

Hello, my name is Brent Heyen and I am happy to introduce myself to you. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the Blind of Nebraska as well as to give back to the organization that gave me so much. I was born in Friend, NE where I was quickly transferred to St. Elizabeth's here in Lincoln. It would take time, but I was originally diagnosed with Optic Nerve Atrophy, a condition that is caused by a lack of oxygen either just before or just after birth. It causes the optic nerves to shrink in size, and makes me very near-sighted.

I grew up out in the country near Syracuse, NE where the then Services for the Visually Impaired first became aware of me in my Junior year. Before attending college at Chadron State College where I majored in Biology with the hopes of one day becoming a Veterinarian I attended the Center for the summer. During my time in college I served as the treasurer of the NABS, and eventually the fundraising committee chairman of the NFBN. While my dreams of becoming a veterinarian did not happen, I did fall in love with becoming a science teacher. Over the years, I had the pleasure of working WAGES several time, as well as arranging an anniversary banquet for the Center, and even organizing the unfortunately short-lived Alumni Association.

Over the years, I taught for 4 years, and eventually went to the seminary in the hopes of becoming a Catholic Priest. Now, however, I work in the hospitality industry as an Assistant General Manager of a hotel here in Lincoln, NE. I have always sought to serve, and to give back to that which has given me so much. For the opportunity of serving on the Board of Commissioners, I am grateful.