

# **Kansas Honey Producers**

## **General Meeting**

**March 5, 2016**

**Pittsburg**

The general meeting was called to order by President Greg Swob on March 5, 2016 at 1:40pm.

Officers were introduced.

Minutes: A motion and second was made to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed

Treasurer's report was presented. A motion and second was made to approve the report. Motion passed

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres Joli Winer:** Thank you to all that helped at the meeting. The pre registration was low until the last minute. Please sign up early so we can have a head count. The next meeting will be in Hays Oct 28 and 29. Dodge City is out because no hotel would respond. Spring is undecided it will possibly be in Emporia, Wichita, or Manhattan. May be get a city tour or visit some attractions.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres Kristi Sanderson:** State fair is Sept 9 - 18. Help will be needed setting up and labeling Sept 7 and 8. There will be an incentive to sign up early this year. If you sign up by June 1 you will be entered into a drawing for 1 night in a Hutchison Hotel, or for a starter hive (which has no bees). If you sign up after June 1 but before August 1 you will be entered into a drawing for 1 of 2 bug bafflers. You will get 1 ticket with your name on it entered into the drawing for each 4 hour shift you work, but you can only win 1 prize. I will be using Sign Up Genius again this year. I am going to try to hold some hotel rooms for fair workers so that they do not have to drive so far. Let me know if you would like to reserve one. Make sure you enter your honey and products in the fair.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Pres Becky Tipton:** Grant Program; the hope was with the grant program to help multiple youths get started in beekeeping not just one as with the scholarship program. The String Town group from Burlington will receive a grant. Danny Decker is the Mentor. There is a school looking at applying for a 2017 grant.

**No old business**

**No new business.**

Heartland Beekeepers were glad that we came and would like to invite us back again. They will try to have an evening event planned if we come back.

Meeting adjourned 2pm

Marietta Graham

Secretary

Attached are the Regional Directors reports as printed in the Executive Committee's 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