

I. PBA President Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. 43 signed the register. New guests included Miguel and Jose Robles, Stella Black, J. Tinsley.

II. Treasurer Report: Walter McLendon, Treasurer, reported balance of \$8306.52.

III. Apiary Report. Doyle Bruce, Apiary Manager: Presently 6 hives, after splitting. Supers on 3 hives. Honey harvest in July. Doyle brought a trailer load of new and used bee equipment to meeting, mostly 8 frame equipment. Need to get this sold. Will bring to May meeting or have an auction.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. By- Laws: 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. Status of SFA Win Day Observation Hive: Steven Josephsen met with Dr. Creech, who originally helped with hive construction and set up. Hive needs to be dismantled and rebuilt in a different location near the Children's Garden area. Hive design needs to be modified to make it more habitable for bees and easy to observe by children. PBA will supply bees and maintain hive. SFA is willing to assist with this project, but we will need a work team to manage the project. If interested, please let Steven or a board member know.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Meeting Venue Change: Edward Doucet presented information on the Lufkin VFW Hall, 1800 Ford Chapel Road, Lufkin. VFW is much larger, has ample parking, open from 4-9pm. Cost: \$75/night. Food cannot be brought in. Request that some purchase meals from Ladies' Auxiliary, who operate a non-profit short order kitchen. Meals average \$10. Not required that everyone purchase food. Auxiliary can also cook special group meals if requested. After discussion, motion was made and seconded to move the PBA meeting site to the VFW Hall, beginning May 9, 2024. Motion carried. Edward and Walter will handle financial dealings with COC and VFW. COC will refund deposits made.

B. COC Update: Walter McLendon reported that Chamber of Commerce had a complaint that groups had scratched up floors by moving tables and chairs. Requested that we lift them carefully in the future.

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: Honey Harvesting; August 8: Planning for Summer Dearth; September: Winter Preparation

Doyle offered prayer and snacks were enjoyed by all.

PROGRAM: Hannah Hensarling – Bees, Taxes, Valuations:

Hannah gave a very informative program, explaining special use valuations for tax purposes. There are certain standard requirements, including minimum of acreage, history of agricultural use, possible permits.

Tips : Check with your local Appraisal District as each County has specific requirements. It differs in every county. Information can also be obtained from TX Beekeepers Association, Texas A&M Apiary Inspection Service, beemindful.com/ag-exemptions, and other online sites. Hannah distributed a list of websites where information can be obtained.

DOOR PRIZES/ADJOURNMENT. Meeting concluded about 8:00 PM. Thank you helpers for cleanup.

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary