**American Council of the Blind of Nebraska**

**February 10 Minutes**

President Kristal Platt called the meeting to order at 7:37p.m. Present was Kristal, Tyler, Jim, Dale, Francie & Amber. Guests in attendance were Mark and Katie.

As the minutes were emailed out soon after the conclusion of the previous meeting, Tyler moved and Francie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dale emailed prior to the meeting a checking balance $7,755.69. He deposited $82.50 from Buchi Kolli from Union Pacific. Our Vanguard balance, as of December 31, is $31,976.08 having 4,246.492 shares at $7.53 per. Dale also reported that since the balance has been increasing by approximately 17 shares per month, the balance now would be about 4,264 and the balance approximately $32,108. Tyler moved and Francie seconded the report. The motion carried.

Dale next reported there has been no future updates regarding the $1,200 monetary challenge, except that he is increasing the match to $800 for donations received by March 22.

Mark reported approximately 8 persons, not including commission staff, were in attendance during a meeting at the Orientation Center in Lincoln. He reported information was provided about consumer groups, ACBN and the state convention.

Kristal reviewed the documents from Gunderson’s office. She discovered a table of contents listing articles, bylaws, OCB and Share A Fare documents as well as Randolph-Shephard notes. Tyler suggested a book containing ACBN history be on display at the 2026 state convention. Kristal is recommending, herself, Jim, Mark and Dale to review and consolidate documents. Dale also suggested involving Chris as well. The recommendation is to start the process following the conclusion of the state convention.

Jim reported that he had emailed all past approved minutes to Annette for website archiving. As of this meeting date, they are not online.

Katie reported Facebook is setup and operational. Amber is Katie’s backup should the need arise. Katie asked about who should be approved when join requests are received. Amber moved to allow folks to join our group from interested persons worldwide. Jim seconded the motion, which passed.

Tyler reported the convention committee last met January 30. He reported we would be using wireless microphones provided by the church. He also mentioned that Sara has items to donate for the goodie bags and auction. Tyler reached out to NCECBVI to participate virtually in the Braille challenge. As Zoom participation was not possible, they passed out promotional flyers for the AI workshop and state convention. Tyler also played a prerecorded PSA promoting the workshop and convention, which is currently airing on Radio Talking Book. He also has a Community Conversation scheduled for March 3, which will air March 7. Given convention committee concerns, Tyler sought feedback from the board in case weather precluded an in-person convention. Amber moved to postpone the convention to a later date should the need arise. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried with one no vote.

Jim reported that the constitution & bylaws committee met February 3 and reviewed the current documents. Jim reported he had emailed proposed replacement documents bringing the constitution & bylaws up to date. Some of the significant changes being proposed include the elimination of corresponding secretary and adding the position of immediate past president to the board, outlining in the bylaws job duties for each elected office, adding a non-discrimination clause as is now required in revised documents and reinstating term limits. Jim also reported that in 2008, term limits were removed because of concern about the size of the organization and finding qualified candidates to serve. With the removal of term limits, ACBN is now out of compliance with ACB national. Jim remarked that to bring Nebraska back into compliance, we need to consider reinstituting term limits. Given the length of the proposed documents, Amber moved to have the first reading either March 13 at the OCB meeting or March 22 at the state convention with the second reading either March 22 or April 5. Jim seconded the motion, which passed. As an aside, Jim will reach out to John McCann to determine the constitutionality of reading the document at a non-ACBN meeting.

Concerning the finance committee, Dale reported he emailed Mark & Francie regarding moving funds to different Vanguard accounts. Dale spoke with Francie but has yet to hear from Mark. Kristal asked for a recommendation from the committee by the March 10 meeting.

Amber reported on a Pampered Sheff fund raising concept. She explained how it might work and leaving the online link opened for the month of March. Amber has a call scheduled with Dawn Brush February 11 and will undertake the necessary steps to set up the fund raising endeavor Kristal asked about percentage of income. Amber will clarify. Amber moved, and Jim seconded, to have the online link for purchasing products functional for testing purposes the last two weeks of February and go live the month of March. The percentage of income to ACBN will be disclosed to purchasers so they can decide whether to support the cause. The motion passed. \*\*Note: Following the meeting, Amber learned that the percentage of income is dependent on the revenue stream. Purchases totaling $200-$649 will see a 10% percentage in donations to ACBN. Purchases totaling $650 or more will see a 15% percentage in donations to ACBN.\*\*)

Amber then next broached the idea of an LCR dice game Friday evening after the AI workshop in Jim and Amber’s hotel suite. The event would be promoted immediately following the AI workshop. The dice game costs approximately $8 per set. Amber is proposing ACBN purchasing 3 sets and give to the winner a $25 Amazon gift card, for a total approximate cost of $49. Jim seconded the motion, which passed.

In Chris’ absence, Kristal reported that he has the names and contacts of new members. If Chris is unable to reach out by February 14, he will follow up with Kristal for assistance. Kristal also contacted the public library about distributing brochures Thursday of last week. She has not yet received a response. Kristal also mentioned the membership committee discussed the idea of new member bags. The idea is to start with 10 at a cost of $5 per bag. Kristal moved the membership committee undertake the necessary steps to create then distribute the bags as warranted. Dale seconded the motion, which passed. The concept of a membership directory was also mentioned. Mark will investigate its feasibility. Kristal also suggested the membership committee have a 2026 budget.

Kristal mentioned that Leslie contacted her to gage Nebraska’s interest in donating to the summer auction. The deadline for confirming is May 5. Amber suggested donating a Stoneware Starter Set from Pampered Sheff. This will be further discussed in April.

Prior to adjournment, which occurred at 9:36p.m., it was announced that the next meeting is Monday, March 10 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Jirak

Secretary

\*\*Secretary’s note: The meeting agenda included the topic of a volunteer form on the ACBN website. In order to save time during the meeting, the questions that were being posed are answered below. The questions were:

-How many people have applied in this manner? Approximately 10

-Do we advertise it at all? We do not currently advertise

-When we receive an inquiry, how has it been handled in the past?  For instance, if someone is interested in reading, how do we refer and to whom? Usually the president is forwarded the email for referral

-Is there a way to do a free, quick background check?  If so, do we need more info? I suppose a background check could be performed. As to whether the background check is free, I am not knowledgeable in this area.