

Mountain Empire Beekeepers Association

Minutes

January 27, 2022

The meeting was convened and called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mickey Cunningham, MEBA President at Wytheville Community College room 122 in Smyth Hall. 15 members were present.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Hank Sturkie was elected as our new treasurer and is now authorized to sign for the MEBA banking account at First Community Bank.

Speaker: Mickey Cunningham

Presentation: From Today Where Will Your Bee Enterprise Be in September

Mickey presented information on your business plan as a beekeeper. The next 30 days (6 months ahead) determines your business. Some thought provoking questions followed by discussion included: From today where will your bee enterprise be in September? What resources do you have and/or need? Do you need to borrow money? Will your equipment be ready for bees by mid-March? What is your Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program? What Varroa treatments will you use? What nectar and pollen supplies are available within the 2.5-mile circumference of your bee yard? What are the detractors to your plans? Who will advise and help you if you need help? Do you need to hire workers? Should you not be able to answer these thoughts today, your business plan may be too late to reach your objectives.

Old Business:

- "Bee Culture" magazine has an annual photograph contest where winners' photos will be published in their calendar and distributed to subscribers. See 2021 calendar. We have had MEBA members whose photographs were published in this calendar. Linda Bracken was published in November 2021 and Cathy Hounshell was published in December 2021!
- 2021 Basic Bee Class – Cathy Hounshell will be the instructor. We will need an additional member at each class to answer questions of class members and to assist with administrative things such as: collecting tuition checks, giving out handouts, giving out books etc... Wytheville Community College will be the class site with the room location in Bland Hall room 104. The classes will begin March 1 and continue for 5 consecutive Tuesdays in 2022. An application and flyer will be attached to the minutes. Volunteers to be mentors for the upcoming class are needed. If you have had bees for a year, you will know more than the student. This is key to success of a new beekeeper.

New Business:

- A mask must be worn in the building at Wytheville Community College during all MEBA meetings. In room 122 of Smyth Hall (auditorium), one can have water if it has a lid, but there is to be no food items.
- David "Tator" Miller is buying popular lumber. He uses this lumber to make hive boxes for beekeepers. His phone number is (276) 608-6225.
- Drew White made a motion to have MEBA sponsor the Grayson County Fair for \$100.00. MEBA will be put on the fair t-shirts for this sponsorship and will bring a lot of interest in beekeeping. This was seconded by Fred Williams.
- The office of president for MEBA will be determined at the next meeting.

- For the use of the building the beekeeping class will be charged \$25.00 per night. MEBA is never charged a fee for its meetings because we do not charge.

Raffle Winners:

Applewood stick – Marilyn Espino

Anti-Robbin Device – Vicky Linkous

5 frames with Foundation – Ron Honaker

Next meeting: February 24, 2022 6:30 p.m. Wytheville Community College room 122 Smyth Hall.

Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Armentrout, MEBA Secretary