

Commercial Presentations at Membership Meetings

(Adopted November 2016)

Background

OCBA was approached by a representative of a company that markets plastic bee hives. The representative offered to make a presentation to OCBA members to familiarize them with her product.

The Executive Committee discussed the advisability of having vendors make presentations to our membership. Considerations included:

- 1) OCBA exists to educate its membership and the public about beekeeping. Given the limited number of meetings that OCBA has each year there is too little time now to effectively cover as many "pure" beekeeping topics as we'd like. Vendor presentations would detract from that mission.
- 2) OCBA meetings are typically 2 hours long. This would limit presenters to 3 or 4 vendors at most at a single meeting. It would be unfair to other vendors if some were offered an opportunity to present their wares while others were not given an equal opportunity.
- 3) OCBA's education mission requires an open, honest discussion of all aspects of beekeeping equipment. It would be awkward to publicly question a guest presenter about the flaws/failures of their product during their presentation. Moreover, OCBA's silence could be construed as an endorsement of the product.

Based on these considerations the OCBA Executive Committee adopted an OCBA policy to decline all commercial presentations from vendors of beekeeping equipment. OCBA officers and directors will instead encourage OCBA members to attend the spring and summer NCSBA Conferences where they can personally evaluate beekeeping equipment presented at the vendor booths. This policy encourages NCSBA Conference attendance by OCBA members and supports vendor booth revenue for NCSBA.