

Minutes of the OSBA Board Meeting

May 4, 2013

Waterman Farms Complex at OSU

Board Members Present:

- John George – President
- David Crawford – Treasurer
- Floyd Ostrowski - Secretary
- Susan Valentine-Cooper
- Dwight Wells
- Joe Kovaleski
- Ron Hoopes
- Bill Starrett
- Terry Lieberman Smith
- Dwight Wilson
- Jerry Wilson
- Kimberly Flippen

Call to Order and Officer Reports:

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by President John George.

The minutes from the past meeting were submitted as posted on-line with no discussion.

Membership Update:

Student/Senior:	85
Individual:	167
Family:	101
Life:	<u>127</u>
Total:	480

David Crawford presented the Treasurer report as published on-line with no discussion.

Motion was made by Dwight Wilson, second by Ron Hoops to accept the Officers reports.

Motion Passed.

Committee Reports:

Summer Convention: On-line registration process complete. System includes tracking tools and other admin tools to help streamline the name badge printing etc. Five vendors have signed up to participate in the Convention. Each vendor received a ¼ page add as part of their registration. Additionally, two vendors purchased a color, full page ad. Committee is e-mailing (via Constant Contact) all local associations members within a 2.5 hour drive of the event to publicize. Additionally, a mailing was done for each local club. Bee Culture Magazine donated a free ad publishing the event. Additional advertising is being purchased in the local press. A suggestion was made to send a listing of the vendors to the attendees in advance so that the attendees can place advance orders. All vendors will be given a program of speakers in advance so that the vendors can bring merchandise consistent with speaker's topics. Another suggestion was made to follow up with non-members who attend the event to promote membership. Committee is expecting 200-250 attendees.

Fall meeting will be held the first Saturday in November – November 2nd.

Membership: There are concerns about the popularity of Life Memberships. If we continue to encourage Life Memberships, then there may be a time where Life Members outnumber other categories' and will the organization have sufficient income from dues to sustain? Some believed that the price for Life Membership is too low. Current Life Membership is priced to be the equivalent of eight years of individual dues. Additional discussions were held about the life Membership being an individual membership, yet in practice, we treat it as a family membership.

David Crawford, Treasurer, reported that Life Membership dues are held separately to support future costs as necessary.

According to OSBA Constitution, Article V, paragraph A, "A Schedule of Dues for each membership classification shall be set by the membership voting at a regular meeting".

Motion was made by Dwight Wilson, second by Dwight Wells, to put to vote of the membership at the Fall meeting 2013 to modify Lifetime Membership from an individual membership to a Lifetime Family Membership, and change the dues from \$160 to \$200. Existing Life Members will be grandfathered and their membership will be upgraded to Lifetime Family without

charge. A "Family" is defined as two adults and children under the age of 18 living in the same household. The Lifetime Family Membership will be allowed one vote per family. Effective date is January 1, 2014. **Motion to bring this vote to the membership Passed**

Additional discussions continued about member retention. For the past two years we have been tracking member start dates, thus we will be able to start tracking retention. There was discussion about efforts that should be made to retain members as well as attracting new members. Surrounding States have memberships that are about 50% of registered Beekeepers, but OSBA has about 10% of the registered Beekeepers as members. The goal for membership should be 2,000 members. Discussions revolved around how do we get local clubs to feel connected to OSBA? Should we offer "Local Club of the Year" awards? A suggestion was made to budget next year a "road show" to visit local club meeting with the local representative to present the value of joining OSBA.

Communication: The OSBA Facebook page is receiving about 200 hits per day. Each week honey based recipes are posted on OSBA Facebook page and the logo contest is being promoted on Facebook. The conference information page has received 8,500 hits. The newsletter is being mailed and e-mailed to members quarterly and the bee-brief is being e-mailed between newsletters. Members receive information from us at least eight times per year. A suggestion was made about raising the non-member rate for conventions in order to add more value to being a member.

A suggestion was made to ask the local clubs to include an OSBA membership pamphlet in their local newsletters. John George will contact Tri-County to inquire about us using their contact list to mail/e-mail OSBA information.

Master Beekeeper: The main issue with the Master Beekeeping Program is staying in touch with the candidates and keeping them informed of their status. A committee was formed to work on this issue. Committee members: Terry Liberman Smith, Dwight Wilson, Ron Hoops, Susan Valentine-Cooper, John George, Joe Kovalesk, and Bill Starrett.

The Master Beekeeping Committee has approved 112 hours of classes for the program. Currently there are 142 people enrolled in Master Beekeepers.

Bill Starrett introduced the field test for the Apprentice Beekeeper and the test for the Journeyman Beekeeper. The Apprentice test requires a score of 95 out of a max score of 108 to pass. Discussions revolved around the passing score being too high a bar for an Apprentice. But, an Apprentice has 3-4 years' experience and should be able to demonstrate the skills required in the field test. The consensus was the passing score should be adjusted to 90 out of 108.

Update: Further analysis resulted in Mr. Starrett changing the passing score on the Apprentice

test from 90 correct questions to 88 correct questions. This will equate to an 80% correct answer for passing the Apprentice test – consistent with the Journeyman’s test.

It was suggested that a class be held at the conventions to review the knowledge/skills necessary to pass the field test. Potential test takers should be encouraged to review the on-line instruction videos as all the information needed to pass are included in the videos.

The Board members present took the journeyman’s test as an evaluation of the test. Only four Board members passed. One question was missed by all. Bill will make adjustments to the test based upon the preliminary results.

Ohio State Fair: Dates for the fair are July 24th to August 4th. All contracts have been executed. Bee beards are scheduled every day of the fair. Fair flyers will go out to every local club. Every local club is requested to send their banner to be displayed at the fair. Volunteer packets will be mailed to include tickets and parking passes.

It was suggested that each region have a representative collect submissions for the honey show and deliver them to the fairgrounds. The feeling is that more beekeeper will participate if there is a local drop off rather than each beekeeper travel to Columbus to submit their product. Information about submissions can be found at www.ohiostatefair.com

501-c-3 Status: Susan Valentine-Cooper is still waiting for final information to complete the filing. Board CV’s are required and we need to complete a financial analysis from past Treasury reports

Sale of DVD’s: The 100 copies of DVD’s initially ordered have been sold. Another order will be placed at a lower cost than the first order as the setup charges have been paid with the first order. Several clubs and Bee Equipment suppliers have requested copies of the DVD’s.

Motion was made by Joe Kovaleski, second by Ron Hoops, to donate one DVD set to each local club for the intended use by their membership. **Motion Passed**. The DVD set should be presented to the club by the OSBA Representative. The DVD set will have a sticker that show how more copies can be purchased.

HAS/EAS: The term for our EAS Representative expires this year and a replacement will need to be appointed. There are two qualified people who have requested the position: Margaret Reed and Peggy Garnes. EAS recommends that the outgoing Representative recommend their replacement. Joe Kovaleski, the current representative, will interview both candidates and make a recommendation to the Board.

EAS Convention 2013 will be August 5-9 in Westchester PA.

HAS Convention will be July 11-13 in Cookeville, TN

The HAS Representative only has one meeting per year and the decision was made that the OSBA Board members who attend the convention can represent the OSBA.

CD Renewal: Treasurer David Crawford informed us that a CD in the amount of \$13,101.83, proceeds from the Bee Lab auction, is set to mature. Board agreed to renew the CD for 6-months. It was determined that the Board did not need to vote on this issue.

Standards for Bee Schools: Should Beginning Beekeeping classes meet specific standards? Local clubs offer their own classes and there is a wide range of customization with the classes. OSBA does not want to dictate classes, but should we offer guidelines or curriculum that sets minimum standards for the classes? A suggestion was made that OSBA offer a train-the-trainer class as part of a convention, or as a separate class for clubs that wish to participate. This would help achieve more consistency among clubs and assure that graduates of the class would qualify for the Apprentice/Journeyman/Master Beekeepers program.

Queen Initiative: This program has been replaced by the Buckeye Queen Producers Association. The Buckeye Queen Producers are currently applying for 501-c-3 status. The Association already has several charter members paying \$100 for membership.

Legislative: A suggestion was made for the OSBA to accept a project to support legislative measures to adopt Beekeeper protection similar to recent laws passed in West Virginia. The Board agreed to investigate support from members and State legislators to see if such an initiative could be passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Floyd Ostrowski, Secretary