

West Plains Beekeepers Association

March 18, 2016

Pizza Factory, Medical Lake, WA.

6-6:15 PM Journeyman class instructed by Jim Miller-"Queen Rearing".

6:30-7:15 PM Education by Sandy Fanara "Yellow Jackets".

7:17 The **Meeting** was called to order by V.P. Ellen Miller.

33 members were in attendance, with 2 officers.

Secretary's minutes were approved as written online.

Treasurer's report was read.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee

- WSBA sent a message to Association Presidents. They have developed formal procedure for how the apprentice certification classes will be taught. To comply we have sent the names and addresses of our teachers: Jim Miller Master beekeeper, Journeyman beekeepers Sandy Fanara, Don Richter, Jack and Ellen Miller, Alvarez Family Ari, Ana, Ari Jr., Maria; the follow who are nearly finished with their Journeyman requirements Keven Oldenburg, Margo Buckles, and Joe and Marilyn Geiger. All those listed also were at the "Train the Trainer" course at EWU.
- The last class of the newest beginning beekeeping series is Sat.16th.
- Jim Miller reported that both classes, one finished out in the Valley, and the one on Saturday both had more than 20 attendees.
- Marilyn reports that at next month's meeting, the education program will be Jim on "Overwintering Hives" and the following month will be Joe on "Splitting Hives".
- Keven said that he was trying to contact Brandon Hopkins, PhD from WSU to come do an education program.

- The education committee continues to be open to any ideas or subjects that the membership would like a program on.
- Earth Day is on Saturday, April 23rd. We have a booth at the event being held in Riverfront Park and need volunteers.
- Garden Expo is on May 14th. We have paid the \$110 entry for a booth at the event being held at SCC, next to Jim Millers booth. Free parking, free seminars are offered at the event. Joe and Marilyn and Kevin and Margo are in charge of our booth. We need volunteers. Jim recommends at least two in the booth at all times due to high volume of attendees.
- Cheney May Fest is also on May 14th. Don and Cathy Richter managing our booth. No charge to us (Turnbull was canceled and this is instead). We need volunteers.
- Medical Lake Founder Day is on June 18th. We need volunteers for that booth as well.
- Medical Lake is having a Farmers Market this Summer. There is a Facebook page with full information. They are being held on Saturdays and Sundays and a booth there cost \$100 for the 20 days. Membership asked to consider if we want a presence there? Tabled until next month's meeting.
- Jim reported that beekeepers in Kettle Falls are asking for help/support at their City Council Meeting on May 5th. Beekeeping (as well as gardening, orchards, etc) ordinances are being rescinded.
- On March 21st, at Gonzaga University speaker May Berenbaum, PhD will present a talk entitled "Apis-pocalypse" at 7:30PM. An announcement was sent to our membership. [<http://news.gonzaga.edu/2016/14808>].
- Kevin reported that EWU wants students to set up an apiary, but unfortunately they did not meet the funding deadlines. Jack and Kevin told them they will pull some equipment together. Hoping to collect swarms to populate those hives, which are common on campus. Needing local volunteers to mentor and help with swarms, etc. Contact Kevin.
- Jim reports that the prisons are wading through government restrictions and paperwork, but moving forward on getting beekeeping programs up and running.

Publicity Committee

- Margo reports that there is new association publicity in the Huckleberry Press. All misinformation from previous has been corrected.

Research Committee

- Kevin reports that 1 Medical Lake High School student is attending apprenticeship classes and doing well.

Website committee

- Jack reports that the new association page is up and running. We now have a whole domain so the officers and committee chairpersons private addresses are now linked and unseen from the site. He has also installed a "unsubscribe" link for mailings.

Demo Hive Committee

- Jack, Sandy, and Kevin met and looked at ideas for demo hives. Have decided to build a single frame demo hive themselves (Jack and Kevin).
- Jack suggested that it would be a good idea to move ahead with getting liability insurance if the association is going to be taking the demo hive with live bees to the upcoming events.
- It was announced that All Lines Insurance had been contacted and the quote for liability insurance for the club would be \$300 a year. A motion was made that we purchase the insurance for the quoted price. Discussion followed asking how often we plan on using the demo hive; and when will the demo hive be ready? Ellen suggested that the demo hive would be used at the upcoming events, as soon as it was ready..Kevin then "promised with a snarky smile", that it would be ready for May 14th.Motion Passed

Old Business

- Elections. The only nominee for the open position of Vice President was Ellen Miller. She was unanimously elected.
- Signatory agents for the club at the bank shall now be Treasurer Sherry Hession, and Vice President Ellen Miller.
- Dues are still being accepted (they were due in January). There is a discount offered at Miller's Homestead only if you have a current membership card. 1 card per family. If you paid membership online, pick-up membership cards at meetings.
- Last meeting Don brought up the need for a finance committee. Because Don and our treasurer Sherry were both not present, this was tabled until next meeting.

New Business

- Budget. The executive committee assumed that there was a budget in place for the 2015-16 financial year, but were incorrect. Don suggests, via Ellen an interim short term budget until a complete budget is made (before the next election of officers): Publicity\$500, Education \$300, Supplies \$100. A motion was made to create the said budget, and then a friendly amendment was included to add \$100 for the new Demo Hive. Discussion followed, about why we need the budget. Answers included the inability for the Education Committee to spend the funds for a booth, in a timely manner; then Don said he would personally guarantee the funds if the membership did not ratify the expenditure later. This happened because we did not have a budget in place. Motion passed.
- A motion was made to form a committee charged with the exploration of lobbying the city of Airway Heights to sanction beekeeping. Motion passed. Committee membership/volunteerism was tabled until next meeting.
- The Library district is doing a "seed bank" and received a large bag of Dutch Clover seeds. They got in contact with Ellen and she was given the bag of seeds to be distributed to our membership for free. Contact Ellen if you would like some.

Announcements

- Apprentice certificates for those who have recently passed the apprenticeship test available with Ellen.
- T-Shirts and dwindling supply of fleeces are still available for sale.

8:11PM The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Sandy Fanara, Secretary