

**Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association  
Executive Board Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, November 16, 2022  
Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds



<b>Board Attendance:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Denzil St. Clair, President	X	
Mike Stark, Vice President	X	
Sarah Alonso, Secretary	X	
Brenda Theurer, Treasurer	X	
Phil, Bartosh, Past President	X	
Laura Brown	X	
Joe Petrek	X	
<b>Quorum Established</b>		

<b>Guests</b>
Tom Kennish
Shelia St. Clair
Michael Alonso
Mrs. Petrek
Paul Nickerson
Ellie

**Meting officially called to order at 6:34pm**

**Treasurer Report**

**Brenda Theurer**

- a. On October 1, 2022, 13 people attended GCBA’s first October beekeeping overview class, “So you think you want to be a Beekeeper?” Our current membership count is 98 members
- b. Ms. Theurer reviewed the financial statement that includes \$9,062.03 in savings, which is on a variable rate. Because of the variable rate, GCBA’s current savings is \$9,062.19. There were two checks written in October that are still outstanding in the current report. Ms. Theurer provided a list of checks that have cleared since the last bank statement. There was a total of \$1,267 in check written since the last report.
- c. Ms. Theurer recently discovered the bank service fee for accounts over \$10,000 has changed to accounts over \$25,000. She was unaware of this changed and spoke to a representative at the bank. The bank rep waived the September fee for GCBA. Ms. Theurer also learned that GCBA was not listed as a 503(c)(3) in the bank’s records. She was able to provide the proper paperwork to have the bank records corrected. The Club now as a new standard business checking account.
- d. Deposits were reviewed with a total of \$1,063 being deposited in the checking account giving GCBA a total of \$1,308.65.

**Motion to Approve Treasurer Report**

Motion: Mike Stark; Seconded by: Phil Bartosh

**Motion passes unanimously**

## **Appointment to Fill Vacancies**

**Denzil St. Clair**

- a. Mr. St. Clair stated that he would like a board member to place a motion on the table to appoint Sarah Alonso as the new GCBA Secretary moving forward since Shannon Warder has resigned from the roll. Ms. Theurer stated that Ms. Alonso could not move into the role for the next term because other new members have not been voted in. Mr. St. Clair agreed and asked for a new motion appointing Ms. Alonso for the remainder of Ms. Warder's term. Mr. Petrek stated that he would make the motion.

## **Motion to Approve Appointment of Ms. Alonso to GCBA Secretary for the remainder of the Board Term (November and December 2022)**

Motion: Joe Petrek; Seconded by: Laura Brown

**Motion passes**

## **Membership Meeting Topics for 2023**

**Denzil St. Clair**

- a. Mr. St. Clair open the floor for board members to bring ideas for topics to be presented in upcoming membership meetings. The following topics were discussed as possible presentation ideas:
  - a. Ms. Theurer suggested a hive necropsy at the April or May meeting. Mr. St. Clair agreed that the hives in the bee yard were not going to survive the winter and would be good examples for the membership.
  - b. Mr. Alonso suggested at a few meetings per year, providing two different topics—one for beginner beekeepers, and one for experienced beekeepers. This way there is something for all levels.
  - c. Mr. Kennish suggested reviewing the Fair entry requirements, and what the judges look for in items entered. Mr. St. Clair also suggested that a Fair table be set up at membership meeting specifically to provide information on the Fair and answer membership questions. Mr. Kennish agreed and suggested also carving out a section of the newsletter to be dedicated to Fair information.
    - i. Mrs. St. Clair agreed to help at the table and answer membership questions. However she but does not want to be in charge of the setup of the table.
    - ii. There was brief discussion on the current Fair requirement booklet and what the board thought could be added going into next fair season.
  - d. Other topics suggested by the board:
    - i. Speaker Dan Zikursh on mead making
    - ii. Jan or February—reclaiming wax, wax cappings, cleaning wax, processing, and candle making. This presentation would require molds and all related equipment
      1. This topic could expand to lotions, lip balm, and soap.
    - iii. Demonstration on all three types of mite treatment, oxalic acid, formic pro, and vapor. Mr. Bartosh stated the Club needs to hammer down proper use of formic pro. Every

year he visits beekeepers that lose bees due to improper use. Mr. Alonso suggested showing a video on proper ways to treat hives before going out into the bee yard to treat.

- iv. The Club could also ask Ton Nolan to speak on formic pro since he is a sales rep for the company.
- v. Installation of bees into the new hives in the GCBA bee yard. The bees will be donated to the Club.
- vi. Demonstrations in the bee yard ranging from queen rearing to what new members should be seeing in a healthy hive during inspections. Topics in the yard could also include splits, swarm control, and queen evaluation.
- vii. At the beginning of each meeting, providing a short (10-15 min.) overview of what members should be doing with their hive for the upcoming month. This could also include a short personal story or experience from a board member or other willing participant. Also asking membership what topics they would like to know more about or if they would like to present at an upcoming meeting.
- viii. A request for volunteers to help maintain the bee yard through preparing boxes and frames as well as maintaining the flowerbeds, and lawn.
- ix. June—Membership Picnic and May—World Bee Day

### **Oversight of the Bee Yard**

**Denzil St. Clair**

- a. Mr. St. Clair reminded the board members that ownership of the bee yard and the hives has been given to GCBA. It is now the responsibility of the Club to recruit volunteers to maintain the grounds and the hives. Mrs. St. Clair stated the November membership meeting she spoke to a few members that were willing to help, specifically Eric Mathney and Mike Alonso. Mr. Petrek, Mr. Nickerson, and Ellie stated that they are willing to volunteer their time to maintain the yard.
- b. Mrs. St. Clair suggested that during the 2023 meeting members, who are willing to help, arrive at 6pm the days of membership meeting to work in yard. Doors would still open at 6:30 for the meeting.

### **Beginner Beekeeping Classes**

**Denzil St. Clair**

- a. The use of Beekeeping for Dummies should still be used as a guidebook for new beekeepers. The Club still has a few copies that can be given out, but will need to order more before the classes.
- b. Mr. Kennish volunteer to teach a classes during the four-week course. It was also suggested to reach out to specific members to present topics.

### **World Bee Day**

**Shelia St. Clair**

- a. Education on World Bee Day has already begun. Mrs. St. Clair shared that students at various schools around the city have started lessons around honeybee. Volunteers have been going into the schools to

present on honeybees and their importance in the environment. GCBA had six volunteers that went into schools, which Mrs. St. Clair thought was a testament to the Club's dedication to spreading the word about honeybees.

- b. Mrs. St. Clair explained that on May 19, 2023, the students participating in World Bee Day will be bussed to the Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds to participate in activities and discussions surrounding honeybees. The Club should plan for adults to be in the bee yard for demonstrations.
- c. It was suggested the Club purchase "ezpry" for the new hives as to minimize damage to the new equipment.

#### **Newsletter Editor**

**Denzil St. Clair**

- a. Michelle Killen-Keith has resigned as the newsletter editor. Mr. St. Clair suggested asking the membership if anyone would like to volunteer to fill the vacancy. If no one is interested, the Club could ask Katherine to fill in for the short term.
- b. Ms. Theurer stated that when the Club changed websites Rick was taken off the swarm list. We will need get him back on the list. As well, she stated the bill for the Fair premiums has not been received and she is unaware of how much we will owe. Ms. Theurer asked is she should place a motion on the table to pay the bill when is received. Mr. St. Clair stated, the board already approved payment of the bill. The bill is for photography and promotion of the event.

#### **Christmas Party**

**Denzil St. Clair**

- a. Mr. St. Clair asked what the plan is for the annual Christmas Party. Ellie stated that she and Ms. Petrek were already in the midst of planning the event. Ellie stated that the event will be similar to part Christmas Parties with the Club providing the meat and membership bringing the sides to chare.
- b. Mr. Kennish and Mr. St. Clair suggested corn hole and turkey bowl for party games with prizes for the winners. Mr. Petrek stated that he has a few prizes that he could contribute such as beekeeping gloves, cozies, and mead. Mrs. St. Clair has suggested a gift certificate to Queen Right. Ms. Theurer suggested a year membership to GCBA.
- c. Ellie stated that she will buy the ham for the meal and will back the Club and Mrs. St. Clair stated that she will make chicken fingers. Ellie and Ms. Petrek will need to purchase plates, tableware, and table clothes. Ms. Theurer asked Ellie about a budget for the event and it was decided that the items should cost no more than \$200.
- d. Mr. St. Clair stated that we will get the email list of membership and will send out an announcement.

#### **Motion to approve \$200 Budget for the Annual Christmas Party**

Motion: Joe Petrek Seconded: Phil Bartosh

**Motion Passes**

**Motion to Adjourn at 7:53pm**

Motion: Mike Stark Seconded: Joe Petrek

**Motion Passes**

Next Regular Board Meeting Scheduled  
**Wednesday, December 21, 2022**  
**Cuyahoga County Fair Ground**