

I. PBA President Walter McLendon called meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Pledge of Allegiance. 32 signed the register. New guest Randy Smith was welcomed.

II. Treasurer Report: Walter McLendon, Treasurer, reported balance of \$7345.66, with some outstanding bills.

III. Apiary Report. No report as Doyle Bruce, Apiary Manager, was not present.

OLD BUSINESS: None to update.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PBA Bee School for 2024: Discussion on proposed dates. Suggestions to hold bee school earlier in year before bee season becomes busy. Jan/Feb dates suggested. Rachel will check on available dates for Saturdays in late Jan. and Feb. and will report back.

B. PBA Christmas Party: Scheduled for Saturday 12/9/23, beginning at 11:00 AM Dinner at noon. Location: Susan and Clay Precup have graciously offered to hold event at their home. Address: 1643 Walker Rd., Huntington, TX. They will prepare the meats. Everyone else brings side dish or dessert, and your own drinks.

C. Bob Love will have hive boxes, frames and other bee equipment for sale in early spring. He buys equipment in bulk, and prices are reasonable.

Steven Josephsen offered a prayer, and snacks were enjoyed during break and visitation time.

D. Edward Doucet outlined and scheduled programs for the spring. Ideas were welcomed. Jayne Clark offered to help find speakers.

January: Splitting Hives – Bob Love; February: Pollinator/Nectar Plants – Joanie Kochanek; March: Scams in the Beekeeping Business – Steven Josephsen; April: Bee Business (Taxes, AG Exemptions, Rules) – Hannah Hensarling.

PROGRAM: Edward Doucet: Why Do Beekeepers Quit?

“Beekeeping is a marathon, not a sprint.”

The fact is 80% of first year beekeepers quit after the initial year. There are many reasons: too expensive, bees dying, takes too much time and effort. Some other tips and advice, as follows:

There is a learning curve to beekeeping. It can be expensive, time consuming and overwhelming at times. In order to actually make a profit which is highly improbable, you must have a business plan and have a large number of hives. The important thing is to learn all you can. Find a mentor; listen to You Tubes. Attend bee schools and seminars when possible. Local websites and Facebook will have local information.

Most important: Learn about and enjoy your bees. There is no recipe for success as there are too many variables. Take the good with the bad. Spend time watching your bees; do good inspections; keep varroa in check. Try to keep hives strong.

After the program, Ricky Davis showed his sugar feeder that he built. He will build them to order and also sells the sugar bricks.

DOOR PRIZES/ADJOURNMENT. Meeting concluded about 8:15 PM

Joanie Kochanek, PBA Secretary