

Kansas Honey Producers Association

Business Meeting Minutes 01/17/2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Becky Tipton, via Zoom. The meeting was attended by Becky Tipton, Greg Swob, Julie Cahoj, Kristi Sanderson, Rhonda Heston, Sondra Koehn, Jim Kellie, Stepheni Phillips, Nikki Bowman, Cheryl Burkhead, Jo Patrick and Jade Like.

Minutes from the 11/11/23 fall business meeting were sent to all members by email. Stepheni moved to approve as submitted. Cheryl seconded. Motion was passed.

Sondra Koehn raised a concern that the meeting should be recorded. Recording commenced at 7:08 p.m.

Old Business: None reported.

New Business:

Beekeeper of the year

- Nominations needed
- Form additions and improvements were discussed.
 - Submissions should include a description why the nominee merits the award, which portion could be read at presentation.
- Committee appointed by president, nominations for award can be received from any member then forwarded to the selection committee.
 - Discussion included assigning to region directors
 - concerns about committee size, currently 4 out of 6 seats filled
 - The 3 Vice Presidents were also considered as a group that could be assigned deciding on the award
- Awarded in the Fall
 - Deadline of 10/01/24 for nominations

Audit Committee

- Concerns about items being submitted in advance to avoid the committee missing meeting time
- Rhonda, Jim and Nikki have or are currently serving on the committee

Constitution

- 30 days prior to vote the constitution changes need to be published.
- Cappings will note that members should refer to the website for the proposed changes.
 - Publishing on website under the Meeting page.

Website

- Need information from members about responsibilities, and any teaching apiary dates so they can be added.

DriftWatch Mailing

Jo Patrick reported in the DriftWatch mailing list, 650 cards, printing, and stamps \$571 total. Anticipates a low need for additional printings in the spring and summer. She does have approximately 10 cards still available to mail. Membership increase was negligible, and there is a concern about information being stale. Additional cards to also be used at the State Fair. Kristi advised that materials at the state fair are abundant and our mailer may not be effective in that setting.

Open Apiary Committee

- GPMB is wanting to meet with all facilitators to assemble curriculum, dates to coordinate schedules.
- KHPA ½ honey retained, wax, splits retained by keeper
- GPMB- teaching dates need to be registered
 - Nikki has been fast-tracked in Master Beekeeping

Meeting Date

- Thoughts on moving fall meeting from November to October

Zoom Account

- Previously shared an account with NEKBA
- Cost per month is \$12-13 for the first 100 participants
- Use includes board meeting and for spring/fall meeting speaker

Rhonda moved to purchase a Zoom account for <100 participants. Sondra seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Sondra Koehn reported that she has the information and funds needed. Has been unable to travel to the bank to finalize transactions. Kristi advised Bob has not closed the old account anticipating a clearing of a check.

Motion was made to approve the financials and was supported by all.

First Vice President's Report:

Greg Swob advised that Rollings Hills Zoo had been discussed as a possible meeting location, but RHZ didn't offer a distinct advantage logistically or financially. The location will remain at the Marriot in Salina with executive meeting held on March 7th, continuing with programs on the 8th and 9th.

There are concerns about flights in for speakers into Salina with limited flights. Airports in Kansas City and Wichita offer ease in travel for speakers. Topics suggested totaled around 13 and the committee

are narrowing down on which will serve our membership best. Exec board may be called upon to speak. Dr. David Peck will no longer attend in spring, but plans on fall meeting. Dr James Hong from University of Oklahoma, specializes in native bees, and will speak Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. KSU pollinator professor has not responded to Greg, she has not been responsive to other organizations with whom she is an associate. Randy Oliver may present via Zoom. Londa Nwadike, commercial kitchen, food safety regulation. Dean Krehbiel, NCRS, ELAP.

Suggested topics included the following:

- Honey house set up. Looking for 2-3 submissions on a honey house set up, layout of equipment, and what you would do differently- certified or no (Cheryl Burkhead was nominated by Becky, she may be in jury duty. Kristi advised Jo Patrick may be another good presenter. Sondra suggested Stephanie Brown.)
- Extracted honey storage and bottling
- Cut-outs and swarm removal
- Mentoring tips
- Honey straws
- Hands on varroa testing, example of sampling techniques
- DriftWatch, Joe and Curt have not responded
- Mead making
- Queen classes
- Hive electronic monitoring

Greg will have an agenda sent out as soon as speakers and subjects are finalized.

Second Vice President's Report:

Kristi Sanderson advised the State Fair is in September. Ginger and Gary have not committed to judging again. Kristi is lining up honey judges, one possibly from the East coast. Signup Genius will go live in July. State colonies and equipment are getting lined up. A lifetime membership was obtained by Clifford Hammond in November 2023. Nametags are being ordered to arrive before the March meeting.

Third Vice President's Report:

Julie Cahoj added a couple of points to the scholarship application: a signed letter from administration outlining how the program supports their curriculum. Also, a short response from the applicants' experience with beekeeping- no experience is not disqualifying. Chetopa FFA student has received a FFA grant towards beekeeping, Julie will write up article for Cappings.

The Cappings Editor:

Cheryl Burkhead needs submission January 22nd. Greg advised he anticipates needing a few extra days. Newsletter prints four times a year. NEKBA prints monthly for 80 or so members, Cheryl anticipates a change in that operation. KHPA newsletter will be printed by Robert for the first quarter, 42 by mail was the last accounted number. Mailing over 6 pages causes a shift up in postage. There may be a need for someone to take over the printing and distribution.

Legislative report given by Jim Kellie

Jim reported that health had limited his ability to research. Kansas impact is limited to the change in sales tax. Governor's budget already makes use of nearly all surplus. Conversations being had regarding testing for pesticides on comb, pollen testing for contamination and nutrition in state.

National issues, FDA authority is being transferred to EPA. Regulations may tighten, but nothing has been clarified or announced. Canadian beekeepers are trying to re-open Canada to package imports, the efforts seem certain and may have downline impacts on American consumer. May be offset by nucleus colony producers. He mentioned his desire to pass this responsibility to an interested member.

Area Directors Reports:

Northeast: Jo Patrick 2nd year and beyond class currently in session. Beginning beekeeping classes coming up. NEKBA will have a Zoom meeting this month but will resume in person next month.

Southeast: Rhonda, February 24 will be a one-day beekeeping course. A lot of new faces.

North Central: Nikki Bowman attended the ABF conference in New Orleans. Sam Ramsey presented on Tropilaelaps mite and its spread from Asia to Ukraine, and the anticipated spread to Canada via queen importation. Another presentation was "Resources for Beekeepers" with presenters from well known outreach/research groups. The presenters described their efforts to digitize their presentations to offset in-person presentations and need for travel, these digital resources would be available for outreach organizations and clubs to use in their education efforts. Other presentations included almond pollination. Meeting this Sunday at Rolling Hills Zoo. This year they will host 3 teaching apiary dates with topics basic as lighting a smoker.

South Central: Stepheni Phillips reported that she was in the middle of a beginning beekeeping course hosted at her residence. This made showing examples very easy, and lessened the strain of transporting materials.

West: No report. Richard Fanning and Brenda Mazonac were suggested as possible nominees.

Julie moved to adjourn. Sondra seconded. The motion was supported by all and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm by Becky Tipton.

Minutes submitted by: Jade Like