ACBN Executive Council Minutes

Saturday, February 4

Perkins Restaurant, Lincoln NE

The meeting was called to order at 1:36pm. In attendance were board members Mark, Chris, Jim, Dale, Barb and Kathy. Guests in attendance were Sharon, Janet, Tina, Becky, Chris & Becky’s daughter and Kenda.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June 28 and August 25 meetings were approved as emailed.

Chapter Updates: Chris reported that the Lincoln chapter had 5 paid members thus far for the 2017 calendar year. Janet Doulas was elected as vice-president. The position of secretary is unfilled. The Lincoln chapter also extended an invitation to the Omaha chapter to join them at their summer picnic at the home of Chris & Becky on June 20. Barb and Kenda reported that Omaha’s second annual picnic for visually impaired children was successful as was the annual Younkers fund raising project. Omaha’s Christmas party was at Gorats and elections would take place February 9 given the postponement of the January meeting.

ACB National Membership certification: Mark stressed the importance of timely membership renewal submission information to Dale so as to afford him time to reconcile for submitting to ACB via the online AMMS system. Dale informed the board that he participated in a call explaining the system functionality and that he now better understands the difference between the “record” and “certification” screen. Jim offered assistance to Dale if needed as he has been fully trained on its use.

Treasurer's Report & 990: Dale reported that as of December 31, the checking account had a balance of $1,987.03 and our savings had a balance of $100.23. The account for the Midwest Leadership Conference, as of December 29, has an ending balance of $7,460.99. As of January 20, our bond fund has a balance of $39,828.74. We currently have 3,955.188 shares. Dividends paid in 2016 totaled $1,849.40 while capital gains in 2016 totaled $560.04. Dale reported that the 990 would be filed prior to the May 15 deadline.

ACBN phone: Jim explained that the prepay cell phone purchased by Paulette was inaccessible for someone not having usable vision. He explained a semi-fully accessible cell phone with no bells and whistles was approximately $56 and that the current plan of being charged $ .10 per minute for talk time could perhaps be maintained. The board voted to spend no more than $60 for an accessible prepays cell phone.

ACBN Website: Jim reported that the new look website was up and functional. He also explained that if we wanted to be relevant and competitive, we need to consider an online option for membership joining as well as convention registration. Because of email issues last fall, acbnebraska.org now has a positive SSL certificate needing to be renewed yearly to maintain our secure website.

Omaha Gives Fundraiser: Mark reminded the board that we voted to participate in omahagives24.org this May and asked Jim to register ACBN.

Give A Lift Update: Chris reported that Give A Lift had approximately $5,000 left in their bank account and that they sell more Happy books than Servant cab. Chris believes that Give A Lift is financially fit for at least one more year.

NCBVI Update: Mark thanked the board for showing at the quarterly board meeting earlier in the morning and reminded everyone the next meeting is May 6 in Kearney at 9am.

Legislative Update: Mark reported that he and Jim would be attending ACB’s annual Affiliate President’s Meeting & Legislative Seminar in Alexandria VA from February 24-March 1, with a visit to Capitol Hill to meet with elected officials on February 28. Mark reviewed ACB’s Legislative Imperatives.

2017 ACB National Convention in Reno: Mark reported that the annual convention is to take place between the dates of June 30 and July 7. Kathy indicated it is an experience everyone should consider at least once given the exhibit hall, information learned and friendships that are formed.

2017 State ACBN Convention: The state convention is in Omaha at the Regency Lodge April 21, 22 & 23. A Marti Gras theme was suggested as well as perhaps Friday evening entertainment to attract more members and guests. Mark appointed Jim as chair, Kathy as vice-chair and put the entire board as well as the Omaha and Lincoln chapter presidents on the plenary committee. We will hopefully have our first plenary call the week of February 12. ACBN is also considering inviting Anthony Stevens, Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, from the national office to be the ACB representative for the weekend.

Other Business: No other business was discussed.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:44pm