

West Plains Beekeepers Association

March 16, 2018 Minutes

- Meeting called to order at 1903.
- Minutes were approved from the February meeting.
- Mellody Descoteaux agreed to record minutes for this meeting.
- Treasurer’s Report:
  - Continue to have approx. \$1500 over our normal balance due to the classes being offered. Anticipated bills for books, canopy and certifications will bring the balance back to “normal”.
  - Club memberships must be paid by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Remember, the WPBA membership card can be shown at several supporting businesses for a discount!
- Committee Reports:
  - Education Committee
    - Monthly Educational Programs:
      - Mary Brodhal, Beekeeping with Neighbors (April)
      - Panel Discussion for Second Year Beekeeping (May)
    - Journeyman classes have begun and have 18 students. Beginning beekeeping classes have also started and there are 30 people.
    - Sandpoint event by Jim Miller on 3/17. 4 hours of beginning beekeeping and 4 hours of advanced beekeeping. >100 signed up!
    - Community events that need volunteers. These are eligible to earn points for Journeyman certification.

Date	Time/Contact	Description
4/9	Joe Miller	Girl Scouts
5/12		Cheney MayFest. Signups out. Children’s activities in the booth this year.
5/24		Second Graders at Liberty Lake Park; 54 students in 6 groups. 30 minutes per group.
6/1	10AM – 8 PM	West Central Community at Cannon Park
6/2	4 hours	Mobius
6/9	Set up @ 9 10AM – 4 PM	Herbal Fair at Unity Spiritual Center on Bernard. Sign up out.
6/16	10AM – 4 PM	Medical Lake Founders Day
August		Airway Heights Festival and Car Show

- Publicity Committee:

- Business Cards ordered by Margo.
  - Flyer for Reimagine Medical Lake was circulated for comments. The content is focusing on those that want to help the bees without getting involved as a beekeeper.
- Research Committee – The previous study is being replicated. 16 hives will be split between the Red Barn in Cheney and property located on Hwy 195. Experiment scheduled to start at the end of April and last for 12 months.
- EWU Sustainability Report - Classes at EWU have not moved forward at this time. Last year EWU decided to turn 120 acres into native prairie vegetation in their continued program of establishing a Bee Friendly Campus. Gonzaga is already a Bee Friendly campus and Whitworth's program is in progress.
- Airway Heights CC and Walla Walla
  - The DOC wrote an article that was published in the State DOC publication about the journeyman classes complete with pictures!
- Website – The site is getting cluttered and requires lotsa scrolling. Jack will clean it up.
- Annual Meeting/Conference
  - Margo Buckles, Joe Miller and Ellen Miller had a meeting with Jennifer Walke of EWU. Discussion highlights:
    - EWU will provide the facility.
    - Publicity will be the responsibility of a graduating class service project.
    - Jennifer will apply for grants to help finances.
  - Kevin and Margo's meeting with Jennifer:
    - Kevin will secure 8-10 quality speakers.
    - Bee Girl is the focus for the Keynote speaker. Sarah Red-Laird is a U of Montana graduate living in Oregon. She has multiples hives and has a Ted Talk on Bee Habitat as one of her many credits.
  - We are asking EWU to be the Sponsor of the event.
  - We estimate \$6000 to cover speaker expenses.
  - One idea for funding is to ask each of the area beekeeper groups to co-Sponsor (for a fee).
  - Need volunteers and financial support from all groups, not just WPBA.
  - Conference Date is 02/09/2019.
  - Trade Show is planned
  - WPBA has funding available; however, this event will NOT be permitted to break the club's finances.
  - MOTION by Kevin Oldenburg: Proceed with conference on February 9, 2019. Marilyn Geiger seconded the motion. After discussion, the vote was unanimous.... WE ARE A GO!! 😊

- Plan on attending the Organizational Meeting for the Conference on April 12<sup>th</sup> (changed to April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.) with Jennifer Walke at Kevin and Margo's home. Time TBD.
- Old Business
  - Marie Ellis was nominated for the Secretary position by Kevin Oldenburg. Maurice Desctoeaux seconded the nomination. Vote was unanimous approval.
  - Washington State Beekeepers Association: Ellen Miller received notice that Gary Clueit, President of the WSBA, is resigning. Discussion focused on the WSBA Board structure and participation. After a lengthy discussion, several WPBA members are interested in becoming active at the State level.
  - There was also a reminder to register your hives with the State. Cost is \$5 for 1-10 hives. This is important for two reasons:
    - Monies from registration are available for bee research.
    - If your hives are destroyed by an agriculture event (aerial spraying), you will be more apt to be eligible for monetary compensation.
- New Business
  - The City of Spokane Valley revised their beekeeping ordinance and it is nearly identical to Spokane's ordinance. WASBA certification is required and Grandfathering was not an option.
- Motion to adjourn entered by Kevin Oldenburg, seconded by Mellody Desctoeaux and passed at 1957.

Respectfully submitted,

Mellody Desctoeaux, Acting Secretary