

OCBA Meeting Minutes, August 13, 2020

Cynthia Speed, Secretary

Celeste Mayer, president and Carrie Donley, vice president set up OCBA's virtual meeting for August using zoom video conferencing. At least 44 participants tuned in and the meeting was recorded for future viewing.

Celeste opened the meeting and turned it over to Carrie who welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers. The agenda followed the same order as last month with the speakers presenting first, followed by the business meeting. The always fun and popular, "Ask the Experts" involves three panelists, all Master Beekeepers, who take questions from the audience and provide feedback and lead discussions on various topics. Master Beekeepers, Randall Austin, Chris Apple, and David Eckert provided a total of 36 years of beekeeping experience.

Questions ranged from how to keep SHB in check to how to handle and sustain a new swarm. Lots of information was shared including how to recognize and stop a robbing event, how to prevent wax moth damage and preserve comb, the pros and cons of using Para Moth, and ventilation during varroa treatment.

One question that come up involved the availability of certified testing for this year's Bee School class. Randall who is OCBA's Education Coordinator is looking at possible solutions that would involve minimal health risks. He reminded everyone that after passing the written, one must pass a practical test administered by at least a Certified Level beekeeper. Four months of beekeeping experience is required prior to taking the practical test.

Bee School planning is underway now. It will most likely be virtual at a reduced cost and charged per computer connection since class space is not needed. Please send any ideas of how this could materialize to Randall.

Celeste gave us details on a new position approved by the board: Membership director. This person would keep track of new and old members, welcome new members to the meetings, and add them to the list serv. Mary Ann Rhyne and Wayne Vanderburg were selected.

Celeste declared our new website live!! She displayed via power point, some key features such as the redesign story written by Randall on the Home Page; the OCBA swag on the Membership page; the dynamic calendar on the Events page; education provided by OCBA on the Education page; and what's in bloom on the Resources page. She recognized the Website Redesign team of Carrie Donley, Maribeth Hamilton, Karen Lauterbach, Celeste Mayer, Amy Stern, Erika Wittchen, and Rob Zelt. Loren Pease and Melissa Hudgens designed the logo.

Carrie modeled a new t-shirt brandishing our new logo and encouraged everyone to check out OCBA's SWAG. You can place individual orders, to pick up or ship, for a t-shirt, cap, or tote bag in a choice of colors and sizes and not have to wait for a batch order. Check it out at OCBA SWAG under the Membership tab.

Celeste mentioned that we have received an exciting invitation. More details will be revealed on the list serv.

Carrie has reserved Dr. Elina Nino from the University of California at Davis for our September speaker!