ACBN Executive Council Meeting

7520 S 135th St

October 26, 2019 10:00am

Call to Order: President Mark Bulger called the meeting to order at approx. 10:11am. Present were board members Mark, Chris, Jim, Dale and Barb. Guests in attendance were Chris & Becky’s children.

Approval of Minutes: Jim reported that the last meeting was March 15 and the minutes had been previously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Dale reported a checking account balance of $2,116.47. Our bond fund has a total 3,636.953 shares at $11.09per for a total value of $40,333.81. Both balances were as of October 25. Dale reported we’ve been redirecting $140 from our bond fund into the checking account. Dale requested the amount be reduced to $120 given we’re losing money. Barb moved and Chris seconded the motion. While he did not have the numbers readily available, Dale reported that we did make some money on the convention, primarily from the auction. Dale reported that there were no major expenditures planned for the remainder of the year. Jim moved and Chris seconded the motion to approved the report as given.

2022 National ACB Convention in Omaha: Jim reminded the board that he had made mention of the national convention being in Omaha in 2021. With the 2020 national convention being in Schaumburg, the national board expressed concern about visiting two midwestern cities back to back. Jim mentioned that he had received a text from Sara Conrad October 19 confirming that the contract for Omaha hosting the convention in 2022 had been signed. The Hilton Omaha and CHI Center are the venues being used. Jim is not yet sure of the dates. Mark requested that Jim have Annette reference the convention on the ACBN homepage. As a host affiliate, we are charged with finding someone to present colors at the opening ceremonies, responsible for hosting a welcome party and other tasks. The hotel room rates are believed to be $92. More information to come!

ACBN Commissioner Designee Appointment: Mark reported that his first term as commissioner on the NCBVI Board is up in December. He filled out an application for consideration of reappointment by the governor. Barb moved and Jim seconded the motion. Jim will author a letter to the governor urging reappointment.

November, 2019 NCBVI Commissioner meeting: Mark announced the next meeting of the NCBVI Board of Commissioners would take place November 2 at 9am 1313 Farnam. The focus topic is Radio Talking Book.

ACBN Website Update: Jim reported the website was up and functional. Mark reported that we had a justifiable expense with regard to our hosting plan, nearly $900. The cost was for a 3 year period. Concern then turned to the affordability of Annette vs. another person to maintain the site. Robert Spangler, living in Cedar Rapids, maintains Iowa’s, Kentucky’s, Tennessee’s and CCLVI’s website. Comparing the skillsets of both, Jim recommended sticking with Annette as she is a certified web administrator who understands accessibility concerns.

2020 ACBN State Convention: Mark reported that the previous contact at the church where the past 2 state conventions were held is no longer employed there. Mark stated we could possibly hold the convention at the same location but there were no guarantees. “A Vision for the Future” was suggested for a theme given the year 2020. April 18 was the date that Jim moved and Chris seconded to hold the convention. Potential locations include First United Methodist Church and Kristal’s if First United wasn’t available. The board set a deposit amount of $250 or less to move forward. Jim and Mark will coordinate a location and report their findings. Jim mentioned that we should consider reaching out to Dan Spoone given his telephone presentation was cut short due to Internet connectivity. Jim will speak with Dan to gage interest. Dale strongly encouraged the board to consider raising the convention registration.

Chapter Reports: Barb reported that Omaha had their chapter picnic in June, their annual children’s picnic in September, sandwiches at their November meeting and will be holding their Christmas gathering December 12. Mark reported Omaha had increased their membership resulting from the Older Blind Conference. Chris reported their only activity this year was holding an informational table at the Eye Run. Give A Lift has approximately $1,000 left in their account. Mark requested the board consider advancing Give A Lift seed money to hire Fox Creek Fund Raising to secure funding to keep Give A Lift solvent. Give A Lift has 200 applicants on file with approximately 20 purchasing on a regular basis. Mark requested Jim facilitate contact with Chris and Fox Creek Fund Raising. Jim moved and Chris seconded the motion to advance Fox Creek Fund Raising on behalf of Give A Lift $2,000 to secure ongoing funding. It is understood that the funds will be expended upon presentation of an invoice. Jim will also approach the Share A Fare Board to see if there is interest in taking over operation of the program.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:36am.