

Nebraska Blind Licensees Committee Meeting
Courtyard by Marriott
808 R Street Lincoln, NE
September 18, 2015

Meeting Called To Order by Chair Sandy Alvarado at 8:05 PM:

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair: Sandy Alvarado

Vice-Chair: Victor Ireland

Secretary: Ross Pollpeter

Antonio Aguilar

Vendors in attendance: Marty Borges, Hardy Holm, Dave Johnson, Marlin Roesler, Jason Thompson

NCBVI Staff in attendance:

Executive Director, Dr. Pearl Van Zandt

Deputy Director, Carlos Servan

Jan Stokebrand

Don Ward

Nancy Coffman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Antonio Aguilar to approve the minutes from the last meeting on May 30, 2015 as distributed. Seconded by Victor Ireland.
Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Report from Dr. Pearl Van Zandt, NCBVI Executive Director:

(Secretary's note: Below is the report given by Dr. Pearl Van Zandt. When comments or questions were made a () will enclose the additional comments/questions.)

NBE Report to the Committee September 18, 2015

The Joint Forces Cafe, at the National Guard in Lincoln, has been closed. Our contract ended July 13.

Update on the I-80 rest area project. All of the new machines for the rest areas are in place and the ADA updates are complete on the candy machines. Don is currently working on solving a few issues with these new machines.

The DOR is updating all rest areas in the next year to make sidewalks and doorways ADA compliant. Each one will be closed for about 6 weeks. This has already started with Gretna near Omaha. The progress is slow and DOR is three weeks behind schedule at this point.

Jason Thompson has started with one location in North Platte, and we are working on new locations for him.

Jeremy Cash started the first of the year in Nebraska City. He now has three buildings and has several more in the works.

Howard Simons has retired as of the end of July. Dave Johnson is now operating Howard's rest areas.

(Don Ward added that two post office locations and one private site are available due to Howard's retirement.)

Susan Gashel visited Lincoln in June and met with the SLA staff and a representative of the Nebraska Attorney General's office to talk about the Randolph – Sheppard program, and ways to improve our laws, here in Nebraska. Susan is an attorney from Colorado who works with the National Association of Blind Merchants (NABM), advocating for the rights of blind vendors.

Carlos and Pearl also met with Byron Diamond on September 17 to talk about the Nebraska priority and ways to work better with the State of Nebraska Department of Administrative Services.

We have begun installing a new cashless system called Pay-Range, on Sandy and Ross's machines in Omaha. There will be future updates on how they are working, so we can determine whether to place them at other locations.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR, Sandy Alvarado:

Sandy reported she continues to meet with the Nebraska Business Enterprises (NBE) team on a regular basis to help keep communications between the SLA and the licensees open. She explained that she has been taking a certification class to learn more about how to market the PayRange devices and would expand on her experience later in the meeting.

Timely and accurate profit/loss submissions /Jan Stokebrand's Report:

Jan reported many blind licensees, as many as 7 of 17, are submitting their Profit/Loss Reports late. Some are more than 30 days late submitting their reports, especially their Set Aside checks. She reminded everyone that reports and Set Aside checks must be submitted by the 20th of the month. She encouraged blind licensees to add their receipts multiple times to ensure accuracy. Lastly, Jan reported there is \$783 of unassigned monies to be distributed among the blind licensees participating in the retirement plan.

UPDATE ON VENDORS:

One veteran blind licensee has retired, leaving his locations available in Grand Island, NE. Two new blind licensees have started working in their sites. Three potential blind licensees attended the meeting and the retreat seeking information about the NBE Program.

Report on Cashless Payment Options:

Sandy Alvarado has completed a six-week certification course for PayRange, a cashless payment device. The PayRange device costs only \$49 each, and may be installed in any vending machine with a MBB connection on the bill acceptor. Discussion was held amongst the blind licensees, NCBVI staff, and guests about PayRange and how it works. Sandy Alvarado and Ross Pollpeter have both installed devices in some machines with growing success. Victor Ireland and Marlin Roesler may soon have devices installed in some of their machines.

New Business:

The Blind Licensees Committee discussed new verbiage for the by-laws that includes changing the number of the interviewing panel from 5 to 3, changing meeting dates from certain months to be quarterly, and changing the verbiage from blind vendors to blind licensees. In addition, the committee discussed an amendment stating committee members must be physically present for all meetings with only one absence. Special elections will be held if a committee member is removed.

Motion was made by Antonio Aguilar to approve new verbiage for the bylaws and the new amendment. Seconded by Victor Ireland. Motion passed. Changes to the by-laws take effect starting at the adjournment of the meeting.

Additional New Business:

Jan Stokebrand informed the committee that a blind licensee is struggling to pay the Department of Roads utility fee. She proposed the idea of establishing subsidies for hardship. Discussion was held on this topic.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

After a brief discussion of what days and times work best for most members, Victor made a motion to hold our next BLC meeting on Saturday, December 5, 2015 starting at 10:00 am. It will be held in Lincoln at the NCBVI office, room to be announced. Motion was seconded by Ross Pollpeter. Motion passed.

ADJOURN:

Antonio Aguilar made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned, it was seconded by Victor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:
Ross Pollpeter, BLC Secretary