ACBN Executive Council Minutes

May 7, 2014

President Kristal Platt called the meeting to order at 7:31p.m. Present was Kristal, Tyler, Jim, Dale, Francie, Amber and Chris from the board. Present as guests were Patti, Becky and Mark.

Prior to starting the meeting, given miscommunication surrounding a fund raising idea, Kristal made the following statement: “Are you on the Board to support ACBN (members, mission, & money.) If you are, assume your fellow members are also on the Board to support ACBN. Therefore, we will treat each other with respect and professionalism in all communications-oral, email, etc.”

Following the reading of the April 9 minutes by Jim, Chris moved and Francie seconded the motion to approve as read. The motion passed.

Dale reported a checking account balance of $8,282.34. He indicated that we’ve had a large amount of cash deposited in the last several months and is trying to understand the originating source. Dale mentioned that the convention spreadsheet from PayPal was difficult to understand given when printing, the format was not retained. Jim will work with Dale to help him understand the convention revenue stream. Francie mentioned the data pulled from the spreadsheet should include a breakdown of each category; amount received, the PayPal fee and what ACBN actually received along with the number of individuals within the various categories. Dale also indicated that he had received Mark’s invoice for cab fare for transporting Omaha members to the convention totaling $266.23. Given the financial success of the convention, Dale moved, and Chris seconded, to have ACBN reimburse Mark for the fare. Mark then reminded the board that the Omaha chapter voted to subsidize transportation expenses with the proviso those wishing to partake of the opportunity pay $10. The amount moved for reimbursement took into consideration payment from Omaha members. Following discussion, the motion failed with Tyler, Jim, Francie and Amber voting no while Dale and Chris voted yes., Dale then reported a bond fund balance of $31,540.68 with total shares of 4,112.214 valued at $7.67 per. Chris moved to approve the report as given while Francie seconded the motion, which passed.

Kristal then reported about a fund raising opportunity with a Lincoln based company “From Nebraska;” located in the Haymarket District in downtown Lincoln. The store features items made in Nebraska and has an area with t-shirts and other Nebraska items, where our shirts would be for sale. This arrangement with the store would in no way invalidate our return of $8 for the t-shirts sold online or by us at the event in Kearney in mid-May. To Kristal’s knowledge, no one outside of ACBN has purchased any of the items currently for sale. Therefore, there is not much more room for sales within our group. Kristal also mentioned that at the beginning of this fundraising effort, no one was aware of the opportunity to sell t-shirts at a store. Therefore, the sense would be that the return of the t-shirts could be re-negotiated. As Kristal is not the owner of the product, she left the negotiations to Tricia. Kristal is of the opinion that Tricia must feel that the opportunity to sell more items may justify a decreased benefit for her and us. She is asking us if we agree to $4. Following lengthy discussion, Tyler moved and Amber seconded the motion of a 50/50 split of $3.28 between Blind Girl Designs and ACBN. The motion passed with the proviso if Tricia objected to a 50/50 split, Kristal re-negotiate for a favorable resolution for all involved entities. (\*\*Note: Following the meeting, Kristal reported that she had spoken with Tricia. She spoke with her financial advisor who explained the margins are so small that our planned venture would not be wise for her company.  Therefore, the store option is not feasible.

Next, given confusion surrounding the Ski for Light raffle, Kristal recommended reimbursing $60 to Becky as her name somehow was not included in the raffle drawing. Amber moved and Chris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Jim will refund via PayPal.

Tyler then suggested we should ask about the sound quality on the survey. Kristal indicated there was limited space for questions on a free survey. Becky mentioned the sound quality for virtual attendees was great. It was mentioned that Kenneth and Melissa’s presentation was too loud in the room.

Kristal then asked whether we needed to develop a policy on convention attendees showing that aren’t registered when it is known there are registrants that didn’t show. Francie suggested the implementation of a $10 fee. Amber moved, Jim seconded, there should be no fee given that it doesn’t take too long to provide a name tag and other registration items. The motion passed with Tyler voting “no.” Dale intimated that if this becomes an issue in the future, we revisit the idea.

It was noted that Beulah Reimer Legacy left early due to illness. To compensate for convention attendees not being able to become familiar with their offerings, Kristal suggested putting a link on our website to better familiarize the membership with their wares. Tyler moved, Jim seconded, offering the opportunity to return next year and applying the already paid exhibit fee to the 2025 convention exhibits, with the understanding any meals would still need to be paid. The motion passed with Chris and Amber voting “no.”

Next, Kristal mentioned that there were 2 Zoom participants that were drawn for door prizes. One Zoom participant was online throughout the day and had already received their prize while the other was a no-show. She asked what we should do with the $5 donated by Sharon. Jim moved, Dale seconded, to return the $5 to Sharon. The motion passed. Jim will get the $5 from Kristal and return it to Chris when he is in Omaha May 11 for the rodeo he bid on at the auction during the convention.

As we need to have our delegate information supplied to the ACB Secretary by May 12, discussion then turned to naming a delegate, alternate delegate and a nominating committee representative. It was decided to have Becky serve as delegate and Jim serve on the nominating committee. As there were no takers for alternate, Jim will email the membership to gage interest.

Kristal reported that Mark is traveling to Kearney for the NCBVI sponsored Silver Summit. He is selling T-shirts on our behalf. As we need a gimmick to draw attendees to the table, it was decided to give away 2 at-large statewide memberships, one state convention registration for 2025, and a $25 Visa or Master Card gift card as the top prize.

During the final convention committee meeting held April 25, Tyler expressed profound disappointment that NCBVI sponsored attendees left prior to the start of the auction. He felt this action favors one advocacy organization over another, is not allowed in standard business practices and lacks respect. Kristal is in possession of the letter. She will forward it to the board for their stamp of approval prior to forwarding to Carlos. Tyler then asked the board on thoughts on future conventions. While no feedback was provided, Kristal indicated she is still receiving kudos on the recently concluded convention.

Prior to adjournment, Kristal is not available June 11 to facilitate the meeting. Tyler will check his schedule to see whether he can assume chairmanship and will let Kristal know by May 14.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:46p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Jirak

Secretary