American Council of the Blind of Nebraska

January 13, 2025 Board Meeting

President Kristal Platt called the meeting to order at 7:47p.m. Present was Kristal, Tyler, Jim, Francie, Chris, and Dale. Katie Larson was the only guest.

With the minutes emailed soon after the meeting, Chris moved and Francie seconded their approval. The motion carried.

Dale reported a checking account balance of $7,841.44 as of January 3. The balance reflects $108.79 in donations and Amber’s online dues. The balance also reflects a donation of $1,200 from Jim and a $127.50 quarterly MMS payment. Dale has no dues payment from Mark or Lincoln. As of the December statement, Vanguard fund had a balance of $33,535.27. Dale intimated an approximate $131 monthly increase. Dale also reported the match challenge was already met with Jim’s donation. Dale is considering matching further amounts donated. Chris moved and Jim seconded the report, which passed.

Kristal reported that she and Mark will be visiting the students at the Orientation Center in Lincoln January 29 and promoting the convention and ACBN activities.

Kristal announced that there has been no movement with regards to the ACBN documents received from Steve Gunderson’s office. Francie suggested looking at them in the not too distant future to determine their worth.

Tyler reported the convention program is being finalized. All speakers are confirmed. We are just waiting for their presentation titles. ACB Media is also confirmed for the March 22 state convention. Crystal and Sara, from St. James United Methodist Church, are providing the catered meals for both the March 21 AI workshop and the state convention.

Jim reported the AI workshop is taking place March 21 from 1:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. at St. James United Methodist Church. Jeff Bishop and NCBVI are working on a contract for the workshop. NCBVI will provide his air fare and hotel accommodations. Jim also reported that Annette is working on the backend to ensure all things convention are ready by January 15. He also mentioned that with the website being moved from Drupal to Word Press, the possibility exists that attendees may now have the option to pay the PayPal transaction fee in addition to the convention registration fee. Amber explained how 32auctions work and strongly suggested we look at that platform for the upcoming auction. Tyler believes that ACBN should charge an administrative fee for those attendees who, at the last minute, want to send someone else in their stead. Tyler moved, and Jim seconded, to charge a flat $15 fee for such changes. Following passionate discussion, the motion failed. Kristal is also working on door prizes.

Chris reported that as a part of his duties within the membership committee, he is to reach out to new members welcoming them to ACBN. This task has not yet been completed as he is waiting for names and numbers. Dale will email Chris the 3 persons that have joined since the April 2024 convention.

Amber reported that there has been no movement on fund raising resulting from health challenges following her gallbladder surgery.

Dale reported the finance committee has yet to meet. They will meet in the coming days to ensure objectives are being met and to plan future strategies.

Jim reported he hopes to convene the constitution committee in the coming days once his January 15 audiology appointment at Boys Town National Research Hospital is complete and next steps for securing a hearing aid is complete. Dale believes a bylaw should be considered barring board members from acting alone when it comes to solicitation of goods and services on behalf of the organization. Jim will take this under advisement.

Kristal reached out to Annette to determine whether she could help with the creation of a new ACBN logo. As Annette has done this for other web clients, this is a service she can provide. Amber emailed her logo thoughts to Annette for consideration. Kristal believes we should choose from 3 different logos, once created, and have the membership weigh in with their thoughts. Tyler then asked whether Marcie’s services were still needed as she wanted to view the old logo and come up with ideas. Kristal apologized for any confusion or misunderstanding and suggested we would use Annette’s services.

Kristal reported she had been getting feedback regarding our motto of “people First — Causes Second” and believes we need to update it. Francie questioned whether Annette could come up with a new motto. Jim mentioned it is our responsibility, not Annette’s. Dale suggested the motto of simply “people First.” Like Jim, Tyler believes the motto is what ACB is about. Francie suggested introducing the motto discussion in March at the state convention and unveiling the new logo and motto in April 2026 during the state convention.

Katie was invited by Kristal to talk about a social media presence. Katie wants to create a Facebook page and explained her ideas. It was suggested that the Facebook page at least contain the words “blind” and “Nebraska.” Tyler suggested American Council of the Blind of Nebraska be the name of the page while Dale suggested Nebraska Council of the Blind. Unanimous consent was to create it with the name of American Council of the Blind of Nebraska.

Prior to adjournment, Kristal mentioned that Patti was speaking with Jim prior to the board meeting about the lack of online availability of past meeting minutes, the constitution and bylaws. Kristal then asked whether these items should be made available. Tyler moved to have not only the constitution and bylaws uploaded, but also approved meeting minutes as well as future board meetings and to establish a public comment period in future board meetings limiting each speaker to 2 minutes or less per person. The motion passed.

With that piece of business dispensed, Jim moved and Francie seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:46p.m. The motion passed.

Our next meeting is Monday, February 10 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Jirak,

Secretary