**Minutes of the 2016 ACBN State Convention**

**Business Meeting**

The Business Meeting came to order around 9:50 AM Sunday April 24, 2016, at the Regency Lodge in Omaha. Board members Chris Brennfoeder, Mark Bulger, Barbara Epworth, Jim Jirak, and Dale Oviatt were in attendance. Corresponding Secretary Sharon Brenfoeder was absent. Also in attendance were numerous ACBN State Convention members and guests.

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

The minutes from the 2015 State Convention were read by Mark. A motion was passed "***To approve the 2015 State Convention Business Meeting minutes"***.

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

Dale gave the Treasurer's Report.

CY2015 Financial Activity:

* Revenue was $5,472.
* Disbursements were $7,207.
* Deficit spending was $1,735.

As of March 31st, 2016 ACBN has the following fund sources:

* Checking: $1,190
* Savings: $1,842
* Bond Fund: $40,758
* Total Funds $43,790

The Bond Fund generates about $140 per month in interest. ACBN needs to do future fundraising to avoid taking money out of the Bond fund to cover yearly expenses. 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 7, 2015 in Norfolk. The Board will perform an annual evaluation of the Executive Director. Mark encourages membership to attend the meetings to offer support and ask questions.
* **National Convention:** The next ACB National Convention will be hosted in Minneapolis, MN in July, 2016.

**Item 4: Elections (President, Treasurer. And Corresponding Secretary):**

* Mark Bulger was elected President by unanimous Acclamation.
* Jim Jirak was elected to fill the one year remaining on the Secretary Seat Mark vacated to become President by unanimous Acclamation.
* Dale Oviatt was re-elected Treasurer by unanimous Acclamation.
* Kathy Fox was elected Corresponding Secretary by unanimous Acclamation.

**Item 5: Committee Reports:**

* **Membership:** The Board 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 continues 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:**  ACBN will be supporting future Mini-Randolph Sheppard Vending legislation for State Buildings in Nebraska. Jim and Mark went to Washington DC earlier this year to attend the ACB 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:** Treasurer Dale prepares and submits the 990 N postcard form because ACBN's annual income is less than $50,000. .
* **f.) Fund Raising:** Fundraising needs to become a future priority to avoid deficit spending that dips into existing financial resources. ACBN raised about $200 from Younker's Spring Community Days Sale. Mark will be leading fundraising efforts at Walmart in Omaha and Lincoln this year. A motion was made and unanimously passed for: ***"ACBN to participate in the Omaha Gives fundraising event in 2017".***

**Item 6: Reports:**

* **Corresponding Secretary:** The Corresponding Secretary's report stated that the appropriate cards and letters were sent to the appropriate people at the appropriate times.
* **Chapter Reports**: Lincoln Chapter Representative Chris 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 found an outside volunteer resource to perform the needed ACBN website webmaster duties. Currently, there are accessibility issues that need to be addressed.
* **NCBVI Commissioner Report:** Effective January 1, 2016, Mark replaced Jim Jirak, Who served two, four year terms as the ACBN Commissioner. So far, Mark has attended the Quarterly Commissioners' Board Meeting in Omaha in February. The Quarterly Vendors' Meeting in Omaha in February, a Commissioners' Retreat in Kearney in March, and a the Yearly NCBVI Staff Meeting in Norfolk in April.

**Item #7: Old Business:**

No additional old business was discussed.

**Item #8: New Business:**

* **2017 ACBN State Convention:** The annual State Convention has been hosted in Omaha the past three years. The Board would like to host the State Convention at a different location. Jim has a couple bids from Lincoln for the Board to consider at their next Meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the business meeting at 11:11 AM.