

I. PBA President Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:53 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. 29 signed the register. Members welcomed. New visitors: Jennifer Fowler, James Nichols, Leslie Rids, Bill Keller. Members enjoyed potluck meal brought by PBA members.

II. Treasurer Report: Mike Hartman, Treasurer, reported balance of \$9402.16. There are some outstanding bills, and rent for facility will be due. Unanimous vote to continue to rent the VFW Hall for PBA meetings. Dues are due. Can be paid at meeting or mailed to Mike Hartman. The annual PBA Financial audit was completed and all funds accounted for.

III. Apiary Report. Ricky Davis and Roger Gauthier gave Apiary Report. Hives are doing well. They have treated hives for varroa, and placed sugar bricks on hives. Demonstrated a feeder box for sugar blocks which they build and sell for \$40.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PBA Bee School: Rachel Payne. Flyers, registration forms have been done and circulated to Agrilife Offices and are on website. Eight students signed up to date. Rachel needs volunteers for teaching, helping set up, snacks and clean up. Sign up sheet available, or contact Rachel Payne. Members asked to circulate information on bee school.

B. Program Coordinator: Edward Doucet suggested a committee be formed to work on Programs. If anyone is interested in being on this committee, contact him.

C. SFA Apiary Program: No update. We will need volunteers to assist with SFA Apiary project as Steven Josephsen will be moving out of state.

D. Walter stated the order for suits, jackets, veils, gloves, etc was shipped on 1/12/25, and should arrive soon. There will be extra items for sale at the bee school.

PROGRAM. Members Don Lymbery and Bob Love presented programs on swarm trapping and splitting hives.

- Use thin plywood for top and bottom to make 8 frame box lighter. He puts the entrance on the bottom.
- Put traps out in February, on edge of woods, on fencelines, and/or near water source.
- Use old comb and some drawn comb if possible in trap boxes to attract bees. Swarm Commander works well. Suggested book "Swarm Traps and Bait Hives" by McCartney Taylor as very good resource.
- Splits can be made using nucs with as few as 3 frames from strong hives.
- Be sure you have the resources in each hive.
- Decide if you want to grow bees or produce honey. Good idea to purchase new queens with varied genetics every two years.

Edward Doucet explained the Demaree method of hive splits, which is very easy and he had great success using this method.

DOOR PRIZES/ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned and door prizes given out. Meeting concluded about 8:20 PM

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary