandy A. made a motion to not accept the proposal made to give money to replace product if a vending machine has been vandalized. The motion was seconded by Todd S.

Motion passed.

Discussion held on other options to help vandalized venders. Todd made a motion to explore some of the options mentioned by members. Seconded by Sandy A. Motion passed.

Sandy A. requested that she be more informed of things going on between meetings. Howard asked Carlos to have Jan send pertinent information to the entire committee board.

Retreat evaluation:

The most apparent change that would be improved upon is the time for actual hands on for simple repairs on vending machines. Carlos informed us that the Marriott in Omaha has been contacting him to hold our next retreat at their hotel. Carlos said he would like to hold a training conference every year. We asked him to respond to the Marriott in Omaha to set up a date for this year yet. Carlos will have a fairly rough draft of what he would like to do and we need to help set the agenda.

Questions:

Sandy brought a subject for discussion. She asked if there was something the committee could do to help the Commission to expand our program. Discussion was held about how the program could contract with someone to help make contacts for possible vending sites. Carlos tried to explain how competition can be difficult if we don't go onto priority properties by Federal law. We have more stability behind us with the Randolph-Shepard act if we are on Federal land and we aren't on some locations that we, by the law, can be on.

Carlos brought an idea of starting a grassroots change in some of the federal laws to allow us to place vending machines where the public is, such as in the lobby of a post office or similar placement. Carlos asked Oscar Alvarado, who is a retired postal worker, if he would be willing to contract with the commission to help us get into some of the smaller post offices in Omaha. He stated he would.

Next meeting:

Saturday June 2, 2012 at 10:00 AM possibly in Ashland at Todd's unit if available. Todd will get back to Carlos with availability.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Sandy Alvarado  
Blind Vendors Committee Secretary