

I. PBA President Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. 36 signed the register. New guests included Quay Innerarity, Leanne Henry, Brigitte and Brandon White.

II. Treasurer Report: Walter McLendon, Treasurer, reported balance of \$8210.06, with some outstanding bills.

III. Apiary Report. Doyle Bruce, Apiary Manager: Presently 3 hives. Queen rearing class was held and was very successful. Queen cell retrieval will be on Saturday, 3/16.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. President reported that ByLaws have been revised and will be sent out for review and approval by members. Will be voted on at a subsequent meeting.
2. Steven Josephsen checked on the Win Day hive at SFA. It needs a lot of repair and attention, and may need to be dismantled and rebuilt. Various options will be looked at, including putting a new hive at a different location.
3. PBA Beekeeping school was a success and had a large turnout of nearly 40 people. Thank you to all the volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Elections: Walter McLendon announced that elections were never held in 2023. Motion was made by Doyle Bruce and seconded by Mike Kochanek to keep current officers until the next election in November. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Volunteers for Snacks/Drinks for April Meeting: Mike Hartman (water); Roger Gauthier (dessert), Mitzi and Alan Higgenbotham (snack); Ed and Wendy Doucet (salad).
- C. Programs: Edward Doucet outlined the future programs for club meetings:

April 11: Hannah Hensarling – Beekeeping and Taxes; May 9: Bill Baxter, TX A&M – Selling Nucs and Apiary Inspection; June 8: PBA Picnic – at the Precups (11AM; eat at 12:00PM); July 11: Joanie Kochanek – Pollinator Plants for Bees/Butterflies

Doyle offered prayer and snacks were enjoyed by all.

PROGRAM: Steven Josephsen - Scams & Beekeeping.

Detailed and informative information on Internet scams related to beekeeping. Steven offered good tips and things to look for on sites to detect potential scams. Scams are popular on beekeeping sites. Be aware and be careful. Use trusted websites and verify identities whenever possible. Steven explained how the scammers set up dummy corporations, form collection groups to target customers, create phony websites. Referred to John W. Chestnut, creator of “Exposing Scams and Frauds in Beekeeping.”

Some suggestions were to verify address of vendor. Look for FB Id# This does not change. Don't use cash apps; use PayPal. Our PBA Fb and website pages have been visited by scammers, who we luckily blocked. PBA could use someone to help as an Administrator to check the website and Facebook pages on a regular basis. If anyone is interested, contact a Board member. We could opt to make our site a Private Group, requiring membership, to avoid scammers.

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

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary