

Minutes of the OSBA Board Meeting

September 28, 2013

Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church

Board Members Present:

- John George – President
- Tim Arheit – Vice-President
- David Crawford – Treasurer
- Floyd Ostrowski - Secretary
- Susan Valentine-Cooper
- Tracy Alarcon
- Alex Zomchek
- Terry Lieberman Smith
- Dwight Wilson
- Ron Hoops
- Susan Valentine-Cooper
- Joe Kovalski
- Dwight Wells
- Peggy Garnes -EAS Representative

Call to Order and Officer Reports:

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by President John George.

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

Membership Update:

Student/Senior:	91
Individual:	182
Family:	113
Life:	<u>133</u>
Total:	519

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

- Motion was made by Dwight Wells, second by Tracy Alarcon to accept the Officers reports. **Motion Passed.**

Committee Reports:

Master Beekeeper: The Master Beekeeping Committee has approved 221 hours of classes for the program. Currently there are 148 people enrolled in Master Beekeepers.

The main issue with the Master Beekeeping Program is staying in touch with the candidates and keeping them informed of their status. Bill Starrett has tentatively agreed to lead the Master Beekeepers program. It was agreed that the Master Beekeepers Program is the most important program offered by OSBA and its success is critical.

Those enrolled in the Master Beekeeper program received a notebook with all the approved classes. Each candidate can petition to have a local class or talk approved for the program. All information on the program can be found on the OSBA website. John George will assure that all the information on the website is current. Once a candidate has completed all the requirements, they are to turn in the notebook for review and schedule a test at the next convention.

There was discussion about a new website: www.ohiomasterbeekeeper.com This site is NOT sponsored by the OSBA. Currently the site is informational only and offers some beekeeper training materials. Most the site is still listed as under construction.

A suggestion was made that a marketing package be prepared for the Regional Directors to help “sell” the Master Beekeeper program to the local clubs.

Ohio State Fair: The Ohio State Fair was a financial success (\$147.42 profit) and generated very positive publicity for the OSBA. The pavilion was visited by 800-1,000 people each day. The OSBA booth had a cooking demo, honey tasting, bee beards, and a visit from the honey Queen.

We are looking for vendors for next year’s fair. One vendor completely sold out, other vendors reported sales of \$1,000 - \$1,600 per day.

Many volunteers and clubs throughout the State helped make this event successful. The committee held a post-fair meeting to discuss what worked, what didn’t work, and what

improvements they can make next year. This information will be passed on to next year's committee.

There was an issue with people getting information about the rules for entry into the honey judging. The committee is going to see if this can be improved next year.

Honey judging did not have as many entrants as the committee would have liked, but it was about double last years. There were 6 classes of honey with about 3-4 entries in each class. The main issue was getting entries to the fair. About 200 people actually watched the honey judging. Several Honey Judge Apprentices, from OSBA's honey judging class, were in-training with a certified judge. This allowed them to earn credits toward their certification.

Special thanks to Dwight Wells who donated four observations hives. The hives were a big hit with the visitors.

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? If the proposed change to Life Membership dues is approved at the fall meeting, it is expected to drive more members to the Life option prior to the implementation of the new due structure. Currently about 25% of the membership are Life members, and will not be paying on-going dues.

There was much discussion on the value of OSBA membership. Some suggestions for increasing the "value" of membership include:

- Proactive in having current Apiary laws enforcement
- Developed OSBA-branded services to local clubs (the DVD program was well received)
- We do not want to be viewed as a "Super club", we want to be different than the local clubs
- Lead efforts to enforcement of Farmer Market rules.
- Become the clearing house for bee-related issues.
- Political Action Committee (PAC) to engage state and local legislators with bee related issues. Invite state and local officials to conventions. We have contacts in the various government agencies, but OSBA should provide the agenda.
- State Apiarist should provide an annual report at the OSBA convention.
- There is a beehive at the Whitehouse. Should OSBA sponsor a beehive at a high-profile state building?
- There is a great public interest in bees at this time – how do we capitalize on this interest?

New Business:

Strategic Planning: John George will coordinate a strategic planning session for out-going and incoming Officers and Board members, December 13th and 14th. The purpose of this event is to review the mission of the OSBA and develop actions to help drive towards this mission. This will help develop the priorities of the association.

EAS: This year's EAS convention was a great success and attended by over 600 beekeepers. Next year's convention will be held at Eastern Kentucky University, and the 2015 convention will be in Ontario.

Queen Initiative: Africanized bees are being found in Ohio. Is this a headline waiting to occur and what affect will this have on Ohio beekeepers? An African bee incident can change Ohio beekeeping. Thus the importance to develop an Ohio based queen bee program. OSBA needs to be leading the efforts to deal with this issue. OSBA has \$7,200 of funds earmarked for local queen rearing.

Buckeye Queen Producer Association will be requesting funding for developing an Ohio based queen program. There have been similar, unsuccessful, initiatives within the OSBA; however, sponsoring an organization outside of OSBA may help rectify some of the past issues. There was much discussion about how this funding will be used, and what would the benefit be for OSBA members? Suggestions were that OSBA members receive a discount on queens produced under this funding. Additional benefits would include the Buckeye Queen Producer providing speakers for OSBA conventions and offering additional training aids for local bee clubs. This topic was tables and a motion was not made because several board members in attendance are also members of the Buckeye Queen Producers, and, if they sustained from the vote, a quorum would not be met. It was decided that an on-line motion will be made, and voting can proceed from non-Buckeye Queen Producers Board members. The vote will be for provisional approval of donating \$5,000 to the Buckeye Queen Producers Association, subject to the completion of an approved proposal. Additionally, the Buckeye Queen Producers will show a short presentation at the fall conference showing the benefits the OSBA membership will obtain because of this funding.

Constitution Changes: There will be some minor changes to the constitution suggested for approval at the fall conference. The changes will be for facilitating our application for 501c3 status. The changes and explanation will be in the upcoming newsletter.

Absentee Ballot: Previous surveys show that there are some members that feel they must attend the convention to vote, and since there is a small fee for attendance, they are required

to pay-to-vote. The current constitution and by-laws do not have a provision for absentee ballots, and adding this provision creates other logistical issues. Additionally, such a change will require approval from the membership and cannot be completed for the upcoming election. No motions were made to put this constitutional change on the ballot for the fall meeting.

OSBA Property: Currently OSBA owned property is stored in various member's homes. We have the opportunity to purchase a used trailer that has the capacity to store all the OSBA property in one, secured place. We also have received a gift of \$1,500 from Tri-County. A motion was made by Dwight Wilson, 2nd by Dwight Wells to purchase the trailer for \$2,000. The trailer will reflect that it was a gift from Tri-County. **Motion Passed.**

Fall Conference: Budget was **approved** as submitted

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Floyd Ostrowski, Secretary