

Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association
June 27, 2017 Minutes

President Dale Hill opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. welcoming all old members and new members alike.

Dale asked if everybody is receiving minutes and directed all new members wanting to receive them via email to pass their contact information on to the Secretary.

The Treasurer's report was given by Debi Love. A balance carried forward from May was \$1732.39. Dues received totaled \$32.00. \$230.00 received for t-shirt orders. A check to Christine's for \$455.96 and a check to ISBA for \$20.00. Leaving a balance of \$1518.43.

A motion was made, and carried to accept the Minutes and Treasurer's Report.

Dale thanked all who attended and helped with the Illinois State Beekeepers Associations Annual Summer Meeting held in Quincy and hosted by the Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association. He stated that with the costs incurred from the event, it was unfortunate that we were short of breaking even for those costs. ISBA will cover that expense. Dadant also donated an extractor to raffle off. It turned out to be a 6 frame instead of a 4 frame, like they planned. Approximately \$400.00 was raised from the raffle tickets. A considerable bargain for one lucky attendant. Over-all, responses to what was most liked about the ISBA Summer Meeting, "location and an available hive set-up" were popular.

Dale talked a little about some of the guests at the Summer Meeting and that the topic of varying treatments for European Foul Brood becoming quite controversial among some of the attendees & speakers. This opened the door for several present members who also attended the Summer Meeting, to begin sharing opinions about why the topic became a bit heated. Different demographics showing increased problems, such as the St. Louis area and near the river were one possibility suggested for why one inspector insisted on treating a certain way and why another in a different area (where there are fewer records of the problem) wanted to try other treatments consideration. Regardless; most beekeepers agree that it is a deadly disease that needs vigilance.

Bernie reminded members not to confuse American Foul Brood with European Foul Brood and that there is no safe treatment for AFB except to dig a hole in the ground and burn the whole hive, then bury it. EFB can be treated, but needs to be done in succession with still no guarantees; because although a beekeeper may think he/she has it under control, the spores however, can still somehow continue to survive which will lead to treatment every year.

Question: How is AFB spread?

Answers: Various theories expressed around the room, but mainly because it is a spore. Spores can migrate by way of human transportation, on equipment, possibly plants, the wind, etc.

(Defined in The Merriam-Webster Dictionary;

Spores are a primitive one-celled often environmentally resistant dormant or reproductive body produced by plants and some microorganisms.

The collaborative efforts of the HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION is an invaluable source of information. Dale adamantly advised that members take advantage of the documentation available for their own education in becoming more responsible in their own part as a beekeeper toward the health and well-being of all of our honeybees. <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/>

Bernie is now a Illinois State Inspector for Beekeepers and offers that if anyone wants their hives inspected they can call him to set up a time.

The Lake Gazette newspaper sent a bill to the club for an ad that was placed without any confirmation to do so. An inquiry at the first of the year was made about the cost of placing an ad in the paper for our New Beekeeper's Class. The newspaper's advertising department emailed a sample for approval. The sample was immediately declined with not only an explanation about an image which they included, (being none other than a hornet), but a needed discussion within our group before any commitments could be made because of the questionable cost quoted. Dale, Guy, Tim and I discussed this at our instructor's meeting in early Feb., and all agreed that the cost was too high. Apparently they ran the ad anyway. I have copies of all correspondence and no one ever gave the paper approval to run the ad. The last time the ad department manager replied to my questioning to clear this matter up, she offered to credit our account for one of the two ads. This brought the total down to \$21.63. Dale suggested that because the ad may have potentially brought attention to the class, we should settle with the lesser amount if that's as good as the offer gets. A motion was made, seconded and carried for me to follow up with this matter to resolve.

LeAnn has been diligently working on getting everything involved in the transferral of the mvbee.com website. The cost proposed was \$144.00 for three years worth of hosting. A motion was made to accept the cost and get everything up and running as well as to set up an e-mail account. Motion accepted.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MVBA Family Picnic will be August 29th in association with our monthly meeting. Dale will check on reservations to either Bob Mays Park or Reservoir Park as in the past. This is a family event and members need to bring their own family's tableware, a side dish and a dessert. The club provides the chicken and the drinks. A head-count will be needed prior, so enough chicken can be ordered in time.

Adams County Fair: Wednesday July 26th through Tuesday August 1, 2017

Those wanting to enter their honey can find the guidelines and entry forms on the following website.
<http://www.adamsfair.org/be-an-exhibitor.html>

Illinois State Fair: August 10th through August 20th, 2017.

Dale has signed up the Mississippi Valley Beekeepers to man the Beekeeper's booth and sell Honey Ice Cream on Sunday August 13th. This will be the day all Veterans get into the fair free of admission fee. Let Dale know if you are planning to attend.

Dale's wife, Judy was ill and in the hospital for observation. We are all hoping for a very speedy recover and prayers are being sent. Dale excused himself early and left the floor to Guy and LeAnn.

Guy held an educational session on how to extract honey. The demonstration included, blowing or brushing bees off of frames. How to check for moisture in a frame not completely capped. Tools to use, such as: a heated un-capping knife and capping scratchers, various tubs and containers to collect cappings into, strainers. Putting frames into the extractor and the extracting process. Many new members enjoyed learning and practicing un-capping and taking turns spinning a manual extractor.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30

Next Monthly Meeting: July 25th, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina McClelland, MVBA Secretary