ACBN Executive Council Meeting

June 10, 2023 10:00a.m.

President Kristal Platt called the meeting to order at 10:20a.m. Present were board members Kristal Platt, Jim Jirak, Dale Oviatt, Becky Dunkerson and Chris Brennfoerder. Board members Tyler Juranek and Barb Epworth were absent. Immediate Past President Mark Bulger was also in attendance.

Following the reading of the April 12 minutes, Chris moved and Dale seconded their approval. The motion carried.

Dale reported a checking account balance of $2,419.54. As of June 8, the bond fund contained 4,027.194 shares valued at $7.85 per for a total balance of $31,613.47. Chris moved and Becky seconded the approval. The motion carried.

Kristal mentioned that Mark and Katie represented ACBN at NCBVI’s Silver Summit Conference in Kearney May 24 and 25. ACBN had a booth where literature was disseminated, candy was also provided and Target gift cards were offered as door prizes for those that provided contact information.

Kristal also reported that Mark, Jim and Amber spoke at the Orientation Center in Lincoln on June 2 about ACBN. The center currently has 6 staff trainees, 2 older blind with vocational goals and 2 under 55 with vocational goals; one of which was absent. Mark and Jim defined how a consumer group differs from a service provider. Amber provided information about ACB Students and ACB’s Next Generation affiliate. Breakfast bars and fruit were also made available.

Kristal also mentioned that Mark and Amber represented ACBN’s interest at NCBVI’s Employment Conference. Amber promoted the needs of younger members by talking about ACB Students and ACB’s Next Generation affiliate while Mark’s theme was “Know What You Don’t Know.”

Kristal announced that ACBN would probably be invited to speak at the WAGES program at some point. In the past, Mark and Jim have presented usually in the evening after work hours and usually before the national convention.

The next order of business was addressing expenses and revenue. Dale reported the following:

Expenses:

$75 is spent yearly on our safe deposit box. Kristal asked Dale to review the contents to determine whether the expense is warranted.

$212 yearly for our PO Box. A permanent address is mandated by ACB national.

$303 North Star Mutual Insurance. Dale just paid this amount earlier in the week for the year.

$900 US Liability. Kristal asked Mark to confirm with ACB National whether the cost for our insurance policies were in line.

$900 Annette Carter. Annette charges $75 hourly per month for website maintenance. Usual monthly maintenance is 60-minutes.

$160 Zoom. The account was taken out at the recommendation of the Nebraska host committee with board approval in November of 2021.

Revenue:

$290 yearly MMS. Given the number of contributions that were being made, Kristal asked Dale to confirm with Minneapolis the accuracy of the quarterly payment.

$705 Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk as of this point. Out of 22 teams, Nebraska is in currently 8th place. And recognizing $50 in cash was taken in during the April 15 state convention, Dale will use the debit card to register those funds as part of the total revenue to be included in the final balance.

Kristal then asked the board to provide answers to the following question. Responses are in no particular order.

“If we had money, I would like to provide...”

1. National convention scholarships

2. Technology grants

3. School scholarships

4. A folding cane giveaway program

5. A store for aids and devices

6. State convention scholarships

7. Technology training

8. Resources for adequate resources

9. Promotional resources

10. Marketing including a logo and website redesign

11. Transportation to meetings

Given the current state of economic affairs, it was unanimous consent to ask Lisa Johnson to attend the next board meeting to gain interest as to whether she would be able to assist with grant writing on our behalf and whether any conflicts might arise given her Program Coordinator role for Share A Fare.

Concerning the website, Kristal then asked about board emails and whether folks wished to have one.

Dale suggested he would prefer online donations and dues payments be direct deposited into our bank account rather than being processed via PayPal.

Becky suggested an option for a space to manually input a credit card number for donation and dues payment rather than an exclusive PayPal only option.

Kristal then offered to have the next two board meetings focus on grant writing/fund raising and website concerns. Future meetings could then possibly deal with convention planning and the possibility of having one registration fee for members and a higher one for non-members as well as perhaps having convention attendees discuss how tasks are accomplished as a blind person.

Finally, Jim expressed concerns about having the constitution updated. He, Chris and Becky will connect and present changes at a future board meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Jirak,

Secretary