

## **VSBA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – 8/26/2017**

In attendance, Rusty Foltz (President), Martha Kiene (First Vice President), Deb Parker (Second Vice President), Ian Henry (Treasurer), Keith Tignor (Virginia State Apiculturist)

Meeting was called to order by Rusty Foltz at 9 AM.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

First order of business was for everyone to introduce themselves and share some information about themselves.

Next were Opening Remarks by Rusty – started first year with great expectations of changes to be made to improve a number of areas of VSBA. Reality and a learning curve set in and it's taken most of the year to learn about the job and the organization. One of the significant results is the ongoing development of a President's Handbook, in order that a new President will have a lot of the information that the President has had to learn, will now be at the fingertips of a new and succeeding Presidents. Another item has is developing is a collection of information that is separated into folders and organized in a bin that will make physical retrieval much easier for incoming people. He also noted that clubs (members) seem to be opting out and wanted to discuss ways we can find to help stem that and get back to growth. Some comments relative to that were, "as a state we can do better than that", that we can use today as an idea "dump" and try to focus on one to a few that we can do well, we need to plug in and re-energize the Regional Reps to help in this area (we can divide up the reps for regular contact).

Next was a discussion of who has what plans for a future with the VSBA ie other positions, "moving up the ladder", leaving, etc, Ian was quick to say that he's very happy right where he is and has no interest in anything but Treasurer. Bruce then stated he'd be happy to serve where needed, but being so new, he'd like to get some time under his belt before considering any other position (that was affirmed by Martha and Deb on a global basis). Martha's willing to take over the Presidency, but is concerned about a possible move to Alabama that is undetermined time wise. Deb is willing to move to First VP or Presidency if needed. Some discussion ensued about how one moves up the ladder; no conclusion was drawn.

Brief discussion followed about why people become VSBAers (that's my word, lol) and it is either social and/or education.

Rusty then provided all with a VSBA Event Time Line for us to look over and use as needed, make comments on, etc.

After brief discussion about information on clubs, Martha volunteered to call all 42 and get up to date data.

The next topic was our committees and who was willing to oversee each one, Legislative – currently run by only Laney (sp?) Ballard. Rusty will work with him.

Master Beekeeper – it was decided to put this committee under the newly created Education Committee.

Newsletter – currently handled by Anne Zudekoff (sp?) and Keith Tignor. Deb will oversee that and work with Anne.

Regional Reps – Bruce and Rusty will work together on this group.

Education – Martha will oversee this and the one-man (sub?) committee of Master Beekeeper currently being directed by Frank Walker.

Nominating – Rusty will handle this.

Meeting – Deb runs this committee with help from Pam Fisher and Bruce.

Next up was the VA State Fair – discussion and descriptions primarily provided by Keith about the honey education portion, the honey sales and the farmer's market aspect of honey sales. Descriptions of what happens and who is responsible were provided by Keith.

Web Site – Ian pointed out how out of date much of the information on the site is. Others agreed. Rusty will contact Christina ?, who introduced herself to him at EAS and said she is willing to help in this area. More to follow here.

## UPDATES & REPORTS

Rusty shared an update on the Articles of Incorporation as he handed the appropriate paperwork to Ian for signature and mailing. Now the wait begins. Rusty also shared that the vote on changing the bylaws was 3-2 against doing that in advance of the next meeting of all members. He and Deb felt very strongly that we will not have a problem achieving a quorum at our November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, thus we'll vote then.

Meeting Committee – Deb – Deb takes care of the vendors. Bruce and Pam will be the speaker hunters. Becky does the registration.

The Spring 2018 meeting will be held at Roanoke College on June 15-16. It needs special planning as it celebrates our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization. No speakers secured at this point.

Fall 2018 meeting will be at Blue Ridge Community College, dates TBD.

No 2019 meetings established yet. Talk of moving the Fall Meeting to Waynesboro. Consideration was also given to using the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center in the future.

Treasurer's Report – checking account \$20,490.92. There is about \$30,000 total in 3 CDs, the last one maturing in mid-2018.

Discussion followed about our insurance program for D & O and Liability. Ian shared that \$1,505 per year is currently spent on those 2 policies (D & O, \$750; Liability, \$755). Martha and Ian will check with some companies to see if we can get a better rate. We chatted about swarm information and how it is disseminated.

## NEW BUSINESS

Bruce will contact Kelsey Mitchell regards her request for beekeeper information and let her know we'll put an article in the newsletter with her contact info.

Brief discussion of collection of historical information.

Rusty shared a list of possible questions for a new survey. Discussion ensued about survey engines.

Martha shared she'd like to see have some kind of scholarship program. Everyone seemed to agree and shared different thoughts on how many, how much and so on. No conclusion was drawn.

Bruce shared a desire to establish a program something like the NCSBA GAP Program, which encourages clubs to earn points through various activities, the goal being to become the Best Club in the state. See Attachments for a copy.

Keith shared about Growing Degree Days and how we might be able to help members with scales partially paid for or donated.

Additionally, Bruce shared an interest in having all the Commonwealth inspectors speak at a VSBA meeting and couldn't VSBA find a way to cover their travel and meals. Most members of the EC concluded that maybe 1-2 inspectors would be enough to sate the thirst for information of the members.

Bruce also shared about the Massachusetts Field Day – an annual event held at a UMass property where Mass. beekeepers put on demos of various skills beekeepers may be interested in learning more hands on than a classroom. Keith spoke to the possibility of tying it together with Honeybee Day, Pollinator Week or Honey Month. Bruce will get info from MBA on the program to share with the EC.

The meeting was dismissed at 12:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Hamon, Secretary  
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