

Nebraska Blind Licensees Committee Meeting

Nebraska Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired

4600 Valley Road, Lincoln, NE 68510

September 24, 2016

Meeting Called To Order by Chair Sandy Alvarado at 10:10 AM.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Chair: Sandy Alvarado

Secretary: Ross Pollpeter

Antonio Aguilar

Todd Shumaker

Blind Licensees in attendance:

Wiley Elmshouser, Dave Johnson (phone), Chris Nolan, Jason Thompson

NCBVI Staff in attendance:

Carlos Servan, Deputy Director

Don Ward, NBE

Jan Stokebrand, NBE

Bill Brown, Business Manager

Elaine Kavulak, Orientation Counselor

Guests: Bob Burns, Alex Curtis, Nathan Keyes, Patti Lind, Nolan's driver: Deb

Open Meeting Act: A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was available. The meeting notice was published in the Omaha World Herald, NCBVI Website, and NFB Newsline®. The Notice was also sent to the NCBVI List Serve.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Antonio Aguilar to approve the minutes from the last meeting on June 11, 2016 as distributed. Ross Pollpeter seconded. Motion passed.

Presentation by Bob Burns, on Retirement Benefits

Currently the 457 Retirement Plan has an annual administrative cost of approximately \$1,500. The Commission has been paying this ever increasing cost. Due to the state audit, it was determined that the Commission is not allowed to pay this cost. Due to the size of the plan and number of participants in the plan it has become necessary to look at other options. The best option is to terminate the current 457 Retirement Plan. Each participant will have his account proceeds transferred to their individual current IRA account. Bob Burns will prepare the paperwork for this rollover. The exact funds that you held in the 457 will be transferred to your individual IRA after signing a transfer request. It will be very important for all participants to follow the instructions that Bob Burns will give you on this matter.

Moving forward, the committee voted for set-aside to continue to match participating licensee contributions into their own IRAs up to \$900 a year. Bob Burns will notify the Commission of a contribution and then the Commission will send the set-aside account match directly into the participant's own IRA. This gives each Licensee more control over his or her own retirement account. It also allows them to choose other investment options. Bob Burns will advise each Licensee on options to consider.

In short, it is a good change and will provide better return for set-aside expenditures. Each Licensee will have more control and more options over his or

her retirement plan. Contact Bob Burns if you have questions. Bob will be contacting each Licensee in the next few weeks to explain what each participant needs to do to roll his 457 Retirement Account into an IRA.

Mr. Burns' contact information is as follows:

Burns and Porter Associates

11330 Q Street, Suite 220

Omaha, NE 68137

402-331-9497

burnsandporter@qwestoffice.net

Discussion held. Consensus is that a greater advantage is had by making this recommended change now as opposed to later. Antonio Aguilar made a motion to terminate the 457 Plans and have future Set Aside matches directly contributed to individual IRA accounts chosen by participating blind licensees. Todd Shumaker seconded. Motion passed.

Annual Retirement Discussion: Increase or decrease retirement as outlined in

Title 192 page 10:

Dave Johnson suggested to remain at a \$75 Set Aside match for the sake of new blind licensees in the program and revisit discussion next year. Chris Nolan and Todd Shumaker recommended increasing to \$100 monthly. Jan Stokebrand made a suggestion we budget this potential increase in our Set Aside matches. Antonio Aguilar made a motion to not change our current annual Set Aside match of \$900. Ross Pollpeter seconded. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

Report from Carlos Servan, Deputy Director: (Secretary's note: Below is the report given by Mr. Servan. When comments or questions were made a () will enclose the additional comments/questions.

NBE Report to the Committee September 24, 2016

All rest areas are complete and reopened; and we put our machines back. Grand Island West bound is closed for some maintenance work; it is not part of the other project. As we reported last time, we were awarded the DOR building café, and opened it in July and we are doing fine. We were also awarded the DOR vending contract in August, which includes 17 machines. Both sites are without rent and will be operated by Victor Ireland.

We will transfer Victor's previous two locations to Jason Thompson. This includes 1526 K and the Joint forces building at the National Guard in Lincoln. Jason will add those to his post office annexes and the Nebraska Historical Society Museum. Jason recently moved to Lincoln to take over the 4 post office annexes and he will have these locations plus the 2 transferred from Victor.

The NBE team completed presentations at NCBVI District Offices to better inform counselors about NBE and how someone can become a licensee, with the most recent presentation completed in Omaha.

Tracey Bradley started at the Norfolk post office, as our newest vendor.

Remodeling at the Craft state office building in North Platte, is complete and we placed our machines back there with no rent charged. Another recent opportunity, we were contacted by Nebraska Dept. of Corrections in regards

to operating their vending machines in 9 to 11 buildings across the state. Don has toured several locations and will look at more in Sept. and Oct. We are looking at their other locations and will be adding these to the program in the future. We are also looking at the state office building in Omaha for the vending operation to start within the next few months as well as running a café there.

We interviewed and offer the job for the NBE position to Leonard LeBental. He comes to us with private sector business experience as a former small business owner, now retired. To his admission, he says that he is 60 years old and feels he has much to contribute. He did his homework on the agency and NBE, and he is excited about the 6 week training process. Leonard does not think he will have any issues with taking supervision.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR, Sandy Alvarado:

I continue to attend NBE meetings to keep informed of what the NCBVI is doing for us and to make sure we, the committee members, are involved with active participation. I participated in the Omaha training with the NBE team. We are working to inform all NCBVI employees about NBE and what a person would need to do to join us. I hope to get some good interest for our sites without managers now and in the future.

Carlos and I have been working on updating the Operator Agreement to reflect an easier understanding of the expectations for all parties involved.

BLAST will be held from September 12 – 17, 2017 in Nashville, TN. Please plan to attend and note that Sagebrush is usually held around February 14th each year in Las Vegas, NV. Make your plans soon if you plan to attend.

Important issues we should be contacting our congress about: Congress will be in session just a little while longer to complete business before members return home for the 2016 political campaign. While still at the Capitol, members of Congress are in a position to co-sponsor the TIME Act (H.R. 188 and S. 2001). We are asking you to make three phone calls: one to your House member and one to each of your two senators. The only senators who have sponsored this bill are Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Michael Bennett of Colorado. The time act is dealing with fare wages for all people; H.R. 3765, the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2015. Under the framework of H.R. 3765, a person with a disability confronting access barriers would be required to give a written notice to the business owner, who then has 60 days to even acknowledge the problem, followed by an additional 120 days to take corrective action. No other group is required to wait 180 days to enforce their civil rights. We need to let our Representatives know that we don't support this change at all.

Training on calorie content? Vendors required to do this per law

As of December 1, 2016, all licensees who manage 20 or more machines in state or federal property will have to disclose the calorie content of their products.

Some products such as candy and some Frito-Lay products have already altered their packaging to include the calorie count on the front. Pepsi and Coca-Cola have new vending machine button labels that also display the calories of their beverages. For those products that do not display the calorie content, the blind licensee will have to post information on the front of the vending machine that shows the calorie content of each product found in that machine.

Update on Profit and Loss Reports

Many blind licensees submit their Profit and Loss reports late. There are 3 who have not yet submitted their July P&L reports, and there are 8 who are late with their August reports. When blind licensees are late with their Set Aside checks, it affects the NBE Balance.

Update on Licensees, introduce new trainee(s)

Two potential blind licensees were introduced to the NBE Committee, Alex Curtis and Nathan Keyes, both of the Omaha area.

Discuss Training for next quarterly committee meeting

A suggestion was made to invite Terry Smith, Executive Director of the National Federation of the Blind Entrepreneur's Initiative (NFBEI) to speak about Active Participation at our next meeting.

New business

Victor Ireland has resigned his position in the NBE Committee as Vice Chair due to health complications. Antonio Aguilar volunteered to be acting Vice Chair until special elections may be held to fill the vacant position in the NBE Committee. A notice will be sent to all active blind licensees about the election for the position to the NBE Committee, and the newly elected committee member will be announced at the next committee meeting. At that meeting, the NBE Committee will meet privately to elect the officers.

Set date for next meeting

Discussion was held. Ross Poll Peter made a motion to conduct the next meeting on Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 AM in Omaha, NE. Antonio Aguilar seconded. Motion passed.

Training: Patti Lind of the Abilities Fund conducted a training session after the meeting. NCBVI has a contract with Patti Lind at Abilities Fund, to provide training for all licensees on an individual basis. Patti will be calling each licensee soon to offer her services. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity!

ADJOURN:

Antonio Aguilar made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Todd Shumaker seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ross Pollpeter, BLC Secretary