

PBA MEETING February 13, 2025

VFW Hall, Lufkin TX

- I. PBA President, Walter McLendon, called meeting to order at 6:45pm. Pledge of Allegiance. 29 signed the register, Head count 34. Members welcomed. New visitors total 9 people. VFW Auxiliary sold plate lunches and cupcakes. Walter confirmed with Rachel about bee school details: People can still signup, emails will be sent to remind people who are registered, \$40 fee, location is AgriLife Bld. 2201 S. Medford Dr., Lufkin
- II. Treasurer Report: Mike Hartman, Treasurer, reported balance of \$10,439.47 (My hearing is bad but I think that is the number I heard). 23 members paid dues and that number does not include bee school new members.
- III. Apiary Report: Roger Gauthier gave the report. 6 hives with lots of bees and drones. Jan 4th added food. Jan 24th inspected. On Monday or Tuesday, he plans to feed and inspect for queen cells.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Mary Kay Steely looking to borrow OC Vaporizer and asked if PBA has one to loan. PBA does not.
- B. SFA Apiary Program: Steven Josephen stated that construction has begun on a structure and shared a photograph of the progress.
- C. Walter received the order of beekeeping apparel. He handed out those that were preordered and stated He had extra suits to sell for \$41.
- D. Edward started a group discussion about watching for drone brood arriving soon and the need to prevent swarms by possibly making splits. Robert added that March will be the soonest the drones will be viable for splits and the Elms and Maples were 2 weeks late blooming. There is plenty of pollen but make sure the hive has sugar because nectar will be low. Bottom boxes should be empty and bees will be in top box. In March move the bottom box to the top to prevent the hive from falling over.

PROGRAM:

- Robert Jones, founding member and beekeeper since age 6, spoke on Doolittle queen grafting method
- He stated Ricky Davis will teach the class on grafting and the date and time have not been announced.
- Need a good builder box setup with resources and nurse bees
- Grafting 1 day old eggs is preferred
- Day 10 the queen cell is place in a nuc with frames of resources and worker bees
- Queen needs to mate with 12-20 drones
- Feed, Feed, Feed the bees

DOOR PRIZE/ADJOURNMENT: One prize given out and adjourned about 8:30

Wendy Doucet, PBA member