

Ohio State Beekeepers Association Board Meeting
July 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Terry Lieberman-Smith, Vice-President.

In Attendance: Tom Rathburn, Dwight Wells, Dwight Wilson, Joe Kovalski, Jason Bosler, Alex Zomchek, Mike Doseck, Peggy Garnes, Jeff Gabric, Mike Soboleski, Angel Mitchel, Tim Arheit, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Annette Birt Clark.

Terry comments that we have many vendors, old and new, for the fall conference. Dadant will be offering a 5% discount on orders from Clay Guthrie, more details to come. Jim Thompson will be leading the honey judging and Reed Johnson's students will be analyzing samples provided by beekeepers. Last year the Nosema testing was very popular. We may conduct Master Beekeeper testing. We are planning a communication outreach to all the new bees who received the free membership. This is an educational event that would be beneficial for them to attend. They are our future members.

Tim joins call and comments that the stickers are in and the link is available to purchase them for your club. You can pay with Paypal or by check. Terry can ship this week.

Tim reminds the board of the Strategic Planning meeting to be held the Friday evening before our conference. Meeting at the Tolles Center at 5:00pm. OSBA will reimburse up to \$100 for hotel room. Dawn is handling vendors and may need some help.

Tim comments, on Michele's behalf, that part of the meeting is to create our short term, mid term and long term vision for OSBA. We should be seeking grant funding that aligns with our goals, not just getting funds because they are available. Having more defined goals allows us to be more targeted in our solicitation of funds.

Dwight Wells comments that we should all send ideas to Tim so they can be organized in advance. We will start an email conversation for all ideas. Please, add on and acknowledge your support of others ideas. The most popular ideas will be prioritized for discussion at the meeting. There will be a deadline set for solicitation of ideas and comments to allow Tim to make an agenda.

Tim explains that OSBA is now participating in Amazon Smile. This is the non-profit wing of Amazon. Most any item you can purchase from Amazon qualifies for this program and is sold at the listed price. When the purchaser chooses OSBA we receive a donation based on the gross amount of the purchase of .50%. This is a very nice and easy stream for the club. Dwight Wilson asks how to make it easy for people to participate and Mike Dosek suggests a hand out. Annette will put together a ½ page flyer for board members to print out and distribute at club meetings. This will be emailed to board members in a separate communication.

Tim updates information on the Affiliate Program. We are still waiting for D & O Insurance pricing. The club pricing quote is \$1.09 per person. Michele has done extensive research in addition to all that Tim has done to be certain that everything we do is in compliance with all federal and state laws. Currently, OSBA is the only club in the state that has completed all of the required steps and registrations for Ohio. Ohio is the only state where you have to register with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General's Office. One registration must be renewed every 3 years and there is a fee, currently if income is \$5k - \$25k then \$50.00; if income is \$25k - \$50k then \$100.00; and so on.

Several documents are necessary including "Change of Statutory Agent" and Executive Board is shifting direction to take on the responsibility of filing all of the documents for the clubs to keep all in compliance. The costs would be the clubs' responsibility, but OSBA would file the forms.

As the number of clubs participating in the Affiliate Program grows, we may need to create a new committee to handle documentation responsibilities and/or hire an outside firm for assistance.

There will be a session at the conference to explain the Affiliate Program benefits and options and present information for a club who wishes to be a stand alone non-profit.

Keep in mind we are still missing a few board members; Director seat for Heart of Ohio, Representative seats for Buckeye Hills and Miami Valley.

There are three board seats up for reelection at this year's conference Erie Basin, Top of Ohio and Maumee Valley. Current seat holders are welcome to run. If you are no longer interested in serving on the Board please submit recommendations for new board members by mid September to any Executive Board member.

Annette reminds all board members to complete and submit reimbursement and expense forms even if they are donating mileage. These "in kind" support is important "income" for the club when applying for grant funding.

Annette will work with Michele to define reimbursements and in kind donations in regards to home club meetings.

The form was sent out with tonight's meeting announcement and will be resent as a separate communication along with definitions for local club activities.

Terry comments that we sent out "Welcome Kits" for over 1200 new beekeepers via clubs holding new beekeeper classes. To date we have 494 names from these rosters. Students may have shown interest and not followed through with courses. We will be sending a couple communications to these 494 new bees to "see how the first year is going" and encourage their participation in our conference.

Our grant submission was in 3 parts and we have made it through the 1st step of the approval process. Some minor changes were requested and not 100% of the funds requested was approved. If we are awarded the grant funding we will be able to get 700 new ADK testing kits in the hands of new beekeepers in Ohio who have taken classes and can prove they have started beekeeping. We will supply 6 instructors throughout the state to speak at club meetings or community events for beekeepers as an adjunct to the kits to explain them and the importance of monitoring hives. The final decision comes in about 2 months.

Tim comments that we need to be supporting beekeepers and not beekeepers. We did not get this far in the grant awarding process last year so it is looking better that we may receive funds this time.

The Apiary Diagnostic Kit (ADK) beta test was approved by the Board and is in full swing. All kits have been distributed and monitoring is ongoing. The committee is receiving great comments already. The committee consists of Tim, Peggy, Alex, Terry and Annette. The goal is to have the kit tested, refined and ready to sell to Ohio beekeepers at the fall conference.

Annette comments that she spent the day with the Honey Princess at the Pollinator Week Event in Cleveland. Tabitha is a very bright young lady who is a beekeeper for more than 8 years and works in the summer with commercial beekeepers. She is an excellent representative for all beekeepers. Annette questions as to what happened to the program in Ohio. Tim comments that 7 people who expressed interest in bringing the Honey Queen and Princess program back to Ohio were contacted and he received no response or feedback from any. The program requires fundraisers, dinners and a time commitment by more than one person. This almost requires an organization in and of itself and not one has stepped up or expressed interest.

The 4-H Program next steps include presenting the information at the Ohio State Fair in August. Applications will be accepted starting in October and through the Monday before Thanksgiving. The winners will be announced in early January to allow them to sign up for beekeeping classes.

We are sponsoring 2 judges for 4-H at the fair, Alex and Mike Doseck. This is not an easy job, a very long day and can be challenging to be honest yet encouraging for the participants.

Heartland Apicultural Society, HAS, just held their conference and next year it will be July 14-16 in Evansville, Indiana. Joe has been solicited to consider proposing Ohio for the 2018 conference. Last time it was in Ohio was about 10 years ago in Oberlin. Joe will lead a committee to brainstorm options for locations in Ohio for HAS for 2018 and submit to the Board. For further communication with HAS Joe will pass the torch to the Board member or volunteer who lives in the area selected for the proposal.

Annette thanks all Board members who are participating in the ADK beta test. Mike Doseck asks about receiving the survey. It will be sent tomorrow.

Tim comments that we really want all comments good and bad. Typos, missing or incomplete info, lack of pics, etc. If we are going to sell them, we will order them in quantity so we want to audit and tweek to get it right. Yes, it can always be better, but we want to get our best foot forward from the start.

A comment is made that many people do not know what varroa mites look like. Can we post a good pic or two of varroa mites on our web site? Tim says, yes.

Peggy puts forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Doseck seconds. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 8:01pm.

Thank you all for your attendance.