

Kansas Honey Producers Association Executive Meeting
November 4, 2022 (Thursday) Salina, Kansas
Hybrid meeting in person at Courtyard Marriot and a zoom meeting

Becky Tipton called the meeting to order at 8pm. Attendance in person was Becky Tipton, Sondra Koehn, Greg Swob, Robert Burns, Kristi Sanderson, Julie Cahoj, Jim Kellie, Cheryl Burkhead, Nikki Bowman, Jo Patrick, Joli Winer and DeeDee Gebhart. Attendance by Zoom was Tiny Jackson and Kirk Hadley. Absent was Jane Kill.

Jo introduced Kirk Hadley from Bee Check/Drift Watch and it was discussed if we could use the contacts from their registration to send a card or flyer and invite them to the KHPA. Kirk will reach out to the board members and let us know their decision.

Minutes: Executive Board meeting minutes from March were previously sent by email from Sondra for review. There were no questions so with a 1st and 2nd motion was made to accept them and they were approved by all.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Burns previously provided financials by email for all board members for review. There were no questions.

1st VP Report: Greg Swob would like to award each new attendee with a gift at the meetings. He then reviewed the agenda for the following 2 days and presented dates of March 3rd & 4th and November 3rd & 4th for 2023 conference dates.

2nd VP Report: Kristi Sanderson reported that the KHPA had two very honorable awards from the fair. The 1st one was the longevity award for 40 consecutive years of being at the state fair of KS and the second award was the coveted reserve grand champion for best inside exhibit. The Fair sales numbers were reviewed, and it was a very good year with the most pounds of honey ever sold. We added a 4th space to the booth this year which gave more room for the live hive exhibit. Do we want to continue renting this 4th space in the future? A motion was made to rent it again, a second motion was made, and all voted in favor. Kristi has asked Julie to help with the fair next year and Julie has agreed to do so. There were a lot of great entries for the honey show this year. Kristi has asked Gary Rueter from WI to be the judge next year since we have had the same judge for the last 8 years. The judging sheets also need to be updated. Kristi has asked Jim Kellie, and Becky Tipton to assist in making the needed changes. Kristi also asked if we wanted new name tags to use for the fair and for board members to wear at the meetings. She showed a picture of one with the new logo. They can also be put on with a magnet instead of a pin. They would cost \$10.25/tag. A motion was made for the association to pay for each of the board members and lifelong members to have one. A second motion was made, and all voted in favor. Another motion was made if other members want a name tag, they can order them at the March meeting and the tags would be delivered at the fall meeting. A second motion was made, and all voted in favor. It was mentioned that a notice for ordering the name tags should be added to The Cappings newsletter.

3rd VP Report: Julie Cahoj reported there were 4 grant applications this year. This is the first year the online applications have been used, and all went well. The Board's suggestion was to go with one application this year and supported Julie to choose the applicant she could best work with, find a mentor for them and if one could not be found or things didn't work out with that group to move on to the next application of her choice.

Area Regional Directors Reports:

NE: Jo Patrick reported the group has several meetings scheduled for Jan through April and are again preparing for Funday in June. It has been dry, so feeding is priority. She is working on cards for advertising.

NC: Nikki Bowman reported the group has been meeting at the Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina with repeat beekeepers coming back as well as new beekeepers joining. Jared, who is the zoo's beekeeper, has 2 people from the group volunteering to help him with the zoo hives. All seems to be working well.

West: DeeDee Gebhart reported it is very dry and windy, so they are feeding a lot. There will be a beginner's class in Hays at the library, date, and time to be announced.

SE: Tiny Jackson reported there are group activities around the area, and some have booths in farmers markets.

SC: Jane Kill was not available so no report

Legislative Group: Jim Kellie reported this is an election year, so no commitments are being made now. Steve and Becky went to the Ag Conference where the focus was on goats with very little on bees. Jim, Becky, and Nikki will focus on the ELAP program and speak with the program board about the importance of beekeeping. The Food and Farm conference is at the Kansas Rural Center in Salina next weekend Nov 11-12 and is open to the public.

On a National level the U.S. won the lawsuit on a tariff charging other countries for importing their honey. Annually in the U.S. there is 618 million lbs consumed and only 216 million lbs produced leaving a difference of 400 million lbs. Therefore, much of it is imported. From a state level the number of registered bee colonies is 9,000 up from the previous 5,000.

Constitution Committee: Julie Cahoj reported a change is needed in the by-laws providing clarification for the bee yards. The notice went out in The Cappings newsletter so this should be ready for a public vote.

The Cappings Editor Cheryl Burkhead: Cheryl's husband currently prints the newsletters that are mailed out through his work with no cost to the association. He may be retiring in the near future and this printing would then be an added cost to the association. Getting the newsletter by email was encouraged, which would then eliminate this cost.

Old Business: None to discuss.

New Business:

1. Beekeeper of the year application has been updated. This year's award will be given at Friday's dinner.
2. GPMB (Great Plains Master Beekeeper) has new programs for becoming a Master beekeeper. They have updated their computer program and are compiling a list of those registered. If interested contact Jolie for a form or with any questions.
3. ABF (American Beekeeping Federation) wants a delegate from KS. Steve and Becky will look into going but there are added fees this year so that may limit the possibility.
4. Jim Kellie is on the board of the AHPA (American Honey Producers Association). They were a big player in the lawsuit that was filed with ITC to investigate illegal dumping of honey in the U.S. market. The fees for this membership are increasing. The membership gives us a vote, but Jim suggested this vote may not be needed and that we go ahead and cancel this membership, eliminating the cost. Becky suggested we make a donation to support the associated legal fees.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:35pm by President Becky Tipton with a 1st & 2nd motion and supported by the group.

Minutes submitted by Sondra Koehn