**Minutes of the 2015 ACBN State Convention**

**Business Meeting**

The Business Meeting came to order around 2:45 PM Saturday, at the Regency Lodge in Omaha. Board members Sharon Brennfoeder, Terry Brenfoeder, Mark Bulger, Barbara Epworth, and Jim Jirak, Dale Oviatt, and Glennie Weiland were in attendance. Also in attendance were numerous ACBN State Convention members and guests.

**Item #1: Reading of Minutes:**

Mark read the minutes from the 2014 ACBN State Convention. A motion was passed "***To approve the 2014 State Convention Business Meeting minutes"***.

**Item #2: Treasurer's Report:**

Dale gave the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report detail is available from Dale. A motion was unanimously passed "***To approve the Treasurer's Report"***.

**Item #3: Announcements:**

* **Next NCBVI Commission Meeting:** The next Commissioners' meeting will be May 2, 2015 in Kearney. The Board will perform an annual evaluation of the Executive Director. Jim encourages membership to attend the meetings to offer support and ask questions.
* **National Convention:** The next ACB National Convention will be hosted in Dallas Texas in July, 2015.
* **ACB Designee to the NCBVI Board of Commissioners:** Jim's second and final four year term as ACB Designee Commissioner will end December 31, 2015. Another ACB member needs to apply for this position by completing an application and submitting it to the Governor Office by October, along with reference letters of support. The ACBN President will write a letter of support and send it to Governor's Office.

**Item 4: Elections (vice-president and secretary):**

* Chris Brenfoerder was elected Vice President by unanimous Acclamation.
* Mark Bulger was re-elected Secretary by unanimous Acclamation.

The Board, members, and quests expressed their appreciation to outgoing vice-president Glennie Weiland, for her many years of service on the ACBN Board.

**Item 5: Committee Reports:**

* **Membership:** Mark reminded the membership that all ACBN members are on the membership committee. The best way we attract new members is to invite other blind people that we know or meet to come check out the ACBN.
* **Convention:** The ACBN Board planned the State Convention this year. A big thank you is due to all that donating auction items and door prizes, solicited donation items, sand helped in so many ways to help host the convention.
* **Budget & Finance**: Treasurer Dale is doing a good job of monitoring and minimizing spending. The bond fund has been developing income to help fund a portion of the organizational expenses.
* **Legislation & Advocacy:**  The ACBN supports the proposed NCBVI Budget and the need for additional to funding add staff for transition requirements associated with WIOA. Jim and Mark went to Washington DC in February to attend the mid-year legislative seminar. They met with their congressman and US Senators to discuss the ACB's legislative imperatives.
* **Audit including 2014 form 990 status:** Determined an outside audit t not necessary this year. Treasurer Dale prepares and submits the 990 form.
* **f.) Fund Raising:** Fundraising needs to become a future priority to avoid deficit spending that dips into existing financial resources.

***The Business Meeting adjourned around 4:15 PM Saturday for the day. It re-started again Sunday, around 9:15 AM.***

**Item 6: Reports:**

* **Corresponding Secretary:** Sharon reported that the appropriate cards and letters were sent to the appropriate people at the appropriate times.
* **Chapter Reports**: Lincoln Chapter Representative Terry Brennfoeder and Omaha Chapter Representative Bar Epworth each gave a recap of their local chapter's activities.
* **ACBN Website:** Currently, ACBN does not have webmaster resources in-house to support an ACBN website. Jim is actively seeking outside resources to perform the needed ACBN website webmaster duties.

**Item #7: Old Business:**

No additional old business was discussed.

**Item #8: New Business:**

**BBB Letter of Accreditation for not-for-profits:** The Board discussed the benefits and costs associated with BBB Accreditation, but no action was taken.

**Adjournment:**

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the business meeting around 10:00 AM.