

Kansas Honey Producers Association Executive Meeting

Oct 17 2019 - Wichita Kansas

President Jim Kellie called the meeting to order around 8pm, Oct. 17, 2019

Present was: Jim Kellie, Chad Gilliland, Julie Cahoj, Sondra Koehn, Candy Vinduska, Kristi Sanderson, Andy and Wendy Nowachek, Jim Morford, Mark Mounce, Stephanie Brown, Steve Tipton, Becky Tipton, Norbert Neil, Cecil Sweeney, Joli Winer, Robert Burns
Minutes from the previous (March 2019) meeting were read and approved after a couple of names were corrected. Motions were made and it was approved by all.

1st VP Joli Winer: There was a slight change in this weekend's schedule due to the speaker's schedules. The venue (Best Western) this weekend has a really great rate. It includes meals and break. Spring 2020 conference will be March 6&7 in Hayes at Days Inn.

Kim Flottum and Liz Walsh will be the speakers there as well as Kelly Hayes who is the new editor of Bee Culture Magazine. Fall 2020 conference will be Oct 16 & 17. Tammy Hornpotter is scheduled to be a speaker and we are open for a 2nd suggestion. It was suggested we meet in SE Kansas for this or in central KS, maybe McPherson or maybe SW to Greensburg. Joli will check into it and reminded us that ideas for speakers will be needed for spring to. Dates for spring 2021 conference are Mar 5 & 6.

2nd VP Kristi Sanderson: Results from the Fair honey sales were passed out. There were more volunteers than usual. The question was asked why and the response was the sign up genius. It was suggested the more that sign up the better. A different house was rented for next year. It is smaller but there is room for the judge and one other out of town person. Becky Tipton 3rd VP asked Sanderson what she would change. The response was to move a cabinet and rack making the space more efficient. Fair manager complained about the height of the lattice so we should expect to change it next year. Creamed honey really pays off as it was 1/3 of the sales. We need to consider optimizing on this. The location it is displayed on the counter makes a difference too. Since we now have more storage behind the display and it is easy to access maybe leave more in storage and less on the counter. There were more credit card sales. Using the square makes it easier. Nobody complained about the price so we must be at a good price point. Two questions customers asked; 1) Where can we buy on line and 2) What part of the state does the honey come from. It was questioned if we should look at year round sales on line. Others suggested we direct them to local beekeepers and farmers' markets. Creamed honey is harder to find. Twice as much was made this year vs. last and it was sold out by Wed. of the Fair along with chunk honey.

The honey judge, Jenny Mitchell has offered to come do some training at different clubs if we pay her travel costs. Several agreed this would be a good idea. No action was taken.

3rd VP Becky Tipton: Grant Groups, there are 2 groups finishing up their grants after 2 years. Rick has been a great benefit to the Rock Creek 4-H group and they will present at this meeting. The Holton Group is doing well. They will not be here but will present at the March conf. The Prairie Hills Bee Club from Buhler School Dist. is doing really well. So is the Argonia Hill Toppers 4-H club and both will be here at the fall 2019 meeting. There are 3 new applications to consider for the 2020 year. The 1st app is from the Coffey County 4-H group at LeRoy, KS lead by Lauren Hall. William (Tiny) Jackson offered to mentor them. The 2nd app doesn't seem to be ready yet so will recommend them to apply later when they are more established. The 3rd app is from the FFA group near Pratt, KS that had hives donated to them but not sure what they need from us. Becky will investigate their needs before recommending. She moved we accept the 1st app., motion was 2nd and supported by all.

Treasurer Robert Burns: Passed out financial reports for all to review. It was noted that the sales tax rate dropped. Changes need to be made to the state yard operators. Take out Jim Morford; add Jim Kellie, Stephanie Brown and Mark Mounce.

Regional Directors Report:

NE: Chad Gilliland - In 2018 a scholarship program was started and is doing really well. They are switching their beginner's class from March to January. This will give beginning beekeepers more time to prepare and be ready for spring. Becky Tipton will be leading it. In Feb she will also be leading the 2nd year and beyond class held at the Douglas Co. Fairground in Lawrence. Info will be passed out later.

NW: Julie Cahoj - They had two meetings with about 20 people attending in each. Brenda Seader from Sharon Springs will be taking Julie's place in leading their group. She has finished her apprenticeship through the University of Montana on-line beekeeping class.

S Central: Candy Vinduska – Facebook is where their group participates. They meet the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Great Plains Center. They are changing from morning to afternoon meetings to encourage more people to come. A concern is with many new beekeepers coming to meetings old beekeepers don't want to come.

N Central: - Jim Morford – Nikki Bowman will be the new leader of this group. The meetings will be held in Salina. A specific meeting place is to be determined and field meetings will be on various farms when weather permits.

SE: Norbert Neal – He suggested that classes put too much emphasis on diseases and it scares new beekeepers off but Varroa mites must be mentioned.

Old business: led by Jim Kellie

- A web master is needed. Someone that will volunteer to take it on as there is no money to fund it.
- Bees are in question of being listed as livestock in agriculture. This maybe a tax issue. This needs more review. It was confirmed that Kansas law schedule F bees are still listed there.
- A new Legislative committee needs to be appointed. Jim Kellie looked back and is the only one remaining so two more need to be appointed to make a legislative presentation and do inspections if needed.
- A new procedure is needed to review and investigate over spraying. Jim Kellie and Mark Mounce will reviews.

Julie Cahoj ask for the by-laws and constitution be reviewed. The version on line seems to be a draft and needs cleaning up. She volunteered to review and update it. Kellie suggested a committee be appointed to review it. It was further suggested that Becky Tipton and Nikki Bowman assist with this.

Julie Cahoj also asks what the qualifications were for beekeeper of the year? Are there deadlines for nominations? Is any of this posted for members to review? She suggested a form be put together for this and the group nominated her to draft/make the form. It was also suggested a committee of 3 should make the final decision.

J. Kellie read the nominations for current and new members that will take the place of old members whose terms have expired. These will be presented to the group at the end of the fall session on Saturday. Here are the nominations:

NE – Chad Gilliland will remain

NW – Brenda Seaders will take Julie Cahoj's place

N Central – Nikki Bowmen will take Jim Morford's place

SE – Norbert Neal will remain

SW – Amy Dikeman has volunteered to step in and fill this vacant position

S Central – Candy Vinduska will remain

3rd VP – Julie Cahoj was appointed by Jim Kellie to fill Becky Tipton’s place since Becky is resigning
President - nominations are Becky Tipton and Greg Swob. Per J. Kellie these nominations will need to be nominated from the floor. He also prompted us to start the conference on time in the mornings.

There was a motion for the meeting to adjourn, a 2nd motion was made and supported by all.
Meeting was adjourned.

Sondra Koehn

Secretary