

Blind Vendor's Committee Meeting
Saturday, June 2, 2012
Camp Ashland
220 County Road A
Ashland, NE 68003

Members in attendance:

Howard Simons-chairman
Dave Johnson-vice chairman
Sandy Alvarado-secretary
Todd Shumaker
Antonio Aguilar

NCBVI employees in attendance:

Dr. Pearl Van Zandt, Executive Director
Carlos Servan, Deputy Director
Jan Stokebrand

Guest:

Oscar Alvarado

Meeting called to order by Howard Simons at 10:05 am

Approval of minutes:

Motion made to approve minutes from March 2012 as sent via email.
Motion made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Sandy Alvarado.
Motion passed.

Tour of facility:

Discussion held on best time to tour. It was decided to take a break at 10:30 am to take the tour.

Set aside:

Dr. Van Zandt gave a brief overview of the past few years totals received for set aside. She stated that projected figures for 2012 are slightly higher than last year and suggested that the amount of set aside could be lowered to 12.5%. Sandy asked if lowering the rate would still provide enough money for the program and what the set aside is used for. Carlos and Dr. Pearl took turns explaining how the money is used. Additional funds are available for the program besides what the vendor's pay. Motion made by Dave Johnson to lower our set aside rate to 12.5% for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Seconded by Sandy Alvarado, motion was passed.

Secretary's note:

Below is the report Dr. Van Zandt prepared for this discussion.

Annual Discussion of Set Aside Rate: June 2012

Each year, we review the level of Set Aside paid by Vendors to NCBVI. A decision needs to be made as to whether to raise, lower, or leave the Set Aside rate as is. Background perspective:

Year 2000, the total set aside collected was \$47,733.37

Year 2010, the set aside was \$40,784.59

Year 2011, the set aside was \$39,304.79

Year 2012, projected set aside is \$41,076.00

The numbers vary from year to year, as sales have decreased due to the economy. Also the number of vendors has decreased. In 2000, there were 23 vendors; currently the count is 15. However, with two vendor's outstanding increase in set aside, we are predicting the 2012 set aside to be similar to 2011 and 2010. Remember, we do not have vending machines at the state office building, the state capitol, and the executive building. With less number of machines, less support is needed from the NBE program. We propose that the level be decreased by ½ percent.

New Vendor:

Chris Nolan now has his license and is managing unit 141. He is doing well.

Current vendor updates:

Dan Knuter manages unit 135 and unit 145. Now the two units will be combined to be called unit 135.

New vendor committee position:

Motion made by Dave Johnson to make Chris Nolan the alternate for the vendor committee upon his acceptance. Sandy Alvarado seconded the motion, motion passed.

Executive report:

Secretary's note:

Below is Dr Van Zandt's report from which she read at the meeting.
NBE Report – June 2012

During the past year we have been working more with the field staff, but we are still in transition. Rehab Counselors need to get familiar with the NBE guidelines when working with a potential vendor. For instance, the counselors need to make sure that we have proof of blindness, proof of citizenship, and math and English tests results; as well as follow-up on the center evaluation for the potential vendor.

We also worked on holding vendors accountable. We put up to five vendors on probation, and let one go. As of now, no one is on probation and we are getting most of the paperwork on time.

Some vendors retired and we gave sites to current vendors so they can make more money. Some examples are the Omaha Post Office, the Immigration Building, and the Lincoln library building. We also have a new vendor who is doing great at the State Office Building Cafeteria in Lincoln. The average net for 2010 was \$1,193; the 2011 net average was \$1,325; and the net average for 2012 was \$1,573.39. For instance, one vendor in 2010 made \$1,789; in 2011 he made \$2,625; and now 2012 he is making \$2,693.

Average Set Aside for FY 2010 = \$178. Average set aside for FY2011 = \$197. Average set aside for October 2011 up to Feb = \$234.

Another big change was to have a blind manager in charge of the contract with the National Guard rather than sub-contracting with a corporation.

This has been very successful; the soldiers are happy with the service and so is the agency.

The NBE team had a retreat at the end of 2011. This is helping to shape the new way we are running the program.

We had training for vendors in October 2011. This came-up as a result of a vendor's suggestions.

We did some contracting with Universal Vending (5 small buildings in Lincoln and the Post Office).

LB1006 was attached to a larger bill and the governor did sign it. It will take effect July 13. Dr. Van Zandt and Carlos are planning to meet with the Nebraska Secretary of Transportation to see if we can get new contracts in their buildings.

Interstate Commercialization, HR7: Congress introduced this bill and it had the potential to reduce the number of vendors in the Interstate rest stops as it would give access to the private sector. Consumers contacted Congress and it did not pass. Carlos sent an up-date on this bill the week of February 13. However, we need to be alert in case the issue comes up again and express our voices when needed.

Timely profit and loss submissions:

Jan is very pleased. Everyone is getting the reports in on time for the most part. Simple omissions, such as missing receipts, are easily fixed.

Took a break from the meeting to tour the Camp Ashland Dining Facility.

Continued the meeting with discussion of 2012 retreat:

This year's retreat is scheduled for September 7th and 8th. It will be held at the Marriott in Omaha. Carlos and Dr. Pearl asked if the committee would appoint a subcommittee to help form what would be offered at the retreat. Howard, Antonio and Sandy will make up the subcommittee. Carlos then asked Sandy if she would be the contact person for the committee. She said she would. The first conference call is scheduled to be held on Wednesday June 20 at 4:00 pm. The conference number will be sent out as the date of the meeting approaches.

Old business:

Howard inquired about the expected arrival of new pop machines for his locations. Howard would like to be notified when and who comes out to work on the machines. Someone came out last week and he didn't know who they were. Carlos said he will check into who it was for him.

Set date for next meeting:

The next committee meeting will be at the retreat at the Marriott Hotel in Omaha, on Friday September 7, 2012 at 3:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sandy Alvarado

Blind Vendors Committee Secretary