

# **Kansas Honey Producers**

## **Executive Meeting**

**March 2, 2016**

**Pittsburg**

Present: Greg Swob, Kristi Sanderson, Chad Gilliland, Becky Tipton, Joli Winer, Marietta Graham, Robert Burns, Mark Wood, Jim Morford, Norbert Neal

Absent: Carolyn Simpson, Bill Vinduska

Also present: William Graham, Cecil Sweeney, Steve Tipton, Shelley Kaiser, Wanda Morford, Lee Woodrum, and Candy Vinduska

Meeting Called to order at 8:00 pm by President Greg Swob

Agenda was presented

Minutes were approved with noted changes

Officers Reports

Discussion of the committees

Best practices, By Laws, Nomination, Bee Keeper of the Year, License Tag

A list of the committees and those on the committees will be printed in the newsletter. Any one wishing to serve on a committee should contact Greg.

First VP Joli: The fall meeting was to be in Dodge City but was not able to get any response from any hotels. So called Hays and they got right back to her. A hotel and meeting room was booked. We will be at the Days Inn and using the meeting rooms at the Whiskey Creek Grill next door October 28- 29.

Second VP Kristi: There will be an incentive this year for signing up for the state fair early. Sign up by June 1 you could win a night at a hotel in Hutchison or a starter hive your choice, if you sign up by August 1 you could win one of 2 bug bafflers. You will only be put on one drawing.

Bee Yard Cecil: Tipton's have 8 hives caught some swarms, Robert has 8 hives and will make some splits, Kristi has 4 hives will make splits to get 8, Cecil had 10 and lost 1, Greg had 16 and gave 8 to Jim Morford, Gary LaGrange is starting up a state yard and will get 8 new hives. Norbert has volunteered to help make equipment for the state yards. Our goal is to produce all the honey that is sold at the state fair. We had to purchase 7 barrels last year to have enough.

Third VP Becky: The group from Abilene will be doing a presentation. There was 1 grant this year, String Town 4-H Group. Danny Decker is the adult leader.

Some of the wording about attending the meetings, working at the state fair and entering the competitions was changed so that no group will be confused about the requirements of what is expected from them if they are awarded the grant.

There is a school in the South Central area that wants bees on the school grounds since they have an Ag program they will be applying next year.

Treasurer Robert: It was moved and seconded to accept the treasurer's report as posted.  
Motion passed

There was a discussion about how well Pay Pal is working and how many people use it.

New Business:

Proposed Budget was presented and discussed. It was moved and seconded to accept the proposed budget. The motion passed

Possible Name Change: There was much discussion.

At this time it was decided to leave the name the same. We would need a constitution amendment to make a name change. There would be considerable cost to the group if the name was changed. Maybe just educate the public more about our organization, promote local beekeepers. Our motto is "Promoting mankind's most beneficial insect-the Honey Bee".

Audubon of Lawrence is having a program April 9. "The Silent Spring 2016, Pollinator Conservation". They would like to know if we would want to be a Co-Sponsor of the event. It would cost \$200, which would include our logo display, information packet about the group and we would send a person who would have a display table to help promote KHPA. It was moved and seconded that we become Co-Sponsor of the group.  
Motion passed.

Web Site: Would like to have surveys posted on the website, like for mite count, small hive beetles, loses, could be anonymous maybe just what region of the state you are in. There could be a site where those people willing to do talks for groups or schools could sign up.

Upgraded to the new version of Go Daddy so there are more pages available than before. Maybe having members adding photos to a gallery. There could be link pages added for other groups.

Other new business

There was some confusion about local groups. They are independent of the State group but we would like the members to join KHPA. Area directors need to contact the local extension, NRCS, and area conservation offices to let them know about local groups.

No other business

Meeting Adjourned 10:30

Marietta Graham

Secretary

Next meeting October 27, 8:00 pm

Attached are the Regional Directors reports as printed in the agenda.

## Region Director Reports:

-SW, Carolyn Simpson- the Simpson's are "researching desert bee keeping opportunities" from their winter home at Tucson, Ariz. Carolyn feels keeping bees in Ariz. might even be easier than in SW, KS. Honey sells for significantly more there than in Ks. (\$10 or more/ 1lb) The SW region has had some snowfall but more moisture is needed. SW is meeting jointly with NW Region group.

-NW, Mark Wood- NW Region meeting with SW region & have about 52 bee keepers in the total list, 15-35 attending meetings. Winter colony losses vary, from high to more manageable numbers, no location patterns. February snowfall was welcome to help for spring bloom promotion, as snow fall is less than normal last several winters.

-SC, Bill Vinduska- SC group meets monthly now. Around 30 or more turn out regularly. Meet second Saturday of the month at the Nature Center in Wichita (except November & May). November meeting is for the Christmas get-together, with dinner, etc. May is when we get together for a field trip to hives. We are planning another Beginning Beekeepers Class in late March. Dates not confirmed (as of 2-11-2016)

-NC, Jim Morford- North Central area of the Kansas Honey Producers Association is not an organized group of beekeepers, but as Area Director, I am taking the responsibility of pulling together beekeepers from this part of the state. We held a gathering on THE coldest day of the year – January 17th!! We gathered on our farm, Morford Lavender Farm, and welcomed our state President, Greg Swob, to talk about what is going on with KHPA. We had good fellowship and shared our own journeys, and raised questions within the group. I am using both social media and postal mailings to keep in touch with members of KHPA and other interested bee keepers from North Central Kansas. In terms of our winter, we have had a generally mild winter. Time will tell what affect this has had on existing colonies, but certainly extreme weather has not been a major factor this winter.

-SE, Norbert Neal- Information regarding the spring meeting in Pittsburg has been shared with Northeast Oklahoma through Greg Hannaford in Tulsa. Heartland Beekeepers (Pittsburg local club) communicated with Joplin, Neosho and Columbus. Looking forward to a great meeting. Tim Tucker completed a four year stint as Vice-President and President of the American Beekeeping Federation. As Past President he will continue to be active lobbying Congress, USDA and EPA representing beekeepers throughout the U.S.

-NE, Chad Gilliland- With the mild winter that our members in Northeast Kansas have experienced, overall the survival rate on over-wintering hives has been really good to date. With the up and down temperature fluctuations that are expected over the next week or two, it will be key to check honey stores to ensure that each colony has sufficient food stores to make it until pollen and nectar sources begin to kick in. Our Northeast Kansas group normally meets the third Monday of every month and it seems like every meeting we see a few new faces. According to Andy Nowachek, our President, annual membership has grown from 423 members in 2013, to 536 in 2014, and now in 2016 we have 620 plus. This is a testament to all the hard work our officers put in to ensure that the meeting content is exciting and informational, with each and every one of them vested in making sure that this organization prospers and is a great source of information to all beekeepers.

Congratulations to our 7 new youth scholarship students for the new year with NEKBA. As well a big thank you to all of our mentor beekeepers that are so willing to impart their knowledge and offer their time for such a worthy program. Looking forward to what this year holds for our new students and always enjoy their presentations in the fall and winter months regarding their experiences.

We have a full calendar of upcoming events with the Northeast Kansas group. NEKBA's beginners beekeeping class is set for March 6<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. We are excited to host Dr. Diana Sammataro for the event. On June 4th, the Funday Workshop is set and the keynote speaker is Dr. Jamie Ellis. On July 17th, our annual Bee-Bee Q Meeting will be hosted at the Zimmerman's Kill Creek Barn. To register for any of the mentioned programs, go to [www.nekba.org](http://www.nekba.org) and use our convenient pay on-line option. Hope to see everyone at any and all of the fun and informative events scheduled for 2016