ACBN Executive Council Meeting

Village Inn — 76th & dodge: Omaha NE

July 12, 2018

Call to Order: President Mark Bulger called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Present were board members Mark Bulger, Chris Brennfoerder, Jim Jirak, Dale Oviatt, Barb Epworth and Kathy Fox. Guests in attendance included Becky Brennfoerder, Chris & Becky’s son and Mary Oviatt.

Approval of April 10th Board Meeting Minutes: Becky read the minutes as previously emailed by Jim. They were approved as read.

2018 State Convention Overview: Mark solicited feedback on the April 21 one day convention. Despite the fact there was no real time for socialization and perhaps one too many speakers presented; most thought the format was well received. Starting in 2020, consensus was to attempt this format again.

Treasurer’s Report: Dale reported the following balances as of July 11:  
  
•Checking Account $1,004.79

•Savings Account $75.28  
•Bond Fund 4,041.387 shares at $9.85 per share for a total balance of $39,807.16

Concerning the convention, Dale provided the following report:

•Gross amount $2,384.08

•Expenses $1,801.08  
•Net gain $582.28  
•Average cost per attendee (we had 35 registrants) $51.48

This report was approved.

NCBVI ACBN Designee Commissioner Update: Mark reported that the next quarterly meeting is August 4 in North Platte. The focus topic is 511 Developmental Disability Changes. The November meeting is in Omaha. He strongly encouraged the public to attend.  
  
WAGES Presentation: Mark reported that he and Jim presented at WAGES on June 18. Mark and Jim talked about ACB as well as taking advantage of the services being provided to become successful in life.

ACBN website update: Jim reported that following the OpenAir competition, we took first place in the non-profit category. ACBN scored 413 out of a possible 485 points. Jim, with the backing of the president, secured the services of current Share A Fare and one time ACB and CCLVI web administrator Annette Carter. After reviewing the current site as newly created in Drupal 8, Annette found a number of major vulnerabilities that could lead us susceptible to possible hacking and/or the site being compromised. Annette suggested the only way to fix this issue would be to downgrade to Drupal 7 as Drupal 8 is still in the development stage. Jim reported that Annette has completed the downgrade as of July 3. A conference call is scheduled for July 16 at 7pm to determine whether the site is fully accessible for screen reading technology as well as is low vision friendly. Annette will generate a bill soon after the call for her services. While no formal vote was taken, unanimous consent was to compensate Annette for her services. Jim also reported that Annette would maintain and update the site on a 3-month trial basis and determine, following the conclusion of the 3-month period, whether she wished to continue on a permanent basis. The 3-month period runs June, July and August.

2018 ACB National Conference Overview: Mark reported that the recently concluded national convention in St. Louis went well. The highlight of the convention was the exhibits and the IRA glasses. The 2019 national convention is in Rochester NY from July 5 to 12. The 2020 convention is in Schaumburg IL from July 3 to 10.

Older Blind Funding Legislation: Mark reported that ACB and OAB might be working with NCBVI on securing additional funding for an OIB Specialist.

Call Blast Funding: Mark reported that we were out of funds to generate future call blasts. A motion was made, seconded and passed to have ACBN contribute $100 for future call blasts.

Chapter Reports: Chris reported Lincoln is inactive. Barb reported that Omaha had its June picnic and is now off for the summer.

Fundraising: Mark committed to do fall fund raising on behalf of ACBN at perhaps Sam’s or Wal-Mart.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Jirak

Secretary