NCBV Quarterly Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2019

3:30pm

**I. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum: Carol Ewing**

A quorum was present at this meeting.

Carol Ewing, Chairperson

Harold Petrofsky, Southern Nevada Representative

Bill Schley, Northern Nevada Representative

Beth Perring,

Hugh McPherson

Mikie Yamada

Ivan Delgado

Nels Brown

Frank Pezzimenti, Trainee

Burnetta Schlecter, Trainee

Jack Rich, Trainee

Theresa Fax, Trainee

Elizabeth Gonzalez, Trainee

Staff Present:

Chris Mazza, BEN Chief

Jessica Peters, BEO II

Sydney Martinez, BEO I

Kevin Horigan, BEO I

Janette Parish, AA IV

Jeanne Clark, AA II

**II. Verification of Posting: Jeanne Clark**

Jeanne Clark stated that the Agenda was posted in a timely and correct manner

and was currently on file.

**III. First Public Comment Session: Carol Ewing**

There was none.

**IV. For Possible Action- Vote to Accept the Agenda: Carol Ewing**

Beth Perring made a motion to accept this agenda and Harold Petrofsky

seconded it. This motion passed unanimously**.**

**V. Welcome and Introduction of Guests: Carol Ewing**

There were no guests.

**VI. For Possible Action- Approval of the minutes for the NCBV Meeting**

**May 29, 2019: Carol Ewing**

Harold Petrofsky made a motion to approve these minutes and Beth Perring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

\*3:39 Bill Schley joined the meeting.

**VII. Old Business**

**Discussion- BEN project and status update: Chris Mazza**

* **Symphony Park**

Progress is moving along nicely. We’ve met with the architects several times and will continue to do so until we get a number and then put it out for bid and hire a General Contractor to continue to move forward. The City of Las Vegas has yet to transfer the location to the Program

* **Clark Co. Government Center**

Dustin Varnell is no longer with the Program leaving openings for the Clark Co. Government Center and the Grant Sawyer Building which are currently vacant. The potential to convert one of these sites into a training center certainly exists but nothing has been decided. Mr. Mazza promised to update all on any new developments and explained the difficult predicaments when an Operator resigns, without notice, raises for the Bureau. This type of action does not shine a great light on the program.

* **USPS -Post Rd**.

Chris Mazza described this next site as a 24-hour Micro Market, a sorting location, which is not a walk- in facility but one that houses employees who sort mail before going to mail boxes. Bill Schley remarked that given the history of his own Post Office site on Vassar St. perhaps opening a Micro-market in Las Vegas might het the conversation regenerated with the people we met with a year and a half ago. Chris Mazza requested that Mr. Schley meet with Kevin Horigan, BEO I in Carson City, regarding this idea and email him the address to that facility. Mikie Yamada inquired if everything was in the computer to which Mr. Mazza answered that it was.

Bill Schley suggested that his Vassar St. Post Office would be a great location to

install a micro market to which Chris Mazza agreed and noted that possibility.

Mr. Mazza reported that at the end of September we will have no more partners in the BEN Program. Bill Schley expressed his enthusiasm regarding the changes in his business. He added that after twenty (20) years he is revisiting the Espresso Card at locations #45, #16 and #14 or Bill's Eatery. Carol Ewing concurred with Bill Schley's excitement in summing up that by operating businesses one's self is much stronger than employing a partner. Harold Petrofsky inquired if our vending companies were considered a 3rd party or partnership by the Bureau. Chris Mazza responded that vending partners are not considered third parties as the machines are not ours.

**Discussion- New Profit & Loss Format: Chris Mazza**

Chris Mazza expressed his appreciation with everyone working with him on this

new system describing the new format as being beneficial to all in analyzing

businesses. To manage each month, monthly tabs have been added

allowing us to analyze your businesses on an annual basis. It also helps

Janette Parish easier access in entering the information into our database.

Janette Parish requested that when sending in P&Ls to her to please make sure

it is printed in color. A discussion ensued initiated by Mikie Yamada regarding

the requested color yellow and if it has been sent in the past in color. Mr. Mazza summed up the questions allowing that P&Ls can always be sent to the location's BEOs to obtain the requested color.

**Discussion- Phil Campbell's passing: Carol Ewing**

Carol Ewing remembered meeting Phil Campbell about 18 years ago at another

blind organization and commented that Mr. Campbell left behind a number of

friends.

**Discussion- Sagebrush in February: Carol Ewing**

Dates of the 2020 Sagebrush Conference in Las Vegas [at the Golden Nugget

Hotel & Casino] has been announced as February 10-14th. Blast Conference in

Chicago Il April-14-17th. Ms. Ewing described these two activities as those

needed to be attended in her opinion.

**VIII. New Business**

**Discussion- Chris Mazza**

* **New P&L update**

Chris Mazza stated that this subject has been covered earlier in this meeting.

* **New participation in the program. We have had a few operators leave the program. Discussion on ways to increase the number of operators.**

Chris Mazza announced that Dustin Varnell and Marjorie Olaes have left the Program adding that it was heartening to see a few fresh new faces attending the meeting. Mr. Mazza encouraged all members to speak about the Program with friends and bring new ideas and suggestions to him or their BEOs. He stated that when he came to BEN about a year and a half ago he was enthused by the unique opportunity it affords. Though it is "not for everyone" and despite its misconceptions it is still a great chance for a participant to grow and improve their lives. With hard work and sometimes expanded hours and hassle he felt that if participants were motivated the prospect for success was present. Therefore, he urged all to include both pro and con in their discussion with their friends.

Ivan Delgado interjected that, in his opinion, VR counselors sabotage the Program telling clients that BEN was not for them discouraging them from going forward. He added that the Counselors simply tell clients what they wish, to open and shut their cases. By having the Operators speak for the Program was more realistic.

Chris Mazza asked Ivan Delgado if he felt that his Counselor used these means to which Mr. Delgado admitted that yes, his Counselor had and which was why each client had to be persistent to be introduced to the Program. He continued to acknowledge that there were a few people he has heard from, of all age ranges, to whom the Counselors have told them that the Program was not for them due to the profits brought in. Chris Mazza thanked Mr. Delgado for his candid comments and agreed that one must advocate for oneself and use the resources available and each other. BEN is meeting with prospective clients earlier than in previous years and possibly utilizing a training site. In that way, vending plus critical skills such as cooking, menu development to cash register training, operations will be available.

Harold Petrofsky questioned if Voc Rehab knew what the Program did as his counselor tried to talk him out of the BEN Program. Chris Mazza stated that the BEN Program was unique and there’s always areas of opportunity to expand one's knowledge of what we do.

**Discussion- Jessica Peters**

* **R&M log –** Please start turning them in monthly with your P&L. Wewill be

comparing these to our service invoices to ensure accuracy

Jessica Peters explained the need for the Repair and Maintenance Log and the

importance of vendors signing in and out; we’ve had some billing discrepancies

with a couple of vendors. Some vendors may not be fulfilling the obligations of

their contract. Operators must now submit their Repair and Maintenance Logs

each month with their P&Ls as a supplemental back up for comparison. Anyone

in need of one may contact their BEO.

Hugh McPherson inquired whether entering (i.e. Library maintenance team) sign

in as well. Jessica Peters responded that it would be advisable.

**Discussion- Committee Chair Reports**

Finance-Bill Schley- Nothing to report*.*

Training and Development -Beth Perring- Nothing to report.

Long Range Planning-Bert Hansen- Absent

Policies & Procedures-Harold Petrofsky- Nothing to report*.*

Legislative Watchdog-Bill Schley- Nothing to report.

Bill Schley remarked that he was never nominated nor voted upon for the

Legislative Watch Dog committee chairman. Ms. Ewing noted this comment.

**IX. Second Public Comment: Carol Ewing**

There was none.

**X. Discussion - Date for Next NCBV Meeting: Carol Ewing**

Friday, February 13th at 3:30 has been chosen.

**XI. Adjournment: Carol Ewing**

**Harold Petrofsky made a motion to adjourn this meeting; Beth Perring**

**seconded this motion.**

This meeting adjourned at 4:19pm