

Kansas Honey Producers Association Executive Meeting  
March 5, 2020 (Thursday) Hays, Kansas

President Becky Tipton called the meeting to order around 8pm, Thursday, March 5, 2020 at Whiskey Creek Fire Grill, Hays, Kansas  
Present was: Chad Gilliland, Julie Cahoj, Sondra Koehn, Stephanie Brown, Steve Tipton, Becky Tipton, Joli Winer, Robert Burns, Brenda Seader, Amy Dikeman, Nikki Bowman, Steve Messbarger  
Absent was: Kristi Sanderson, Candy Vinduska, Norbert Neil

It was suggested and approved to not read the minutes from the previous meeting but each to review them as posted on line.

Treasurer Robert Burns: Financial reports were passed out. Membership numbers, newsletter stats and 2019 cash flow report was reviewed. Taxes are completed. The question was asked if there were any concerns. Per Burns there are no serious concerns.

Another question was if meeting funds were okay? Per Burns, yes but not all members have renewed. A discussion followed to brainstorm on increasing membership. Having a central location in Wichita for each meeting should help. The next 3 meetings are scheduled for Oct. 22-24, 2020, Mar. 3-6, 2021 and Oct 21-23, 2021. After a couple of meetings at the Wichita location we can reevaluate how membership is then.

Tipton suggested talking to Ag Extension agents, invite them with free registration and send people to give classes in their areas. Not all counties have agents but they have an annual meeting. Amy has connections and will talk with Becky about contacting them.

Kristi is not here but will have time on Saturday to discuss any issues.

Julie regarding grant scholarships: Holton group and Coffee County group will be present on Saturday. Hutchinson Jr High school group will not be here. It is a requirement for all scholarship groups to be at meetings. This has been communicated both verbally and by email. Julie will redo the application to include dates of meetings they need to attend. It will be a pdf file and can be filled out on line. Julie is learning to communicate more with the mentor of each group as much as the group itself.

Julie raised the question of raising funds for the scholarship program. Having tangible things to sell can be cumbersome to tote around and store. Hats were suggested and maybe cookbooks. Brenda will help Julie and Amy sell items. A suggestion was made to put the meeting dates in the Bee Culture Magazine.

Per Julie, the constitution is almost ready to send out to this group for review. Clarification is needed on elections and when they take place. Will it be in general meetings and voted by majority? It was suggested voting needs to be more professional and after some discussion it could be put on a ballot and handed out at registration and to members only. This would give members time to review the nominations and talk to the nominees. Voting would be done verbally but if multiple nominees then with paper ballot.

Cappings letter is sent 4 times per year and special additions are sent out other times. Stephanie would like set months for when they should be sent out. It was decided on January 20, May 1, August 1, September 1 will be special addition for fall meeting as well as a handout at the fair and November 10. Stephanie needs all info 10 days before these dates to have time to prepare the letter. Julie will update the bylaws with these dates.

Jim Kellie joined the group and spoke about the legislative aspects of bees. On the Kansas schedule F bees and equipment are considered Ag. If in commercial business you can get tags and tax exemptions but not for hobbyist. More legislation may require more regulation, like involving inspections, fines and regulated labeling. We need more education and regulation where fraud is concerned. Kansas has no funding for this so we hear nothing.

Regional Directors Report:

NE: Chad Gilliland –The NE group split their bee classes into 2 groups. Beginners class in Jan. had 167 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year and Beyond class in Feb. had 160 attend. Funday is coming up on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Douglas Co. Fair grounds and will have great speakers.

NW: Brenda Seader put out a survey on what the group wanted and had good results. She wants to check with other counties and 4-H clubs to promote the association.

SW: Amy Dikeman wants to be more active. It was suggested traveling to shows and hold beginning beekeeping classes.

N Central: Nikki Bowman still working to get Facebook for this group and have 40 emails so far. Meetings are held in a nice big room at the library in Salina. Rolling Hill Zoo has offered the group to meet and observe the hive they have there this summer.

S Central: Candy Vinduska - No new business was given.

SE: Norbert Neal – No new business was given.

New business:

Becky Tipton handed out a sheet of information on professional ways to communicate both verbally and through emails. She recommended better communication between board members. Specially communicate with Stephanie regarding the Cappings newsletter. Everyone should follow up and make sure they have communicated info to Stephanie and Stephanie in return needs to let people know she has received their articles and info. It was suggested we use the Cappings to advertise our upcoming meetings and that each regional director provide updates and info from their area. New directors and new board members should read the by-laws to better acquaint themselves with their responsibilities.

Becky Tipton reminded the group that the Master Beekeeping Grant Program which includes, UNL, Judy Wu-Smart or Great Plains Master Beekeeping program, will need funding in the future. We have grants now but it will need support from the clubs. Joli made a motion that each club sponsor the program with \$500 per year. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> motion with one member apposing and the others agreed with the motions. **Robert Burns ask if he would be invoiced for the contribution and it was recommended no invoice be sent. It was also suggested maybe this could be bought online. Volunteer hours for the Grant Program need to be logged and can go toward their master's program. We need confirmation if we put in the hours.**

Name tags need to be discussed but will do that later when Kristi is present.

Beekeeper of the year and the process of how one is selected was brought up by Julie Cahoj. There does not seem to be anything in the bylaws for this process. Suggestions were made that the President would suggest someone or an application be put forth. Also, that it would be a surprise and does it need to be a member? Per Becky, let's think on it and how organized or systematic we want it. Joli suggested the president appoint a committee for it. Becky ask for volunteers. Julie C. Joli W. and Chad G. all volunteered. Other suggestions were to put an announcement in summertime issue of The Cappings as well as on the website. Applications could be sent to regional officers and the officers sent their suggestions to the committee.

Per the president Becky Tipton it is in the by-laws that regular officers have term limits. Norbert in SE wants to be replaced. New officers are needed for 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Secretary and South. We can put nominees in the September Cappings addition.

Door prizes might be good. Just pick a number so we don't need tickets.

Motions for the meeting to adjourn were made and supported by all. Meeting was adjourned.

Sondra Koehn  
Secretary