

Blind Vendor's Committee meeting
Fairfield Inn & Suites
805 Allen Dr.
Grand Island, Nebraska
Friday, September 19, 2014

Meeting called to order by the chair, Sandy Alvarado, at 9:10 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Sandy Alvarado, BVC Chair
Chris Nolan, BVC member
Victor Ireland, BVC member

Marlin Roesler, vendor
Howard Simons, vendor
Ross Pollpeter, Vendor
Dave Johnson, vendor
Marty Bergus, vendor

Carlos Servan, NCBVI Deputy Director
Don Ward, NCBVI
Jan Stokebrand, NCBVI

Chris Hess, guest observer from NSES (Nebraska Self Employment Services)
Dan Sippl, RSVA (Randolph Sheppard Vendor's of America)
Kevan Worley, NFBEI
Shari Yates, guest observer
Jason Thompson, vendor in training

SECRETARY'S NOTE

During introductions, Ross Pollpeter was given his vendor's license by Don Ward.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Victor Ireland to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2014 meeting as distributed. Seconded by Chris Nolan. Motion passed

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR. PEARL VAN ZANT:

Dr. Van Zant was not able to attend our meeting. Carlos Servan gave the report on her behalf.

Carlos began with announcing our newest vendor, Antoinette Cervantes. She is operating the cafeteria at the joint forces in Lincoln. He continued to explain how difficult the National Guard is to work with. They are a Federal entity but the issuing of the facility is a state domain. The JF (Joint Forces) agreed to give us priority if we submitted a proposal according to the state regulations. One item the state wanted from us was a \$10,000 performance bond. This is issued in case we have a vendor that leaves and no one is in the facility. This would allow them to hire someone to run the location without expense to themselves until a permanent position is filled. We are supposed to be exempt since we are a state agency. It was a great effort to find an insurer and in the end we could not find anyone to do it. We are now insuring ourselves. Carlos explained what was meant by difficult to work with. The state has new personnel and they are being very particular about certain terminology. He then gave us a brief background of Antoinette's training in Texas to become a chef and said she was doing well so far at the JF.

The next announcement was about the 1526 K location in Lincoln. Victor manages that location and states he is doing very well in that site. Carlos explained how similar issues were possibly going to affect our receiving the awarding of that location because of similar insurance requirements. He and Dr. Pearl had worked with the Attorney General's office to get things understood by all parties. Jan now has a checklist for us to follow when a state contract comes up again to help things run easier.

Carlos announced that the Department of agriculture (DA) has contacted us to place vending machines in their offices. Don Ward explained in more detail that due to Federal laws these departments have to offer us the facility first when a location becomes available. The DH has about 100 "offices" across Nebraska. Most of these are staffed with 1 or 2 people who are in the field most of the time. He continued to explain that this would not be beneficial for a vendor since it would set them up to fail. Now with that said there are a couple of larger offices in North Platt and a couple of temporary locations in airports. The temporary locations are to be while a remodel is going on. We hope to turn them into permanent ones by the end of the remodel. Don continued with the announcement of a new location in Omaha at the Social Security offices after they had a remodel done. Sandy will be helping to open that location.

Carlos spoke of how Ms. Hess and her agency connected and how they may be able to assist our program. Her agency helps disabled persons become self-employed. He invited her to come to observe our retreat and visit with our vendors. Carlos announced that the program has received some federal monies lately and is looking for ways to build our program.

Don added that he and Carlos are continuing to work with the councilors to help them understand what our program really is and want them to help identify those new clients wanting to be a vendor. He informed us of a new councilor who is in the Nebraska City area who has a client who is going to become a vendor and they are scouting locations for him to have soon.

Don then gave us and update on the replacement of machines along the interstate. He has started replacing pop machines. The company who we have contracted with for the snack machines has moved from telling us we are waiting to get the parts to build them to we can now get the parts.

He hopes things will move along so all the swops can happen before the end of November.

Carlos asked Jan if she had anything to add. Jan explained how she doesn't just help with profit and loss statements. She helps with explaining new ways of keeping your records.

She encouraged us all to make folders on our email so we can get access to our information if our computer breaks down or we can become more organized in case we need to look something up.

Sandy asked a question to Carlos pertaining to the additional money that has become available to the program. She asked if there were plans for purchasing new machines to replace some of the older machines in existing locations now. A few reasons she stated for the purchases is due to the showing of age on the current machines and the inability to retrofit card readers to these older machines. A discussion was held between Carlos, Don and a couple of our vendors about how the card readers aren't working now. They either can't receive signals because of the buildings they are in or the machines aren't compatible because of age. Mr. Worley announced that during the upcoming BLAST conference there will be some cutting edge credit card reading technologies presented. Carlos suggested we wait until after this conference and make some decisions after that. Carlos did encourage all of the vendors to make a list of what machines they would like replaced and send a copy to Don and himself.

REPORT FROM THE BVC CHAIR:

Sandy announced that she didn't have anything to report on since she was busy putting the retreat together.

TIMELY PROFIT AND LOSS:

Jan reported that most all of the vendors are getting their reports in on time and correct. There are a couple of vendors who need to work on getting the reports in on time and encourages them to do so. She has been busy helping our new vendors with all they need to do. She also wanted to thank Sandy for all the hard work she put into the retreat.

UPDATE ON VENDORS:

Ross Pollpeter now is our newest licensed vendor. Jason Thompson and Jeremy Cash are vendors in training.

RETIREMENT OPTIONS:

Sandy explained to the general group that the BVC decided to change who manages the retirement fund from Jim Budde to Bob Burns. She explained how Mr. Burns attended the last two meetings to answer our questions and we felt satisfied and made a recommendation to the commission and they agreed. Sandy announced that Bob Burns would be presenting after lunch and for everyone to have questions for him at that time. Mr. Burns would be at the retreat until after the evening meal so anyone who wanted to could ask him questions.

INCREASE ALLOWED READER/DRIVER EXPENSE ON P/L:

Carlos and Jan suggested to the committee that they consider raising the allowed amount from \$8.10. There was a discussion held among all vendors present. Victor made a motion to change the amount for reader/driver expense on the profit and loss statement from \$8.20 to \$11. There was no second to the motion. The motion died. Chris then made a motion for the topic be tabled until the next BVC meeting. There was no second. Motion died.

UNASSIGNED MONIES:

Howard brought up a situation where he was supposed to be receiving money from a subcontract he set up with Coke and Pepsi at the Clay center location. He originally had machines at this location when the facility opened up a café'.

It eventually becomes unfeasible for him to operate there. The subcontractors have been sending money to the commission instead of him. Carlos will look into this and get back with Howard.

Sandy explained to all the vendors about what the options are for these unassigned set aside monies can be used for. They can be used for retirement, health insurance or vacations. She explained how the committee explored all these options and the committee is officially recommending that the unassigned money and all future unassigned money be placed into the retirement fund. She explained that there would be a vote at the end of sessions where all vendors will need to agree with the recommendation or disagree.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Victor announced that he has been in contact with Startran in Lincoln. He inquired with them about the vending machines at their locations. Someone did return his call and they researched the contract they had and it is a city wide contract. This contract will expire in 2017 with an option for 5 additional years with Pepsi at this time. This contract would cover the city pools, golf courses, parks...

SET NEXT MEETING:

Victor made a motion to have our next meeting on Saturday December 13, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Commission offices. Motion was seconded by Chris. Motion passed

ADJOURMENT:

Victor made a motion to adjourn. Chris seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Alvarado Chair of the BVC acting as BVC secretary

Supplemental Blind Vendor's Committee Meeting
Fairfield Inn & Suites
805 Allen Drive
Grand Island, Nebraska
Saturday, September 20, 2014

Meeting called to order by the chair, Sandy Alvarado, at 2:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Sandy Alvarado, BVC Chair
Chris Nolan, BVC member
Victor Ireland, BVC member
Antonio Aguilar BVC Secretary
Marlin Roesler, vendor
Howard Simons, vendor
Ross Pollpeter, Vendor
Dave Johnson, vendor
Marty Borges, vendor
Hardy Holm vendor
Carlos Servan, NCBVI Deputy Director
Don Ward, NCBVI
Jan Stokebrand, NCBVI
Shari Yates, guest observer
Jason Thompson, vendor in training

UNASSIGNED SET ASIDE VOTE:

Sandy reminded all present of the reason for this supplemental meeting of the BVC.

She explained about the unassigned set aside monies and what they can be used for.

She offered members the choice to give a verbal answer or they could use her

computer to vote anonymously. Everyone present chose to a verbal roll call method.

She read the following statements:

The monies brought into the program by subcontracted companies are unassigned at this time. These monies can be used for three (3) choices. They can be used for our retirement plan, health insurance or for paid vacations. After examining all of these options and looking at what would benefit all the members equally. We, the blind vendor's committee, recommend the current funds and all future monies generated by subcontractors, be placed into the retirement fund, with the proceeds to be divided equally among those vendors who have chosen to participate in the retirement plan. If you agree with this recommendation, please say yes. If you do not agree with this recommendation please say no.

Sandy than proceeded with the roll call vote. All nine vendors present voted yes. This made a majority vote and no further votes were needed among those who did not attend the meeting.

AJOURNMENT:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Victor Ireland and seconded by Antonio Aguilar. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Alvarado Chair of the BVC acting as BVC secretary