**Minutes of the June 19, 2014 Executive Council Meeting**

**of the**

**American Council of the Blind of Nebraska (ACBN)**

The Executive Council meeting came to order at 7:07 PM by conference call. ACBN Board members: Chris Brennfoeder, Sharon Brennfoerder, Mark Bulger, Jim Jirak, Katie Keenan, Dale Oviatt, and Glennie Weiland were in attendance by telephone. Terry Brennfoeder was also in attendance as a guest.

**Item #1 2015 ACBN State Convention Location**

Hotel bids from the Comfort Inn, Embassy Suites, and Regency Lodges, all in Omaha, were received and reviewed. The hotel used in previous years in Fremont is no longer open. The hotel in Columbus used in previous years has changed owners and failed to provide a requested bid. Lincoln hotels appeared to be more costly but no formal bids were received.

 Mark made the motion "***To hold the 2015 ACBN State convention at the Regency Lodge in Omaha"***. Motion seconded by Glennie. Motion passed unanimously. Jim will contact the Regency Lodge and make arrangement to hold the ACBN State Convention Regency Lodge April 17, 18, and 19, of 2015.

**Item #2 ACBN CD and Savings Interest**

Currently, ACBN has $32,000 in a CD set to expire in September 2014. The CD yields an annual interest rate of 0.25%. ACBN also has $7,000 in a bank savings account y. The saving account yields even less of an interest rate. Dale informed the Board that higher rates of returns are available that are still safe investments. Last year the Vanguard Long Investment Grade Bond Fund yielded an annual return of 4%. Over the past 30 years, the fund average 7% returns per year. It is a $15 Billion fund that consists of 692 high investment grade bonds. The annual investment fees is 0.22%, which low compared to most funds. There is an annual account fee of $20, which may be waived with larger accounts.

While bond funds are not FDIC guaranteed like money in banks, the risk of loss is low. Fund performance can be closely monitored and moved out, if necessary without penalty. Mark made the motion ***"To invest 32,000 in the Long Investment Grade Bond Fund in September when the CD matures, along with moving the $7,000 in the Saving Account to the same Vanguard fund"***. Dale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There is $4,368.90 in the ACBN checking account that will remain there. It will be used to pay costs associated with sustaining the organization's business. Dale will take the necessary actions to move the CD and Savings money to the Vanguard fund.

**Item #3 ACBN Web Site Software Costs**

Jim is the webmaster for the ACBN. Windows XP is no longer supported by Microsoft. This required Jim to upgrade his computer and the needed Dreamweaver software to post the ACBN web site on the Internet. The cost of the new Dreamweaver software is $426.93. Jim also is webmaster for Share A Fare, OAB, and his personal site. Sharon made the motion: **"*To reimburse Jim for ¼ of the Dreamweaver Software cost, which is $106.73, because the software is needed to keep up the ACBN web site"***. Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jim will send a copy of the software receipt by mail to Dale for reimbursement.

**Item #4 Senators' Luncheon with ACBN**

A senators Luncheon is a good opportunity for ACBN members to meet state senators and discuss the issues and pending bills important to the blind of Nebraska. The cost of the luncheon last time was about $200. ACB members pay for their own lunch. Chris made a motion: ***"To have ACBN host a Senator's Luncheon sometime in early 2015".***  Dale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There is a better senator attendance when the lunch is held near that capital. Jim will appoint someone to coordinate and schedule the luncheon.

**Item #5 File Cabinet for ACBN Records**

Dale, Glennie, Jim, and Mark recently went through a considerable amount of old ACBN records. Records for the past 7 years were kept and organized. The older records need to be shredded. A file cabinet is needed to keep the ACBN records safe and organized. Glennie made the motion: ***"To authorize Dale to select and purchase a two drawer file cabinet suitable to store ACBN records"***. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dale will purchase the two drawer file cabinet. He will have the old ACBN records shredded in the near future.

**Adjournment**

The next quarterly meeting will be held the third Saturday of October at the Regency Lodge, the site of the 2015 ACBN State Convention. Dale made the Motion: "To adjourn the meeting". Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

**Minutes were recorded and submitted by Mark Bulger, ACBN Secretary.**