

I. PBA President Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. 41 signed the register. New guests included Kayci James, Brenda and Roger Hourigan, Jim and Larissa Tate.

II. Treasurer Report: Walter McLendon, Treasurer, reported balance of \$7426.27, with some outstanding bills.

III. Apiary Report. Doyle Bruce, Apiary Manager: Presently 3 hives, being fed and building up well. A work day will be scheduled to check hives and clean up boxes and equipment. Painting and repairs are necessary.

A calendar for queen grafting was circulated, dependent upon weather and drone production. Late Feb. into March – proposed dates. Since a large number of people have signed up, different groups will be scheduled at various times on the scheduled dates.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. President reported that ByLaws have been revised and will be sent out for review and approval. This will be done at some time after the bee school is completed.
2. More volunteers are needed each month for club snacks and drinks at meetings. Also request a few volunteers to help clean up and rearrange the COC meeting room after each meeting.
3. The financial audit for PBA has been completed, and all records were found to be correct and in good order.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PBA Bee School for 2024: School will be held 2/17, 2/24, and 3/2 (bee yard) Classes to be held at TX A&M AgriLife Office. Need volunteers for assisting and with snacks. One student has applied for the PBA Youth Program and was accepted into the upcoming class.

B. Volunteers for Snacks/Drinks for March Meeting: Roger Gauthier, Ricky Davis (snacks, dessert); Mike Hartman Richard Peters (drinks).

Doyle offered prayer and snacks were enjoyed by all.

PROGRAM: Robert Jones: Queen Rearing

Very informative program on queen rearing, cell builder hives, and important factors for success. Some highlights:

- Queen rearing – you can control hive genetics with your own queens. Locally raised for our climate.
- Must have drones available
- First year queens are more productive
- Must have very strong hive for cell builder – look for festooning. Need nurse bees 7-14 days old
- Most use the Doolittle method which can be found on internet. Good information on PBA site also.
- Can use queenright hive or queenless cell builder.
- Can easily raise 10-20 queen cells with one cell builder hive.
- Calendar dates are critical. Mark your dates on frames.
- Handle queen cell frames carefully. Do not shake. Use cells that are 1”+ (larger queens).
- March is best time for grafting. March-April is best time for splits.
- Check hives for drones. Drones must be 35-45 days old to reproduce.

DOOR PRIZES/ADJOURNMENT. Meeting concluded about 8:30 PM

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary