

Kansas Honey Producers Association Executive Meeting
November 9, 2023 (Thursday) Salina, Kansas
Hybrid meeting in person at Courtyard Marriot and a zoom meeting

Becky Tipton called the meeting to order at 8:06 pm. In person attendance was Becky Tipton, Sondra Koehn, Kristi Sanderson, Greg Swob, Robert Burns, Jim Kellie, Jo Patrick, Mark Mounce, Stephanie Brown, Stephanie Phillips and Mike Purviance. Attendance by Zoom was Julie Cahoj, Nikki Boman, Cheryl Burkhead.

Minutes: Executive Board meeting minutes from March 2023 were previously sent to the board by email for review. Some members stated they did not receive the minutes. New business from the spring minutes were read as a reminder. There were no questions, so a 1st and 2nd motion was made to accept them and all approved.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Burns provides financials each month by email for all board members for review. They are also posted on the website. He gave a summary of the fair sales which exceeded last year and was our best year so far. There were no questions. A suggestion was made to do an annual electronic audit. The board agreed for the treasurer to send financials to the audit committee appointed by the President prior to the spring meeting. This will allow the committee to give a report at the March board meeting. A motion was made to accept the submitted financials. A 2nd motion was made and supported by all.

1st VP Report: Greg Swob mentioned a few changes to the Friday and Saturday meeting's agenda. There will be 2 auction items at the Friday night banquet. Greg and Sondra will run the silent auction in Julie's absence. The spring meeting will be March 8 & 9, 2024. It was discussed to meet at the zoo but for now will remain at this same location, Marriott Courtyard, Salina. Fall meetings will be on the 1st weekend in November to avoid Veteran's Day.

2nd VP Report: Kristi Sanderson said sales were over \$61K and broke the Fair Sales record this year. There were more homemade honey sticks this year and they were all sold out by the second weekend. Leftover inventory was brought to the meeting and will be for sale at wholesale prices. The 2024 State Fair dates will be Sept 5th – 15th, setup will begin on the 2nd. The same Airbnb has been reserved and deposit made. Judges are yet to be determined. We saw how important it was to have someone stationed at the honey show to answer questions. We want to do this again next year as much as possible. We will need a volunteer to do a demo at the meeting each morning if the fair requests it again next year.

3rd VP Report: Julie Cahoj via zoom reported there were 2 applications submitted for the scholarship. One application was well written but had risk involved and little beekeeping direction when interviewed by phone. The 2nd application was minimally written but a phone interview provided positive direction and goals of having an apiary. A motion was made to accept the application from Lieb 4H club from Edna KS for 2024 scholarship. Per Julie this shows how important a phone interview is after the applications have been submitted. David Korver and Rhonda Heston have committed to being their mentors.

Cappings Newsletter editor: Cheryl said she would send out the 3rd newsletter in 2024 to make sure it is out ahead of the fair. She again reminded us to encourage email distribution instead of USPS mail. Robert provided that we sent 202 emailed newsletters and 42 by mail.

Area Regional Directors Reports:

Western has no representative. We need to fill this position.

Southeast has no representative. We need to fill this position.

North Central: Nikki Bowman via zoom reported the group is still meeting at the Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina. It continues to grow and is doing well. Two in the group are assisting Jared with the zoo hives. The group wants Nikki to continue as their representative and they have meetings scheduled throughout the year.

South Central: Stephenie Phillips informed us that Wichita has a new bee club that meets at different apiaries and focuses on different subjects at each meeting. She just finished a new beekeeper's class which was very successful and has another one planned in January. She continues volunteering at the Hutch Zoo, as they hope to have bees in the future.

Northeast: Jo Patrick told us their group meets monthly and will meet by zoom in Dec. and Jan. Kristi will continue to host a Beginners and a Second-year class but will do the Second year first. Joli will be the host for Funday on June 1st. With grants from GPMB they were able to have open apiary classes this year and had a great turnout. They also hope to buy some equipment and want to start having meetings twice a month.

Legislative Group: Jim Kellie reported the Sante Fe Trail Museum would like to incorporate bee hives and hold classes there. They will cover the expenses. He also reported the legislative committee spoke to Tessa Beeman with the specialty livestock of Kansas. They had a positive conversation regarding the importance of honeybees and the education needed for beekeepers, farmers and applicators. They also spoke to her about adding bees and education at extension offices. This is something she will work on. The committee attended the Ag Summit and had great conversations with many people which provided great marketing and honeybee education. On a national level, Canada filed a suit against their government to lift the ban on importing nucs. If this suit goes through, it will be much more difficult to purchase nucs in the US as many companies will ship theirs north to Canada.

Website: A motion was made to contract Austin Nightingale as web consultant for another year at \$50/mo. A 2nd motion was made, and the majority agreed. Sondra Koehn committed to being the web administrator for another year. Changes to the by-laws redefining the website page requirements and how it will be maintained were published in the Cappings Newsletter.

Jim Kellie brought up that he has been maintaining the two Facebook pages, Kansas Honey Producers and Kansas Honey Producers Group and would like to pass on the responsibility to someone. He recommended we ask the general group or look for someone.

Extract \$\$ from your hives needs videos updated on the website. Robert reported he was working on the updates. Nikki has a new member Casey Knudson that would be willing to help with the editing and updating if needed. Robert also reported that Intuit purchased Mailchimp and is now charging \$26/mo for over 500 emails. We have over 1,000 emails in the Extract \$\$ from your hives list.

Constitution Committee: Julie Cahoj reminded us there are purposed changes to be made in the constitution and by-laws which were previously printed in the Cappings newsletter. Amended approval shall be asked and voted on at the general meeting. The 1st one is in the constitution and will be adding two additional executive meetings per year by zoom, making a total of 4 per year. The others are in the by-laws and are as follows:

1. Regional Directors shall be voted upon during the election of officers.
2. Change Northwest to West.
3. Adds consent of the Executive Board members for funding and general direction for the legislative committee.
4. Changes webmaster to web designer. Secures the web passwords with the President, Secretary and Cappings Editor.
5. The web designer's fees will be budgeted annually by the Executive Board along with site and domain fees.

Becky reminded us that the GPMB grant money can be used for equipment and improving the state apiaries. We can also log hours spent in these apiaries which apply toward the Master beekeeper program and for recertification.

Jo Patrick reported the mailing to the Driftwatch list has been completed. Approximately 650 cards were mailed out with some cards saved for new sign ups and some were given out at the fair. The total cost was \$521.12. Do we want to print additional cards? It was decided to review this question at the next zoom board meeting.

Beekeeper of the year form is online. Does it need updating? The email will need to be changed when the President nominates the new committee. This will be done at a later date.

New Business:

The board agreed to adding two additional meetings per year. These will be zoom meetings. One will be held in January and another meeting date will be determined for later in the year.

What value do members receive from their KHPA membership? Do we need to adjust what is included and what is freely given to make the membership more desirable? Think on this and review at the next meeting.

The honey show at the fair is a very good opportunity for beekeepers to show their products. Do we want to change how the "Best of Show" is judged? Right now, it is based on number of entries. Think about this and we will review this at our next meeting.

Ideas were discussed for changing our 2-day conference to a 1-day or one and half day meeting. It was decided to further discuss at the next board meeting and then at the general meeting.

The treasurer position needs a replacement this year, so President Becky nominated a committee of Kristi, Julie and Stepheni to find a replacement. They have asked Sondra Koehn to be treasurer. She has agreed to take the position but has a couple of requests. One that the association would pay for QuickBooks Online software to be used for bookkeeping which has a monthly fee and that an accountant be hired to file the associations taxes. The board gave support for this to be done. This nomination will be taken up at the general meeting. Kristi has asked Bob to continue keeping the books for the fair and he has agreed to do so.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:04pm by President Becky Tipton with a 1st and 2nd motion from the group.
Minutes submitted by Secretary, Sondra Koehn