





April 2023

Since 1948 Exploring the Wonderful World of Beekeeping Together

The Bee Buzzer Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 4

EDITOR: CHERYL BURKHEAD

General Meeting Monday, April 17, 2023 (7:00 p.m.) (IN PERSON ONLY-website for updates)

Douglas County Fairgrounds Bldg. 21N 2110 Harper St., Lawrence KS

Directions: The address is 2110 Harper St. It is easily accessible from 23rd Street. Turn north on Harper Street and it is just a few blocks. We are in Building 21 North, which will be on your left after you turn into the fairgrounds.

Main Program: The Flow Hive – Julie Cahoj

presents. Julie is an Officer with the Kansas Honey Producers and manages their youth grant program. She will share available research on the Flow Hive vs the standard Langstroth honey super. We will have plenty of time for discussion of alternative hive choices.



Established in 1948, Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association is celebrating its 75th anniversary as an organization committed to helping educate beekeepers in best practices of beekeeping. Members regularly meet and share their passion for the honey bee, their expertise on beekeeping, and strive to maintain a healthy environment for not only our beloved honey bees but all other pollinators. Many great beekeepers have come and gone as our members continue to learn, share, and explore the wonderful world of beekeeping together.

Our club has one more beginning class to be offered this Spring and it will be held on three consecutive Monday evenings beginning April 24. A 3-day queen rearing workshop on April 21-23, hosted at the home of Matt Brandes, has quickly sold out. Krispn Given, Apiculture Specialist at Purdue University, will be providing the course instruction. Small group numbers and lots of hands-on instruction should provide for a great learning opportunity. Hopefully we can continue to provide more of these types of programs in the future. Special thanks to Matt Brandes for his efforts in arranging this program.

Our annual FunDay event will be Saturday, June 3rd at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Lawrence, Kansas. I do not recall that I have ever missed this wonderful event since I started my beekeeping journey. I recall my 5-year-old granddaughter attending and reaching her hand into the swarm of bees and insisted that her grandma do the same! I was a new beekeeper at the time and it was guite unnerving but I did not want to disappoint her. It is our event of the year each June and this year is promising to be another fantastic gathering; providing workshops, hive demonstrations, and plenty of food, fellowship, and fun! Dr. Jamie Ellis, University of Florida, will be our keynote speaker. The swarm demonstration and homemade honey ice cream is always a crowd-pleaser. Please plan to attend! Jay Francis, our Special Events Coordinator, has been working tirelessly to orchestrate another exciting FunDay. Many hands

make like work so please sign up to help and get your items to Jay for our silent auction that benefits all of our educational programs.



2023 Meeting Dates:

- April 17, 2023 (Bldg. 21) @ 7PM
- April 24, 2023 Beginning Beekeeping (6:30p-9p)
- May 1, 2023 Beginning Beekeeping (6:30p-9p)
- May 8, 2023 Beginning Beekeeping (6:30p-9p)
- May 15, 2023 (Bldg. 21) @ 7PM





Beekeeping Classes

For those of you who missed it or were unable to attend, we are repeating the Beginning Beekeeping class. It will take place in Building 21 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Lawrence, KS. This is the same meeting room where most of our monthly meetings take place. These classes will be held 3 Monday evenings starting April 24th, continuing May 1st, and ending on May 8th. Re-registration starts at 6:30 pm on April 24th. We will not be providing food or beverage but feel free to bring something for yourself. If you attended the January 28th & 29th beginning class, you are welcome to come again at no additional charge. Bring the notebook you were given; we are using the same notebook.

If you have any questions; call, text, or email Kristi Sanderson at 913-768-4961. Email -<u>Sandersonk09@gmail.com</u>

See you at the April meeting.

Kristi Sanderson, Special Events Coordinator

BEES & EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

For Sale: Selling due to health reasons. Two hives with bees each with 2 hive bodies, 2 drawn honey supers, with bottom boards, lids, inner covers, and queen excluders. \$300 each. Ottawa area, Debbie Samyn 620-719-0079.



very much about Jamie is that when he does not know something to be fact, that is exactly what he says. When he is giving an opinion, he states that clearly as well. I have to say that Jamie's opinions are worth consideration. Here is a topic quite relevant to this time of year.

A reader asked Jamie, should I add a small quantity of bleach or vinegar or some other product to retard the growth of mold in the liquid sugar syrup I use as bee feed? (I am paraphrasing) (FYI, I have extreme respect for Dr. Ellis. But I have listened to him so frequently that he feels like someone I know. It is with no disrespect intended that I use his first name.) Jamie's answer brought up several great points. One, the black gunk that forms in the sugar syrup and that most of us think of as mold has not been studied and to Jamie's knowledge, does not harm honey bees! NOT BEEN STUDIED! This is the point where the writer suggested an additive to reduce the possibility of molding. Jamie reported that the use of Clorox, vinegar, or any other chemical added to the syrup for the purpose of mold retardant has not been studied! Two practices that many beekeepers are sure they know about and will spout opinions as gospel has NOT BEEN STUDIED! So, Jamie was not willing to denounce mold (black gunk) in sugar syrup as harmful, neither was Jamie willing to say adding anything to retard the growth of mold was a good idea! Second, sugar syrup will ferment quite readily in warm weather. Bees should never be fed fermented syrup. The effects of that are documented and known to cause digestive problems for the bees. Therefore, Jamie suggests only feeding enough syrup to last the bees 2-3 days. Only feed enough sugar syrup to meet the immediate needs of your hive.

Here is a little something else to consider and this is a Becky Tipton opinion. Jamie keeps bees in Florida, everything in beekeeping is regional, and feeding seems to be no exception. Our early spring weather (now) is much cooler than Florida. Our syrup would likely ferment at a much slower rate. Our bees are likely to be confined to the hive for longer periods of time due to inclement weather and need additional syrup to support a new, growing hive. But the other side of this is, know what is happening in your hive and be a proactive beekeeper.

For most of us, beekeeping is a hobby. We are doing this because we think it is fun. The difference between beekeeping and bowling is that your bees

will die if you do not care for them. Your bowling buddies will miss you but no one dies. There are a LOT of whack-a-doo ideas on the internet. Your bees are more important than to trust their very lives to some non-scientist's experiment. Going the lazy way will likely not keep your bees healthy. Yup, open feeding is pretty darn easy and an excellent way to spread mites and disease. Almost nothing in beekeeping is done by the calendar. Almost everything in beekeeping is dependent upon weather, climate, and location.... just like farming. Learning how to read the bees, understand their needs, grow a colony, and see them prosper is nearly magical. Please keep learning about your bees from people who know what's fact and what's opinion. Come see Jamie at our FunDay and get the facts.

Becky Tipton

NEKBA Bee Yard and Teaching Apiary



The Board is working on having our own open apiary! As part of the Great Plains Master Beekeeper Program, the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers are starting their own apiary for teaching purposes. This endeavor is funded, in part, from a grant from GPMB. Watch our Facebook page this month as we will be setting up the apiary and installing our bee packages. The eventual goal is to meet before our monthly meetings and some Saturdays. Cecil Sweeney has the equipment put together. The bee yard will be at Pendleton's Market which is only about 5 minutes east from the Fairgrounds where we have our monthly meetings. More details in the May Buzzer! Watch NEKBA Facebook page for any sessions in April.

Joli Winer





NEKBA and the Kansas Honey Producers are having and educational booth at the Mother Earth News Fair that will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, April 29th and 30th. We would love some help manning the booth on those dates. We will have an observation hive and literature to pass out. The hours of the event are 9AM-6PM Saturday and 9AM-5PM Sunday. Joli will have the sign-up list at the April general meeting, or you may call or text Joli at 913-593-3562.

ASK QUINBY & REMI



Cecil and Joli were at an event Saturday and a woman was looking at Cecil's beautiful hand dipped candles. She then said to him that she heard that burning beeswax candles would keep you from having seasonal allergies. Quinby and Remi are not going to dignify this with an answer! Seriously, where do people come up with this stuff?

Dear Quinby and Remi: I have already gotten some tick bites. Any thoughts on how to protect myself from them?

Quinby and Remi answer: It helps to keep the grass mowed around your hives. You might try pulling your socks up around your pant legs (you may already do that to keep bees from crawling up your legs). Some people coat their clothing with permethrin which is available in a spray form. Mostly, Joli and Cecil just do daily tick checks and make sure that they do not have any on them- you should do the same. **Dear Quinby and Remi:** Oh my- these winds! What do people do to keep their hives from blowing over?

Quinby and Remi answer: One thing we are seeing is that a lot of new beekeepers are putting their bees on hive stands that are really tall! While bending over and kneeling are not any fun while working bees, it may be necessary! Hives get top heavy as you add supers and as your hive gets taller, it is more apt to topple over. Also, the higher it is, the harder it is to reach. We suggest you keep your hives no higher than a cement block high. Keep a heavy brick or cement block on top to keep your hive top in place on windy days. Some people even keep a ratchet strap around their hives. We have seen that some even put metal fence posts in strategic places to keep hives from falling or blowing over. The key is keeping them low and the center of gravity low.

Dear Quinby and Remi: I was releasing my queen and she flew away. Now what?

Quinby and Remi answer: The best thing to do is to leave your hive open and stand still! Frequently, the queen will fly up, make a loop, and fly back into the hive. If that happens and you do not see her fly back, wait a few days- 4 or 5 and go back and see if you see eggs. If you do not see eggs, you will need to purchase a queen and get her in the asap. Also, Cecil and Joli write "queen flew" on top of the hive as a reminder! If you have another hive, you may want to add a frame of brood to your hive when you put in your new queen to give them a boost since they have been gueenless for a while. Dear Quinby and Remi: I have ordered queens for the first time-any tips on how to take care of them? Quinby and Remi answer: Your queens have food in the cages, you only need to give them a few drops of water each day, twice a day. Do not, ever, give them honey. It makes them sticky and there are not enough attendants to get them cleaned up. Keep them at room temperature out of the sun and away from pets. If they have attendants, you can get them out with this simple trick-hold the queen cage with the attendants to another cage, matching the holes up. Be careful not to let your queen fly out! Doing this in the cab of your truck or your bathroom with the door shut is a wise choicejust in case! Either the queen or the attendants will run over into the other cage, if it is the queen- that is great, shake out the other bees and let the

queen run back into the original cage, put the cork in and you are good to go.



Quinby and Remi would love to answer your questions. Contact them my emailing their owner at <u>heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com</u>.

MENTORING/OPENING APIARIES

Mentoring at our hives on the 4th Thursday of the month plus some other dates! Meet at the home of Joli and Cecil at 6pm at 19201 S. Clare Rd., Spring Hill KS. We appreciate a phone call or text to know that people are coming - 913-593-3562. Please bring your beekeeping clothing. We have some extra clothing if you do not have anything. We invite you to go through our hives with us on the following dates (weather dependent): April 13th & 27th, May 25th, June 22, July 27th, August 24th, and September 28th. Each time we will identify queens, eggs, larvae, lighting and using a smoker, do a powdered sugar mite check and talk about what you should be doing with your bees that month.



Tips for April

- Check for ticks, they love beekeepers.
- Wear as much protective clothing as makes you comfortable when working your hives. Work hives with slow, smooth movements. Jerky movements agitate the bees.
- Use your smoker each time you check your bees.
- Organize your bee tools in a toolbox so that you can always find them.
- Work each hive from the side or the back, out of the bee flight path.

- The best time to work bees is during the middle of the day when the field bees are collecting nectar.
- Inspect hives by removing an outside frame first. Lift straight up to avoid damaging bees on the frame.
- Watch for indications that your hive is getting ready to swarm and take action! Reduce the population drastically.
- Equalize hives to minimize swarming; brood from healthy hives may be transferred to a weaker colony. Food frames could also be shared. Warning: never move frames from one hive to another unless you know where your queen is. Find the queen first.
- You should have no more than 4 or 5 frames of brood in your hives now. If you do not, then you have a problem. It may be your queen or there are not enough nurse bees to take care of brood. The queen will not lay more eggs than the workers can care for. You may need to requeen or add brood from another hive to give them a boost.
- Keep up or start your recordkeeping.
- Check colonies for food-if they need food, feed. If they have food-do not feed unless you want to make some splits or increases-if you feed too much it encourages swarming.



Military/Veterans Apprentice Program

A call for assistance. At the time of this writing, NEKBA has yet to receive an application for the veteran scholarship. I have contacted numerous veteran organizations in our area about this opportunity. If you are a member of a veteran organization or know a veteran, please bring this opportunity to their attention. More information about the scholarship can be found at:

http://www.nekba.org/scholarship.html.

Buck Bradley, Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison

Honey Plants



entering the hive with pollen sacs filled with bright yellow, orange, pale green, and grey pollen granules. Much needed protein, once mixed with nectar, is a critical food source for bee larvae. While performing hive inspections over the last week, I have seen cells filled with newly collected nectar from dandelions, henbit, apricot tree blooms, flowering quince, and grape hyacinth. Soon to follow are fruit trees; like peach, pear, and apple.

Honeybees rely on their sense of vision to locate flowers. Bees see colors in the spectrum ranging from ultraviolet to orange, but do not see red. The flower advertises itself to the bees with colorful petals, many of which have shiny patches of ultraviolet that humans cannot see without special equipment. Those ultraviolet patches are called "bee guides" or "nectar guides." Like airport runway lights, these ultraviolet regions guide the bees to the nectar. The shape of the flower is also important. Some flowers have flat areas for ease of landing by bees, and others have elaborate modifications to ensure that pollen sticks to any bee that visits.

As we move thru the month of April, start looking for Redbud, Boxelder, Sugar Maple, Serviceberry, and Gray Dogwood tree blooms to dot the landscape. Shrubs like Northern Spicebush, Lilac, Virginia Sweetspire, Gooseberry, and Black Chokecherry will offer a much-needed source of high-quality nectar. From a perennial standpoint, Buttercup, Phlox, and Dutch Clover are just around the corner to assist with building up your strong honey bee colonies.

Chad Gilliland, Honey Plants Chairman



Third Thursdays- Extracting More Money from your Hives-Value-Added program

The Kansas Honey Producers Association- 3rd Thursday, **Extracting More Money from your Hives** is at 7pm CST on Thursday, April 20th, 2023.

"Agritourism and Beekeepers- Bringing the People to You." we will have 3 presenters; Frank Gieringer, Gieringer's Family Orchard and Berry Farm, Edgerton, KS; Clint Walker, Walker Honey Farm, Rogers, TX; and Chad Gilliland, Next to Nature Farm in Tonganoxie, KS. All of these presenters will share their unique stories of how they got into agritourism and the resources that helped them become successful.

If you have never registered for Zoom presentations, please go, and register at <u>www.kansashoneyproducers.org</u>. Please do not reregister if you have already registered, you will be sent the link. KHPA Membership is \$15 per year. You will receive an email before the programs with the link to register. If you registered before or are a NEKBA member or a KHPA member, you will receive the link each month, but you may be asked to register again.

These programs are being recorded and will be available on our

http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/archives.ht ml website, under the 'Archives' page.

Upcoming Programs:

*Thursday, May 18th – **Sculpting Beeswax**, Bridget Lee-Penafort presents. **Solar wax melting**, Jay Francis presents.

Success stories from those who have listened to these Zoom talks! Let us know who you are! (Joli 913-593-3562 or <u>heartlandhoneyks@gmail.com</u>.



Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association

Beginning Beekeeping Class

April 24, May 1, 8

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS, Building 21

April 24, Monday

6:30-6:45	Registration
6:45-6:55	Introduction Welcome - Kristi Sanderson
6:55-7:25	Equipment - Jay Francis
7:30-8:15	Honey Bee Biology - Becky Tipton
8:20-9:00	Starting with Bees - Kristi Sanderson

May 1, Monday

6:30-6:45	Welcome (The Resources in your Book) - Kristi Sanderson
6:50-7:10	Location, Location, Location - Bruce Lane
7:15-7:45	Summer Beekeeping - Jo Patrick
7:50-8:35	Varroa Mite - Joli Winer
8:40-9:00	Beehive Inspections - Matthew Brandes

May 8, Monday

6:30-6:45	Welcome & upcoming events - Kristi Sanderson
6:45-7:25	Fall Management - Steve Tipton
7:35-8:25	Keeping a Healthy Hive - Cheryl Burkhead
8:30-9:00	Extracting Basics - Bob Burns

TAKE NOTE No food or beverages will be provided. Feel free to bring your own dinner and beverage.

If you need to get up for any reason do so as quietly as possible so as not to disturb others. Thank you for your cooperation.

NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ADDRESS				
CITY	STATEZI	P+4		
PHONE	Email Address			
I would like to receive the	newsletter, The Buzzer, by email Y	es	No	
Membership Northeaster	n KS Beekeepers per year (July-Dec.	\$12.50)	\$25.00 _	
Additional family member	s wanting voting rights \$1.00 per pe	rson	\$1.00	
Additional family member	's name			
(Youth Membership (18 y	ears of age or under)		\$12.50_	
Membership for Kansas H	oney Producers Association		\$15.00_	
American Bee Journal (dis	counted rate through association		1 year \$27.65	
Bee Culture Magazine (or	subscribe online at <u>www.BeeCultur</u>	<u>e.com</u>)	1 year \$32.00_	
Scholarship / Military/Vet	eran's Appr. Donation		_	
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Make checks payable to: NEKBA or Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn.

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Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission KS 66202 ph. 913-481-3504, <u>rburnshoney@gmail.com</u> You may join, re-new, register, donate and pay online at <u>www.nekba.org</u>

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Need help with your hives? -Spring inspections, installing packages, making splits, queen evaluation, diagnosis of pests and diseases, mite monitoring and treatment, etc. I can help you with your beekeeping needs! I am a certified master beekeeper with 30 + years of beekeeping experience. I will leave you with a written course of action after our session at your hives. Call or text at 913-768-4961 or email Kristi Sanderson at sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

BEEKEEPERS.COM

Beekeepers.com (Jordy's Honey Company) in Lenexa, KS. We are now accepting pre-orders for 3 lbs. packages and 5 frame Nucs. Choose from MN Hygienic, Italian, or Carniolan queens. Queens will be marked for your convenience. Packages and Nucs have been treated for mites so no treatments needed until Fall. 6 pickup dates to choose from in April so get your orders in soon as we sell out each year. Beekeepers.com is your only local full-service beekeeping store. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Protective Clothing, Bottles, Bee Packages, Nucs and Queens. Visit our web site Beekeepers.com to view our entire line of beekeeping supplies. You can also shop in-person at our store in Lenexa. We ship queens directly to YOU! Order at QueenBees.com. Queens available March - October. Our hours are Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00, Saturday 9:00-12:00. You can find our honey at The Overland Park Farmers Market. Robert Hughes, 14054 W 107th St, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-681-5777 or email Info@Beekeepers.com

COTTIN'S HARDWARE & RENTAL

Cottin's stocks a full line of beekeeping equipment year-round including items manufactured by Harvest Lane Honey, Little Giant, and Bug Baffler. Products include hives, supers, frames, foundations, extractors, tools, and protective apparel. We also stock a full line of Home Brewing Mead Making supplies. Located in Lawrence, KS at 1832 Massachusetts Street (South of Dillon's). We are open Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Call us at 785-843-2981 or email us at <u>hardware@sunflower.com</u>

CB'S HONEY

CB's Honey is now accepting orders for 5 frame nucs. Queens will be marked upon request. Don't delay as I make a limited number and sell out every year. Order your 2023 Nuc by completing form online at <u>CB's Honey</u> <u>2023 Nuc Order Form (google.com)</u> or via <u>CB's Honey | Facebook</u>. Pure raw Kansas honey available in 5 gal buckets. Located just SE of Topeka. 4521 SE 61st Street, Berryton, KS 66409. Call or text Cheryl Burkhead at 785-224-9077 or email @ <u>cherylbhoney@gmail.com</u>

CEDAR RIDGE BEES

5 Frame Nucs for Sale. We are your local Premier Bee Products Dealer specializing in plastic foundation made entirely in the U.S.A. We sell bucket feeders and other bee equipment. Call or text Philip Knaus at 785-581-4216 or contact us at <u>cedarridgebeehives@gmail.com</u> - Check out our bees and products at <u>www.cedarridgebees.com</u> Cedar Ridge Bees 585 N 500 Rd, Overbrook, KS 66524

T CREEK BEES AND HONEY – Tecumseh/Berryton, KS

Tecumseh Creek winds its way through the home yard lending its name to the brand. Located between Lawrence and Topeka, T Creek offers 5-frame nucs, online honey sales, custom honey packing, wholesale delivery to the Topeka / Lawrence area, 5-gallon buckets of honey, and drop-shipping wholesale service to rural grocery stores and agritourism destinations. Visit <u>www.tcreekbees.com</u> Email: <u>tcreekbees@gmail.com</u> or find the bees on Facebook. Order 2023 5-frame nucs by visiting the website and completing the nuc order form. Owner: Tim Urich. LLC in the State of Kansas and licensed by Kansas Dept of Ag.



Honey Bee Biology AND BEEKEEPING, Third Edition, Dewey M. Caron and Lawrence John Connor, \$90 postage included. This book should stay on the dashboard of every beekeeper's truck. It's that good, and that necessary. Kim Flottum, Bee Culture. This comprehensive textbook easily replaces many beginner books while adding comprehensive details of bee biology essential to becoming a

successful beekeeper and student of the honey bee. First released in 1999, *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* is widely accepted as a major textbook of Apiculture (beekeeping). Beekeepers and bee clubs use it to teach other beekeepers. Universities use it to teach college students bee biology and beekeeping. It concentrates on the 'why', 'how' and 'when' of beekeeping. It explains bee and beekeeping basics in a manner meaningful to people who lack an extensive back-ground in biology. Yet it is not over-simplified, and provides a meaningful source of beekeeping information for the informed beekeeper. The Third Edition has been carefully edited, updated and expanded to 480 pages. New chapters have been added, as have colorful new graphics and photographs. The Glossary has also been expanded. **Wicwas Press LLC Kalamazoo, MI 49001 -**<u>www.wicwas.com</u>

The Association does not endorse nor evaluate the advertisements, products or services offered in the Buzzer.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association Robert Burns, Treasurer 7601 W 54th Terr Shawnee Mission KS 66202-1129

Address Service Requested

Meeting Monday, April 17, 2023 (In Person)

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year (December 31-December 31) for the first in the family joining. Those joining in July or later in the year may pay \$12.50 for ½ year. Additional members of that family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$12.50 per year. Please submit new memberships and renewals to the treasurer or on-line at www.nekba.org.

The Bee Buzzer is the official publication of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association, Inc. and is published monthly. Commercial ads are accepted in the newsletter for a fee; non-commercial ads by paid members are accepted & are free.

The library of the association is free to all members. Books may be checked out at the meetings and kept for a period of 30 days. The bee publications, *The American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* can be subscribed through the treasurer or on-line. The *American Bee Journal* is offered at a discount through the association only.

The Association meets each month, generally on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January and July. Beekeeping classes will tentatively be held in January and February for 2023. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check *The Bee Buzzer* or website at <u>www.nekba.org</u> each month for the actual date, time and location. If the weather is bad, call an officer or check the website to find out if the meeting will be held or cancelled.

2023 Officers

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