**American Council of the Blind of Nebraska**

**Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

**August 11, 2025, 7:30 pm**

President Kristal Platt opened the meeting with a quick prayer at 7:33p.m. Present were board members Kristal, Katie, Jim, Francie, Dale, Chris and Amber. Guests in attendance were Patti, Mark, Lisa and Annette

First, with the passing of the constitutional amendment removing corresponding secretary from the board in 2026, Amber moved, Francie seconded a motion to add the position of immediate past president to the board effective immediately. The motion passed.

Chris next moved, and Amber seconded, that the minutes from the June 9 meeting be approved as disseminated. The motion passed.

Dale reported a checking account balance of $7,750.22, bonds totaling $16,585.30 containing 2,176.548 Shares at $7.62 per and 2 CD’s totaling $10,000 each with one 7 month CD earning 3.75% interest and the other CD at 13 months earning 3.45% interest. Jim moved and Katie seconded the report as provided. Motion passed.

Jim reported the convention committee met August 7 at 9:00p.m. and discussed plans for the 2026 state convention, including award presentations, volunteer recognition, and potential changes to the schedule to accommodate more interaction with exhibitors. We explored various workshop options and venue concerns, particularly regarding the hotel's facilities and marketing strategies. Jim will reach out to the Holiday Inn to secure a time for the committee to meet with hotel staff and address concerns. The conversation ended with discussions about health and financial programming for future events, including potential speakers and seminar topics. (\*\*Note: Jim advised the board the meeting with hotel staff was set for August 26 at 3:00p.m.)\*\*

Regarding the constitution & by-laws, Jim reported that on April 26, the initial constitutional convention involved a discussion about the absence of several members and the need to reach out to them. The April 26 conversation ended with deciding to continue with the discussion despite the absence of some.

As a reminder, in the meeting, Jim discussed the proposed changes to the organization's constitution, focusing on the addition of a new section on nondiscrimination and the modification of officer roles. The new section, if adopted, would be numbered 3.6 and titled Nondiscrimination. The proposed changes include the removal of the corresponding secretary position and the addition of the immediate past president to the board. The conversation ended with a unanimous vote on the proposed amendments.

The amendment regarding the calculation of terms, was approved. The next amendment, concerning term limits, was also approved, with the exception of the secretary and treasurer positions, which do not have term limits. The final amendment discussed the order of succession for officers in case of absence or incapacity. The conversation ended with the approval of the last amendment.

Resulting from these adoptions, the constitution & by-laws committee will hold its next constitutional convention October 18 at 10:00a.m. via the Zoom platform where the rest of the revisions will be entertained. Persons are encouraged to submit proposals well in advance so as to afford a 30 day distribution and review process.

Dale submitted the below budget:

2026 Budget

Operational Expenses Operational Cost

Webmaster $900.00

Grant Writing $2,500.00

Liability Insurance — Organizational $900.00

Liability Insurance — Board $327.00

PO Box $250.00

Safe Deposit Box $60.00

Mailings $250.00

Zoom $171.00

Bank Fees $27.00

Phone $0.00

Printing $0.00

Operational Expenses Cost Total $5,385.00

Convention Expenses Convention Cost

Webmaster $525.00

Holiday Inn $2,000.00

Holiday Inn Meals $3,000.00

Tables $0.00

Sound Equipment $150.00

Convention Bags & Give aways $500.00

Auction Items $500.00

Door Prizes $200.00

Printing $200.00

Mailing $50.00

Convention Expenses Cost Total $7,125.00

General Revenue General Income

MMS $490.00

Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk $500.00

Fundraisers $25.00

Nebraska Life Memberships $1,500.00

Miscellaneous $25.00

General Revenue Total $2,540.00

Convention Revenue Convention Income

Sponsorships $1,000.00

Convention Bags & Give aways $500.00

Auction Items $500.00

Door Prizes $200.00

Convention Revenue Total $2,200.00

Chris & Katie reported the membership committee met August 6. As the picnic was rescheduled from June 21 to August 9 because of heat indices, the group discussed various logistics, including transportation arrangements, meal planning, and venue considerations. Different venues and catering options were explored and discussed was the possibility of having attendees order individual meals . The conversation also covered coordination of rides for attendees and plans for games and activities. The notice of the picnic was emailed to the announce-only list as well as posted to the Facebook group to gage possible interest. Center students, Harley, Sandy and Doug along with their instructor, Hannah, attended. Warren also put in an appearance. Following the gathering at Hot Wild Pit Bar-BQ., attendees returned to Sharon’s home for games and activities.

Fundraising Committee: Amber has reached out to Dawn Brush in an attempt to close the Pampered Chef account with Kristal and Francie’s purchases so she can purchase the agreed upon air frier for a raffle or auction item at the 2026 state convention. As of the time of this report, we are awaiting a call back from Dawn.

Regarding the Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk, Leslie telephoned Jim to advise that the Nebraska Corncobs were in 6th place as of July 4 and to expect 2 tote bags and 4 $10 Target gift cards for Nebraska’s fund raising efforts. And at the time of this generated report, the Corncobs currently have raised $1,030 and are now in 8th place.

Patti reported to the group that she attended WAGES as a commissioner. She reported Cheryl was a motivational speaker and no ACBN or NFBN representatives presented to the group.

Kristal introduced Lisa for a brief discussion on how she might be able to assist in securing funds for meetings, seminars, recreational and helping to develop leadership and advocacy skills. Lisa asked for board priorities. In addition to membership growth, leadership training much like ACB’s INSPIRE program was also suggested. Lisa requested some time to identify potential funding sources prior to taking next steps. Jim then suggested a committee to work with Lisa to get things moving. Jim and Kristal will work with Lisa. Kristal will also reach out to George to gain his interest.

On April 26, Annette explained the current logo of the organization, which features a circle with a curved top and bottom. The center of the circle contains a caricature of two figures, with circles representing heads and long triangles signifying bodies and arms. The logo also includes the words "State Affiliate of American Council of the Blind" and the motto "Together for a Brighter Future". We discussed the possibility of updating the logo, with Amber suggesting some changes. Annette offered to help with any recombination of the logo's components. We also discussed the need to add the affiliation with the American Council of the Blind to the logo.

Also discussed was the design of the logo, focusing on the balance between the American Council of the Blind of Nebraska (ACBN) and the Braille representation. Different layouts were considered, including the placement of the ACBN and Braille, the inclusion of people in the community, and the motto. A color background potential was discussed to add visual interest. While the final decision on the logo design was not made during the meeting, we agreed to include a family with a guide dog and a cane, and a single person with a mobility device. The family would be represented by a woman with a guide dog, a man with a cane, and two children. The single person would be represented by an adult with a mobility device. The placement of the ACBN name and the motto was discussed along with agreement to consider options to reduce clutter. The final design will include a family and a single person with mobility devices, and the ACBN name and motto will be placed in a way that is visually appealing.

Kristal proposed to have Annette work on various combinations of people and then make a final decision. We agreed on having the American Council of the Blind spelled out, the motto people first causes second on the logo, and ACBN somewhere. Annette was tasked with creating a few more choices based on the agreed-upon elements. We also discussed the color scheme, with a consensus to keep the current low vision-friendly color scheme. The final decision on the logo will be made by the board and then presented to the membership for a final vote.

Kristal appointed a history committee to gather documents for displaying during the state convention. Sharon, Jim and Dale will serve on this committee. Sharon also suggested reaching out to Evelyn as she is believed to have photos of historical significance.

Prior to adjournment, Kristal requested feedback on the concept of emailing reports in advance. Jim strongly encouraged this practice to continue as it makes the secretary’s job easier during the meeting.

With the next meeting scheduled for September 8 at 7:30p.m., Chris moved and Jim seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:10p.m. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Jirak

Interim Secretary