

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION,
AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION
HELD ON March 30, 2019

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA), an Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation, was held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Officers and Directors present: Corky Schnadt, David Nellis, Charity Davis-Woodard, Steve Petrilli, Bryan Miller, Rich Ramsey, Larry Krengel

The members in attendance constituted a quorum of the Directors of the Association.

Treasurer's Report

Corky thanked everyone for their time and the meeting began with the Treasurer's Report dated March 26, 2019 which David had emailed everyone on March 28. A question was raised about the -\$110.00 listed under State Fair Ice Cream Sales. David explained he thought it was for a bill that came in after the previous Treasurer's Report in October but that he would ask his predecessor (Rose) and report back to the Board. A motion was made and seconded to accept the current Treasurer's Report and unanimously approved.

Summer Meeting

-Larry has kept the Board well informed through emails as plans for the meeting developed over the past several months. He reports that all seems ready for registration to begin on April 11. People will need to pay with a credit card through the online system used by hosting Institution (McHenry County College). The link will be sent to all the associations and to members for whom we have email addresses. The link will also be posted on our website. All information will go out a few days before the online system for registration goes "live" on April 11. For those members lacking internet access a number for them to call was given in the most recent Bulletin. This will connect them with a coordinator at the college who will help them get registered. They will need to use a credit card to register. On-site registration on Saturday will also be possible for a \$5 surcharge. A lot of this information was included in the most recent Bulletin.

-Questions were raised about using PayPal or another online payment system in the future through the ISBA website and Steve reviewed the issue of setting up a separate bank account to accommodate this method of payment. He and David will be working toward setting this up for ISBA.

-Larry requested help in finding queen-breeders from south and central Illinois to participate in the Friday evening Local Queen Breeders discussion group. He also asked Board members to let him know if they want to be in one of the short courses since registration is not required of them.

-Corky asked Steve for membership figures. Including those who had paid in 2018 and paid members to date in 2019 the total is around 1700. These numbers are in constant flux because of ongoing renewals. Discussion ensued of

changing the calendar year for membership to November-October (same as fiscal year), rather than the current practice of accepting memberships through the end of March for the current year. Pros and cons were offered (members who spend the winter in warmer climates would not miss the Spring Bulletin; most local associations operate on a January-December membership year). Corky will add a continuation of this discussion to the agenda for the May Board meeting.

Moving the Fall Meeting date

Changing the date would require a change to the Constitution by member vote at the November 2019 meeting. If held later in the year may run into bad weather and earlier options conflict with other meetings or events for the primary organizers of the meeting and other essential members who work hard to make the meeting run smoothly. No motion was made to change the date from its current status as printed in the ISBA Constitution as the second Saturday in November.

Bulletin

-Marianne has set a May 1st deadline for receipt of items for the next issue. She is asking for an article highlighting a club from the central or southern part of the state as two northern Illinois clubs have already been featured in recent issues.
-Corky asked that a pie-chart be included in the next Bulletin showing where ISBA's funding comes from and how the money is spent. David (Treasurer) will take care of this. Members have inquired about ISBA's finances and this will be a way to make our accounts transparent to the membership.

Improving attendance at member meetings/connecting with younger beekeepers

A lively discussion took place covering various social media options including Google Group, Facebook, Instagram. Board members relayed their experiences with clubs trying to encourage young beekeepers. For example, NIBA donated bees and equipment but the difficulty was sustaining interest over time. Rich and others talked about classes and events they have been involved with that were co-sponsored by entities like local Farm Bureau Co-ops and a Beekeepers Club, such as Ag in the Classroom, Ag Stravaganza, and A Day in the Country. - Observation hives can be a great way to introduce honey bees at these events and hopefully inspire future beekeepers.
-The Board will try to hold a Zoom meeting in the near future to discuss social media options further.

Discussion with Department of Ag and U. of I.

Corky wants to encourage more involvement between ISBA and both of these groups. Adam Dolezal's Research Lab at U. of I. is currently heavily involved in the Illinois Monitoring Project with the goal of collecting inspection data from hives to record very specific data including varroa mite presence. Both IL State Apiary Inspectors and private beekeepers will collect the data on certain hives consistently each month over a 5 month period (June – October). One important piece of recorded information will be hive weight, and in order to help the State Apiary Inspectors with this aspect the Board agreed to contribute up to \$700 toward the purchase of scales. It was suggested that we ask for a nameplate be

attached to each scale to recognize this contribution from ISBA members. David Nellis made a motion to give up to \$700 to the Adam Dolezal Research Lab at U. of I. toward the purchase of scales. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Corky has designated several committees to address specific needs. *The Meeting and Speakers Committee* will secure the speakers for the meetings (with the approval of the President) and help the local hosting beekeepers club organize the Summer and Fall meetings. The goal is to provide guidance and assistance to achieve consistent results no matter where the meeting is held. Before now there have been no guidelines for the local club to follow or a designated ISBA member responsible to call on for assistance.

Corky has also formed a *Finances Committee* to deal with issues such as establishing an online payment system for ISBA. He would also like to have an *Awards Committee* to gather nominations for current awards and to consider other possible awards as the need arises.

Insurance Update

ISBA now has Directors and Officers insurance to protect them in case of a lawsuit against the Association. Liability insurance is available to affiliated clubs for temporary events to protect members involved in those events from being sued. The cost for the liability insurance went down almost \$1000 this year but some of that savings went to pay for the D and O insurance.

Fall Meeting

Nothing has changed with the speakers for the Fall Meeting (Wilbanks and Reuters still on). Adam Dolezal will also give a presentation. Rich requests that a Clean-Up Committee be designated to help at the end of the meeting so the work-load doesn't entirely land on the same people who do all the organizing and set-up. Maybe even have a sign-up sheet at the Registration table.

Awards

The description of the Beekeeper of the Year Award will be printed in the next Bulletin and may include the form required to submit a nomination. Rich and Steve will put this together.

-Corky proposes that ISBA give Steve Chard an award this year for Outstanding Leadership for all his years of helping the Association. Corky states that Steve frequently acted ahead of an actual need to preempt a problem and was always there when asked for help. Corky would like to establish an award in Steve's name to be given to anyone demonstrating outstanding leadership in the interest of helping honey bees in Illinois. A motion was made and seconded to establish the Steve Chard Award for Outstanding Leadership. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

ISBA Logo

The Board agreed to keep the original logo (skep) as the official one but also to use the newer one (with State of Illinois) as an additional identifying emblem.

State Fair

Rich will write up a list of all the operational procedures that he has taken care of for a long time. The Association rents a 14' x 30' space for the Honey Show and Ice Cream Sales. The rent in 2018 was \$975. Members who help in the booth for ½ day get free admission to the fair and free parking.

ABF

Corky talked with Tim May about the Association sponsoring a break or some other way of helping to support the 2020 conference in our name. The President of ISBA will give the opening remarks.

Region Reports – need to have more contact with affiliate associations

Bryan had a good visit with the Lincoln Land club. Larry said that Joe Davies County has a large population of beekeepers but no club. ISBA could give them some encouragement to start one. Will County Beekeepers left ISBA in 2016. Bryan and Larry will visit them and Steve will provide a list of former Will Co. members. Illinois Valley Beekeepers left in 2017 but they are back. Heart of Illinois Beekeepers dropped out of ISBA.

One item added to Agenda:

Larry reports that HB1379 has been placed on the calendar for the 2nd reading. It involves tax relief for having honey bees on your property and requires that you show you have made money from the bees.

The next board meeting will be held via Zoom on May 30, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The following meeting will be held the last week of August.

Motion made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m., March 30, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charity Davis-Woodard, Secretary