

Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association May, 2017 Minutes

President, Dale Hill called the meeting to order near 7:00 pm. 37 members present.

A congratulatory high-praise went to Bernie for Andrew Honey Farm getting featured on the Cover of the June 2017 issue of Adams Outlet (a monthly publication from Adam's Electric Cooperative) as well as a two-page well written article by Laura Bergman.

Review of Minutes: a couple members have not received prior monthly Minutes. One will check her spam folder and the other has been viewing them on mvbees.com. With the internet being used as a valuable tool for many, and the fact that our website includes important information and events, (such as our club hosting the upcoming State Meeting) and links to and from other pertinent Beekeeping websites, it was with great regret that I had to point out that the mvbees.com domain had recently expired. LeAnn had received a message from the former webmaster about the website a while ago and although she and Club Officers did have small discussion as to what to do, this month's meeting forced us into a proper group discussion as whether a website should be kept or not. The group as a whole came to a consensus, with all in favor of keeping the website. It was then decided that LeAnn would see about getting the Domain & Website transferred and paid for as needed, which the club will reimburse. I agreed to continue maintaining and uploading content as I have done now for three years. An appreciative recognition for my efforts was voiced by members ending with a round of applause. Thank you, all. Those willing to help with any web-work or social media postings are welcome to so so in the effort of promoting MVBA or beekeeping in general.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Debi Love reported that after dues of \$16.00 with \$10.00 going to ISBA and a reimbursement made to Chris Furness (sponsorship) of \$125.00 for package bees, the Balance in the Treasury is \$1732.39. A motion was made and the Treasurer's report was accepted.

Old & New Business: 2017 ISBA Annual Summer Meeting, MVBA is hosting here in Quincy on Saturday, June 10th, 2017. It will be at the Quality Inn Conference Center, 201 S. 3rd St. Quincy, IL 62301.

President Dale would like to see a tremendous turn-out of people for this event, not just for the travel expense and total costs of the presentations required for the guest speakers but as an excellent representation of Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Association. It was encouraged that everyone wear the new Mississippi Valley T-shirts as it will make the club members more cohesive.

Debi & I approved the final color/design and placed the t-shirt order with Christine's. They are supposed to be completed by the 2nd of June. It was discussed as to when to pay for the shirts as many wanted to pay now, rather than later. Debi took payments. A motion was made for the club to pay any due taxes as there was no final cost; only a quoted price of \$12.00 per shirt with \$2.00 added for every size of 2XL and over. Motion was seconded and approved.

Member Hospitality Tasks are as follows: Help with, Set-up, including helping vendors & speakers carry in items, Check-in and Walk-in Registrations, people to direct (toward lunch line, restrooms, vendors, etc), Hive set-up at Edgewater Park, Clean-up and whatever needs done. Many members have generously offered in these areas, but whomever is available is welcome. 7:30 a.m. is an agreeable time to arrive for those able to help.

Dale gave a great presentation on swarming and what triggers swarming. A few of the points made: Breaking the Mite Cycle; Swarming being good for the natural behavior of honey bees, not always so good for the beekeeper if the swarm is yours; Pre-swarm activities such as, communication and the excitement of the workers, forcing the queen to exercise by chasing her around to help her to become stronger for her flight and restricting her diet; Queen cells near the center of the hive for warmth and protection; Sub-families within a swarm & in colonies; Often the best colonies tend to swarm because of the density inside the hive. Adding supers is one way to help. Other ways for swarm management, splits, destroying Q-cells, moving frames or frame manipulation, swapping boxes. Dale suggests reading "Honeybee Democracy" by Thomas D. Seeley. Also an article in the American Bee Journal about absconding.

Question: can there be different genetics in a colony? Answer: yes, there are often sub-families within a swarm and within a colony.

Question: when is the best time to swap boxes? Answer: in the middle of the day when most of the foragers are out.

The club is very pleased to hear Dale announce that some "old guy" has become the new West Central District Inspector and his name is Mr. Bernie Andrew.

Bernie took a humble bow and gave his phone number as BR549! (for any of you youngins it was from a classic American television series Hee Haw. An impersonation by comedian Junior Samples who played a second-hand car trader who (unsuccessfully) attempted to seduce potential buyers to call him at BR-549.

Bernie will be helping with registering hives, answering health questions and visiting apiaries and bee yards in our area.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina McClelland, MVBA Secretary