

West Plains Beekeepers Association

March 15, 2019

Pizza Factory, Medical Lake

6:00 Social time Talking to others about bees-do you bees need supplemental feed?

6:30 Educational Program: Shari Townsend presenting a program on They're Wasps Not Bees

Meeting called to order at 6:56 by Ellen Miller President

Minutes were approved from February meeting. Motion to approve Joe, second Mike

Treasurer's report: Kevin Ryan: Membership dues are \$20/family and are due by the end of March.

\$6000.00 in the club account. Expected expenses are for insurance, storage unit rental, and class expenses.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee Margo- Beginning Beekeepers class has 26 people enrolled. A second class was added that is scheduled for March 22 and March 25 - there are currently 11 people enrolled in the second session class. Cutoff for class size is 25 people.

Educational talks scheduled for monthly meetings:

4/19 - Margo Buckles and Mary Brodahl, Bees Eyes: What do they see?

5/17 - EWU's Bee Nutrition & the Bee Micro biome- Results from Summer 2018

6/21 - Do you have a question about bees? Bring it in? (Open forum)

Publicity: Margo - nothing new to report

Research Report: nothing new to report

Airway Heights CC: The inmates have not paid dues yet. 7 out of 8 hives still alive. Have Re-queened with their own queens and are feeding the hives. The queen rearing program will continue. A few members from our WPBA club met onsite with the club at Airway Hts CC and it was very informative. There is a person who has developed an observation hive that is a one frame unit. He is interested in making one free for clubs that have an interest. They also made a sign for our club WPBA which will be shown at a future meeting.

Washington State Beekeepers Association (Kevin Oldenburg) - Report given by Ellen Miller. Membership has more than doubled since the conference. Jack Miller is working on a new website for the state association. Anticipate that the Apprentice Manual will be approved by the end of March, and with that there will be a full curriculum approved.

Website Report: nothing new to report

Old Business:

Special Committee Report on Bee Bank Project: Joe Miller gave a report on progress of a bee bank. Plan is to make it simple, easy to use. Joe created a sample spreadsheet and presented it at the meeting. Starting funds will be \$1000.00 of bees and/or equipment. Plan is for \$500 from our club and to request \$500 from the state club. Joe stressed that the Bee Bank has to have a manager, and that it will be run on the honor system. You will have to earn points to be part of the bee bank. Spreadsheet will be kept on line. Jack Miller raised the question: If the program doesn't work - how do we compensate people who have earned points in the system. Discussion that we will need something in writing up front to indicate no cash value. There was additional discussion around creating a virtual storage room. Jack Miller states that at this time we don't have a data base on our club website that can support something like that right now. Discussion as to who would have access to the virtual storage room - just the manager or everyone who is participating. Joe Miller did stress that folks who have equipment that they want to put into the project will need to store it until there is a need by someone to use it. He will not be storing equipment for this project. Ellen Miller proposed that we think about this idea and next month she will ask if this is something that the club wants to take on.

New Business:

Joe Miller asks if we need a bigger storage space? The current space is very full.

Kevin Ryan asking if we can buy a display rack for the tee shirts and fleeces when we sell them. He also proposed that we sell them at the spring/summer events that our club has a booth at. There was much discussion, many of the events that we go we are not allowed to sell items because we are considered a volunteer group. A suggestion was made that we sell shirts and fleeces at the classes we hold, and possible offer a shirt/fleece when you sign up for a class.

Increasing the price we charge for our classes was brought forward. At this time we have no profit on offering and teaching classes. There was discussion and our treasurer Kevin Ryan was asked to break out what it costs us to offer a class, looking at the cost of publicity, manuals, what we pay to WASBA, and come up with a ballpark of what it costs per class. Class fee also includes a membership in WASBA and WPBA. Kevin will bring this information back to the next meeting.

Joe brought forward the idea of the club having an apiary. He has found a person who will allow the club access to keep hives on his property. This would be a big commitment which would require club members to volunteer to maintain the hives. Discussed that the club would need at least two hives at the apiary, and that this would be good for hands on teaching/demonstrations of beekeeping. The club voted to order two packages of bees for the club apiary, Joe Miller will be committee head for bee maintenance of the club apiary until the next meeting.

Register your hives pestprogram@agr.wa.gov

Adjourn: 8:00 pm Motion to adjourn Joe, second Mike

Submitted

Marie Ellis, Secretary