RESOLUTION 2020-04

Improvement of the Business Enterprise Program on Ohio’s Post-secondary Institution Campuses

WHEREAS, the Business Enterprise Program in Ohio provides business opportunities for over ninety blind licensees in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, several of these facilities are located on Ohio’s public college and university campuses; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio mini-Randolph-Shepard Act establishes the priority for these blind licensees to operate suitable vending facilities at these public universities; and

WHEREAS, the contracts for these vending facilities do not often include the cold beverage sales because of other pouring rights agreements between the university and beverage companies, denying the blind licensees the opportunity to increase their sales and profit with the sale of cold beverages, to the detriment of the business; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired acts as the State Licensing Agency for this program and thus has the obligation to establish suitable vending facilities where the priority exists; and

WHEREAS, the agency has failed to pursue the cold beverage sales at several universities, allowing profits that should belong to the blind licensee to go elsewhere: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio in Convention assembled this 7th day of November, 2020, that this organization demand that the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired, with the active participation of the Ohio Vendors Representative Committee, aggressively pursue agreements with Ohio’s public universities where there is currently no Business Enterprise facility, to establish suitable sites for blind licensees to operate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BSVI commit to working to ensure that all such agreements include the sale of cold beverages by the blind licensee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we insist that, at universities where a current contract exists with no cold beverage sales agreement, the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired aggressively work to amend the agreements with the university to add the cold beverage sales agreement.