Minutes of the October 30, 2015 Executive Council Meeting

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

The Executive Council meeting came to order at 6:42 PM, at the Village Inn near 72nd & Dodge, in Omaha. Board members Chris Brennfoerder, Sharon Brenfoeder, Terry Brenfoeder, Mark Bulger, Barbara Epworth, and Jim Jirak and Dale Oviatt were in attendance. Also in attendance as guests were Becky Brennfoerder and Mary Oviatt.

In the interest of time, the minutes from the January Board meeting were not read or approved at the July Board meeting held via telephone conference call. Mark read the minutes from the January, 2015 Board Meeting. Barb made a motion: "To approve the January minutes as read". Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Read the Minutes from the July 1, 2015 Board meeting that was held via conference call. Chris made a motion "To approve the July Board minutes as read". Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #1: Treasurer's Report

Dale gave the Treasurer's Report.

Current Total ACBN Financial Resources: $41,624 \*

\* This amount does not include funds that ate being temporarily held by the ACBN for the Midwest Leadership Conference for the National ACB.

Current Checking Amount is $916

Current Savings Amount is $1,842

Current Bond Fund Value is $38,865.

 Year to date, the fund has generated $1,548 in dividends and capitals gains.

Actual expenses year to date are on track with the budget. This year's Senator Luncheon held hosted 10 or 11 senators and senate staff people. The cost of the Luncheon was nearly $600.

Mark made a motion: "To approve the Treasurer's Report". The motion was seconded by Sharon. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #2: NCBVI Commissioners' Meeting

The Next NCBVI Commissioners meeting will be at 1313 Farnam Street, in Omaha, at 9 AM on Saturday November 7th.

Jim's second and final four year term as ACBN representative on the NCBVI Board ends at the end of 2015. Jim wrote a letter from ACBN to the Governor, recommending that Mark Bulger be the next ACBN designee on the NCBVI Board effective January 1, 2016. Mark reported to the Board that he has completed all of the necessary application requirements and submitted it to the Governor's Office for consideration.

 Item #3: ACBN Website

Jim reported that the ACBN website now has its own unique web address, has been updated, and it is up and running

Item #4: 2016 ACB Midwest Leadership Conference

Jim reported that the ACB Midwest Leadership Conference will hosted in Omaha, at the Regency Lodge, on August 5, 6, & & 7, 2016. Currently, the ACBN Treasury has $6,630 in funds from ACB National to fund this conference. These funds have been temporarily parked and are being kept separate from ACBN's finances. Potential speakers may be Tom Osborn and Tom Harkin.

Item #5 July 15, 2015 Board Conference Call:

The Board met via conference call on July 15th. The 2015 ACBN State Convention cost about $2,000 to host than it generated from the convention fees it collected. Due to cost considerations, the Board Discussed and developed costs to host the 2016 ACBN State Convention somewhere other than a hotel. Options at the First United Methodist Church and a Recreation Park in Ashland were investigated. The Board decide to host a one day 2016 ACBN at the church that the OCB meets at each month to reduce convention costs on April 9th. The cost to reserve the church for an entire day is $215.

Item #6: President Jim Jirak's Future availability:

Jim informed the Board that he will be beginning new employment at Cox Communication soon. His work schedule will require that he work evenings and potentially weekends. He may not be as readily available as he has been in the past.

Item #7: ACBN 2016 State Convention

 Jim and other Board members have been hearing concerns from ACBN membership about the Board's decision to change the State Convention venue away from a hotel environment.

The Board agreed that it is more desirable to host a convention at a hotel than a church. Hotels do offer full service and allows the time and facilities for the convention attendees to get to know each other better. The Board agreed that additional funds would have to be raised to help offset the costs of hosting a State Convention at a Hotel.

Mark made a motion: "To host the 2016 ACBN State Convention at the Regency Lodge in Omaha, contingent upon the hotel still being available, with the understanding that fundraising efforts will be made in Omaha and Lincoln. to help offset the costs of hosting it at the hotel". The motion was seconded by Barb. The motion unanimously passed. Jim will check with hotel to make sure that it is still available. Dale will cancel the reservation at First United Methodist Church. Mark agreed to lead this fund raising effort at Walmart, selling suckers and taking donations. The OCB Chapter recently held a one day fundraiser at Walmart and cleared about $300 after expenses. The ACBN Board will consider selling Younkers Coupon Books for Spring Community Days Fundraising event.

Item #8: Chapter updates

Terry gave an update of the Lincoln Chapter activities. The Lincoln Chapter transferred $7,600 from their CD to the Give A Lift program.

Barb gave an update of the Omaha Chapter activities. In June the Chapter co-sponsored a picnic with the Commission, for blind youth and their families. The Chapter plans to make this an annual event.

Adjournment:

The next quarterly meeting will be in January, 2016. A motion was unanimously passed: "To adjourn the ACBN Board meeting" at 8:13 PM.

Minutes have been prepared by Mark Bulger, ACBN Secretary.