

Blind Vendor's Committee Meeting
Friday, December 14, 2012
4600 Valley Road
Lincoln, NE 68510

Called to order by Howard Simons at 10:07 a.m.

Vendor's in attendance

Chairman Howard Simons
Vice Chair Dave Johnson via phone
Secretary Sandy Alvarado
Todd Shumaker
Antonio Aguilar
Victor Ireland

NCBVI employees in attendance:

Executive Director Dr. Pearl Van Zant
Deputy Director Carlos Servan
Don Ward
Jan Stokebrand
Dave Robinson via phone

Minutes:

A motion was made by Sandy to accept the minutes from the September 2012 meeting as distributed. Motion was seconded by Dave Johnson, motion passed.

Executive Report:

Secretary's note: Below is the actual report that was read.

Report given by Dr. Van Zandt.

NBE Activity Report
September through December 2012

In September: Opened Hastings and Fremont post offices

October:

Surveyed vendors who attended the training retreat and most agreed that it was a very good conference, and that the location for the 2013 training retreat will take place in Lincoln.

We also got a new contract with the National Guard and started to serve "brown bag lunches" one weekend per month. The blind vendor negotiated this contract.

We had to remodel the Lincoln Federal Building break area, during October and November.

November: Started a new potential vendor in Norfolk Tony Battershaw, and opened a postal distribution center there.

December:

Carlos and Don met with DOR again to work on new contracts for the rest areas and to look at the district locations and DOR headquarters for opportunities.

Offutt Juice Bar is at 90 days and that person has decided not to continue so we are looking for a new manager for that location.

This week, we started to train a potential new vendor in Lincoln, Victor Ireland, and started vending at 5 post offices in Lincoln.

On Monday December 17, we are opening vending at another post office in Norfolk for Tony Battershaw.

New:

On Wednesday, December 12, to discuss a new vending opportunity, Dr. Van Zandt, Carlos, and Don met with the US Army Joint Forces in the Lincoln new building which is by the Lincoln airport. We will start there soon. There will also be potential for more opportunities with this contract. We sent an announcement to see if any current vendor is interested and; the dead-line is Wednesday, December 19.

We are still working on opening the 7 postal annexes in Omaha. We had originally 14, from which 7 were taken by current vendors.

We will purchase a mobile vending trailer to be taken to different county fairs and other public events.

Update on vendors:

The manager of the Juice Bar at the Offit Air Force Base will no longer continue. We are looking for a new manager for this site.

Timely profit & loss:

Jan gave an update on our progress. Overall she said we are doing well. Timeliness is better and we are being more accurate.

New business:

Ray Johnson- follow up from last meeting. A question was asked if we could assist him with the amount he owes the program by giving him funds from set aside. Carlos has investigated and discovered we cannot use set aside funds. Other possibilities are being researched. A reasonable agreement has been made between the agency and Ray to pay the amount he owes.

A letter from Coke announcing a raise in cost starting in January 2013 was received by Howard. This won't affect our contract as far as our quantity; it is just to announce it will cost us more starting January 1, 2013. This is an increase of 3% - 6% on most brands.

Old business:

Reimbursement checks in timely manner. This is a follow up from the discussion at our last meeting. Things have been running smoother since a procedure was outlined. Dave Robinson suggested that we should follow up with a phone call to him if we haven't received anything within a reasonable time.

Vendor Retreat:

The 2013 retreat will be held in Lincoln. Date was set for September 6 and 7 2013. A subcommittee organized includes Victor Ireland, Howard Simons and Todd Shumaker.

Next meeting:

The next BVC meeting will be held on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in Lincoln.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sandy Alvarado
Secretary, Blind Vendor Committee