American Council of the Blind of Nebraska

State Convention Minutes

Regency Lodge April 23, 2017

In absence of President Mark Bulger, Vice-president Chris Brennfoerder called the business meeting to order at approx. 9:40am then turned the proceedings over to Secretary Jim Jirak to conduct the business meeting.

Vice-president Chris Brennfoerder, for Secretary Jim Jirak, read the 2016 convention minutes. They were approved as read.

Treasurer Dale Oviatt gave the following report:

2016 revenue: $6,735.67

2016 expenses: $7,378.31

2016 net loss: $642.64

2017 projected revenue: $4,207.12

2017 projected expenses: $4,965.09

2017 projected loss: $758.78

Total revenue from January 1 to April 20: $1,533.05

Total expenses from January 1 to April 20: $979.21

Checking account: $2,540.88

Savings account: $100.27

Bond fund as of April 20: $40,716.13

Midwest Leadership Account: $7,962.52

Dale’s report was approved as presented.

Jim reported NCBVI’s Board of Commissioners would next meet at the Holiday Inn in Kearney at 9am. This meeting will serve as the annual review of the Executive Director. All are encouraged to attend.

The ACB national convention is in Sparks, NV from June 30 to July 7. As it stands now, Jim, Mark, Kathy and Carol are planning to attend.

Elections took place for vice-president and recording secretary. Chris Brennfoerder and Jim Jirak were both unanimously re-elected to their respective positions of vice-president and secretary.

Corresponding Secretary Kathy Fox reported that the appropriate cards were sent to the appropriate people at the appropriate time.

Chris Brennfoerder reported that the Lincoln chapter has seen a decrease in membership and invited the assembly to their annual picnic June 17 at his home. Kenda reported on a fund raising project for the Omaha chapter.

Jim reported that the accessibility issues surrounding the ACBN website update have been corrected. He also reported that ACBN needs to get out of the 20th century and into the 21st by accepting online donations, convention registrations as well as the option for online membership. Jim reported he had found someone to administer these changes on a pro bono basis and that things were progressing slower than anticipated.

Dale expressed concern that the Omaha Council of the Blind was expending funds for a rarely used post office box. It is costing $102 yearly. He put forth a motion to have the Omaha Council of the Blind share the American Council of the Blind of Nebraska’s post office box with the understanding that the Omaha Council of the Blind would reimburse the American Council of the Blind of Nebraska for half of the cost of their post office box. This motion passed with the president of the Omaha Council of the Blind casting the lone no vote.

In an attempt to help generate revenue, Dale proposed an idea of establishing a Nebraska life membership structure. The proposed cost could range from $250 upward and be payable in yearly installments. Unanimous consent was to have the executive council provide a constitutional amendment for consideration by the membership at the 2018 convention business meeting.

Jim had received in the mail a letter asking ACBN to consider filling out an application for free advertising having a value of $250,000. The letter was sent to 200 Omaha area not-for-profits and agencies. The application is due May 8. Dale read the letter and application in its entirety. It was moved, seconded then passed to submit the application for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06am.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Jirak

Secretary