

Nebraska Vendor's Committee Meeting
September 27, 2013 at Holiday Inn, Lincoln, Nebraska

Meeting called to order at 9:42 am by Chair Sandy Alvarado.

Attendance:

Chair Sandy Alvarado
Vice Chair Todd Shumaker
Secretary Antonio Aguilar
Committee Member Victor Ireland
Laurie Jacobson
Howard Simons
Dave Johnson via phone
Veronica Cuellar
Julie Johnson
Brandon Jackson
Jason Thompson
Marty Borges

Note: Ron Davison has decided to drop out of the program at this time.

NCBVI: EMPLOYEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Executive Director Dr. Pearl Van Zandt
Deputy Director Carlos Servan
Don Ward, NBE Coordinator
Monica Tripp, Omaha Counselor

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Chair Sandy Alvarado to approve minutes from previous meeting. Seconded by Todd Shumaker. Motion passed.

Report from Executive Director Dr. Pearl Van Zandt:

We opened a new vending location in Omaha at a military processing building. We are providing training to a prospective new vendor for that location.

Don Ward spoke at the Department of Roads Annual Manager's conference about NBE and the rest areas. He answered several questions regarding our program.

During the last week of August, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Vendor's Committee attended a national training sponsored by RSA in Baltimore. The focus of this conference was on getting and maintaining federal contracts.

In July, NBE put together a proposal for a small cafeteria at the NDOR Building. We were awarded the contract for that cafeteria in Lincoln. However, there have been several issues since then on changing our proposal and we are still waiting to hear from NDOR to see if we would open the cafeteria.

NDOR Master Rest Area contract update: The contract has been signed and we have new rates. As part of the new contract, we are purchasing new vending machines.

The state purchased a new building in Lincoln at 1526 K Street. We learned that the state asked PEPSICO to put two machines in that building for state employees. After some checking, Dr. Van Zandt wrote a letter to the Building Division asking to give us the chance to put our machines; and that we will be waiting when a RFP is out to submit a proposal. We have not received a response to our request.

NBE report for September 2013:

Don Ward has reported the opening of a new location, a military processing facility in Omaha.

Department of Roads contracts for rest areas were negotiated and approved. New accessible vending machines that are ADA approved will be installed in 2014. Old machines will go to surplus for auction.

Don Ward recommended that vendors be proactive in finding locations for some of the newer machines so other vendors may expand.

The new rates on DOR Utilities at rest areas will take effect in October, i.e. they will be recorded in November on the October Profit and Loss statements. The rates are as follows: two machines = \$45.00; three machines = \$65.00; four machines = \$80.00 per month. A few vendors will experience a small increase in DOR while most will see a decrease in amounts to be paid to DOR.

Negotiations are under way for the Department of Roads Cafeteria at 1500 Highway 2 in Lincoln. There is a possibility of negotiating another vending contract for four other locations at a later time.

Victor Ireland reported on the Joint Forces location stating it is doing quite well and has received positive feedback from SGT. Mitchell. They are working on a possible cafeteria / canteen. Victor's location at the Gateway Post Office recently closed.

Carlos and Don received a letter from the Veteran's Affairs Office, offering vending at the Medical Center in Omaha but there will not be food service. Further information is currently being obtained.

Dave Johnson has made a request to have cages on existing machines be painted to improve the appearance of the sites.

Howard Simons raised a question on ballots for the May 2013 election of members to the Blind Vendor's Committee. Howard inquired on a review of who voted. Jan Stokebrand is to mail Howard a summary of the election results.

Julie Johnson also raised a question on how voting is managed. Answers were as follows: Ballots are received via mail and e-mail. The ballots are kept in a file but how each vendor votes is kept confidential.

Chair Sandy Alvarado and Co-Chair Todd Shumaker attended a Randolph Sheppard Continuing Education Seminar in Baltimore this summer. They stated that they saw a vast improvement in communication on issues concerning Randolph Sheppard over the course of these past two years and this effects vendors nationwide.

A motion was made to pause by Chair Sandy Alvarado at 10:30 am and seconded by Victor Ireland. Motion passed.

Board members would like to address all vendors in Nebraska stating that we are your committee; we are interested in your concerns. If you have any questions please feel free to call on us for assistance.

Get involved with NFB / ACB to keep up-to-date on issues concerning the NBE program and Randolph Sheppard Act.

Chair Sandy Alvarado raised a question pertaining to startup costs for new facilities and/ or expanded facilities. Issues were concerning initial stock reimbursements and startup coins for vending locations which was handled by Don Ward. The policy states new vendors or existing vendors should not bear the costs of startup or expansion.

Existing vendors that can afford to pay for startup costs can do so and submit reimbursement forms to Don Ward. In addition, current vendors can use their own monies making sure to reopen their case with the commission and re-establish themselves as a client first before making any purchases. Failure to do this will result in possible denial of funds/reimbursement.

The issue of Sam's purchases by the state agency for startup inventory was resolved at the vendor retreat with the State of Nebraska now being allowed an account with Sam's for such purchases.

Motion was made by Chair Sandy Alvarado to adjourn. Motion seconded by Victor Ireland. Motion passed 12:05 pm.

The next Vendor's meeting is scheduled for December 6th at 10:00 am at the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired on 4600 Valley Road in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Adjournment.

Prepared by Antonio Aguilar, Secretary, Blind Vendor's Committee