

Vendors Committee Meeting
March 7th 2015

Attendance:

Vendors:

Dave Johnson (telephonically)
Jason Thompson (telephonically)

BVC:

Sandy Alvarado, BVC chair
Antonio Aguilar, BVC Secretary
Chris Nolan

NCBVI:

Carlos Servan
Dr. Pearl Van Zandt
Jan Stokebrand
Bill Brown
Don Ward

Guests:

Nijet Worley
Deb Nolan

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am

The minutes from December 13, 2014 were read by Jan Stokebrand. Carlos Servan stated that the agency would support and purchase pay range equipment and asked to have that added into the minutes. A motion was made by Antonio Aguilar to approve the minutes from December 13, 2014, adding the note made by Carlos Servan. Seconded by Chris Nolan.

Motion passed.

Sandy explained that a note was needed to be added to the September 19, 2014 minutes. The results of the voting on the unassigned monies were needed to be reflected in the minutes. A motion was made by Antonio Aguilar to add the following note to the September 19, 2014 minutes:

Unassigned Set Aside Vote:

Sandy reminded all present of the reason for this vote. 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.

Antonio's motion was seconded by Chris Nolan.
Motion passed

Dr. Pearl Van Zandt Report:
Vendors' Committee March 2015
Quarterly report by Pearl Van Zandt, NCBVI Executive Director

The vendor who is operating the Joint Forces Canteen in Lincoln decided to leave the program. We announced the availability to current vendors, clients, and also to vendors around the country. As a result, Todd Shumaker will add this site to his business.

The second week of November we added a new site to Ron Davison's site in Omaha. This is with the Vocational Rehabilitation Office. Ron has since been replaced by Sandy due to health reasons.

We are still waiting for approval on a future contract with the VA Hospital in Lincoln.

We were offered new vending permits with the TSA (Airport) in Lincoln and Grand Island. We accepted the offers but they are still working on building those areas. When they are complete, if a vendor is not available, we plan to sub-contract them. We are also waiting to hear on an immigration building opening in Grand Island.

Update on the I-80 rest area project. Don has delivered many of the machines and is currently working on Ogallala and Sidney. We should have the new machines in place by the end of this month, as weather allows.

We have started a new vendor in Nebraska City. His name is Jeremy Cash. We are contracting with a business specialist to help our blind vendors grow their business. He started the first week of January and is looking for new sites where we can put more machines. He has reported back recently, that he has 3 or 4 possible locations. We are growing and looking for new people in Lincoln, Grand Island and Omaha. We have a person in North Platte and are looking for locations for him.

We also have a contract with small business experts, known as the Abilities Fund. They will assist vendors to improve their businesses. They have met with Todd, Antonio and Dan Knuter, so far.

The NBE team is traveling to the district offices to provide training and information to the counselors across the state about how NBE works. The Camp Ashland renewal contract was due in February. NCBVI submitted the new proposal and we are in the negotiating stages. This new contract will be for three years.

We recently signed a one year renewal on the joint forces café contract through July 2016.

Chair Report:

Sandy stated that she has been working with NBE Staff and NCBVI closely to be more in tune with the inner workings of the program.

Elections:

Elections will be held in May 2015 as per Title 192 Regulations. Any vendor wishing to have their name placed on the ballot has until April 30th 2015 to submit their interest in running. All submissions are to be made to Jan Stokebrand by that date. There must be a minimum of 5 members before ballots are sent out. Those ballots will be sent out by May 7th 2015 in print and electronic format by Jan Stokebrand.

Sandy asked a question to Dr. Pearl and Carlos regarding the by-laws of the committee. While checking the rules in Title 192 for elections, she found that there are by-laws for the committee. She was wondering if there were any in an electronic format so she could review them and decide if they may need to be revised. Dr. Pearl said she would check into it for her.

Vendor's retirement contributions showing the NCBVI match:

A question was raised that the vendors were unable to see their match for retirement contributions. Bill Brown stated that Jan Stokebrand already sent out statement to vendors showing the retirement match. Starting immediately quarterly statements will be sent. Those reports will also include set aside contributions in addition to the match. Sandy asked that future statements that are sent electronically be accessible.

Update on Vendors:
Refer to Dr. Van Zandt's Report.

Timely and accurate profit/loss submissions:

Jan stated she is working with 3 vendors to help them get their reports caught up.

Further discussion on new cashless payment equipment:

Don Ward updated that he is working on getting and setting up the pay range equipment, stating he has ordered 24 units and will begin installation upon arrival of the units. Dr. Pearl asked how these items were going to be distributed fairly. Don informed her that some machines won't be able to use these devices yet but will give a few to each person who expressed interest in using them.

New Business:

This is a clarification on the definition of distribution of unassigned set aside monies with in the retirement program.

Those vendors eligible are those who are actively working licensed vendors who have a positive balance in their retirement account.

The monies will be distributed as follows.

All unassigned set aside monies collected by December 31, 2014 will be distributed equally to those who entered the retirement program before December 31st 2014. All future monies that are collected will be distributed among all eligible persons on a quarterly basis.

Next Meeting

A motion was made by Antonio Aguilar to set the date for our next meeting to be held on May 30, 2015 in Omaha, NE. The time will be at 10:30 am and the specific location is to be announced at a later time. Seconded by Chris Nolan.

Motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Chris Nolan to adjourn seconded by Antonio Aguilar.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Report prepared by Antonio Aguilar
Secretary: BVC