

Mt. Empire Beekeeper's Association
Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2010

Bernie Bradley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a brief discussion of how our website has contributed to at least 15 organizations getting started. We have had inquiries from many states and countries including Australia, Germany, Denmark and England. Bernie suggested the possibility of a telephone mentoring system – creating a webpage with phone numbers of members who are willing to be available by phone to answer questions.

Treasurer's Report: Janice reports that we currently have \$3,797.93. Plans are continuing for the family picnic to be held at Petunia Christian Church on July 24th at 11:00 am. Janice will send postcards to all members with details. The picnic is free to MEBA members and their families. MEBA will furnish meat, drinks, condiments and utensils. Members are asked to bring a pot luck dish. Members are also asked to donate an item for a silent auction.

Secretary's Report: Sharon handed out copies of minutes from the last meeting and encouraged members to visit the web site.

Update on TIC Grant: Bernie states that \$66,000.00 of funding requests have now reached Richmond and \$15,000.00 has already been released. Members are encouraged to turn invoices in immediately if they have not already done so. This will probably be the last time we get this type of grant. Even though TIC and SWVA Ag believe there's a need, historically grants such as these are not funded more than two years. Due to the funding of these grants, we have stopped the decline in the number of beekeeper's in Virginia.

Bernie presented a quiz about beekeeping for the group.

The group discussed treatment and management of Varroa mites.

Bernie reminded the group that it is time to begin thinking about and creating a proposed slate of officers for next year.

A drawing was held for door prizes and the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: August 26, 2010 – 7:00 pm – Smyth Hall 122 – Wytheville Community College.

Thanks to Mary and Betty Bilbery for wonderful refreshments!