



General Membership Meeting Agenda

July 8, 2022

6:30 pm – Networking, 7:00 pm Meeting

1. Call to Order (Virginia Spitale)
2. Pledge of Allegiance (Virginia Spitale)
3. Moment of Silence – Leigh Lydecker
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurer Report + Audit Committee (Lew Goldberg + Brian Haluska): Lew reported that on May 1st our balance was \$22,339.28. A deposit of \$401.00, dues and the 50/50 was made along with a debit of \$4,134.18 which brought the balance to \$18,606.10 at the end of May. In June a deposit of \$1,284.00 was made to bring the balance to \$19,890.00. Lew also mentioned that we received a very generous donation of \$250.00 from Sarah Aspe. She has previously donated T-Shirts, Sweatshirts and funds to CJBA. Angela sent her an acknowledgement for her generosity.
 - b. Education Committee + Upcoming Events: Jeff Burd reported that a fall Beekeeping Course (east) will be offered at Gene Armstrong's Business in Neptune on September 10th and September 24th. A course will be offered in the Spring for west NJ. The cost will be \$125 which includes the book and powerpoint (no food) and \$150 (with food).
 - c. Fair Chair + Monmouth County Fair + Fall Events (Thompson's Park; Food Truck Oak Tree Lodge) (Geff Vitale): The Monmouth County Fair will be held July 27 – 31. CJBA will set up a booth in the Home and Garden Tent. Honey, honey sticks, hand cream, lip balm and candles will be sold. Geff will need bees for the observation hive and bee booth. He also needs honey contributions. There will be an online signup for shift work during the fair. Two to four people will be needed for each shift. Volunteers will be given fair passes and a CJBA shirt. Birds, Bugs and Beyond will be held on October 8th. This is organized by the Master Gardeners and Angela will run the event. We will also be participating in Thompson Park Day on Sunday, October 16th. Geff will send out a signup for this one day event. Oak Tree Lodge will be hosting a Food Truck event during Columbus Day weekend. CJBA will be participating in this two day

event. A deposit was made for next year's Family Bee Day Picnic at Oak Tree Lodge.

- d. Membership Committee (Ray Pogwist + Catherine Wetzell): Virginia welcomed Ray Pogwist as part of the membership committee. Ray will continue to coordinate the extractor for CJBA members.
 - e. Social Media Committee + Introduction of Private Facebook Group for CJBA Members Only (Danielle Garske): Danielle has created a private group for CJBA members on Facebook as a means to connect and share information, provide feedback, successes and failures. Instagram and the ability to post videos will be investigated in the future.
5. Old Business
- a. Statewide NJBA In-Person Meeting:
Jeff Burd provided information regarding the annual picnic/auction at Bob Hughes home in Yardville on Saturday, August 27th. Volunteers are needed for set up and break down, etc. If you intend to come, bring a chair! The NJBA Fall Meeting, which is sponsored by the Morris-Somerset Branch will be held on October 15th in Basking Ridge (Somerset County). The EAS Conference will be held at Ithaca College on Monday, August 1 to Wednesday, August 3rd (Short Courses) and the main conference will take place from Wednesday, August 3rd to Friday, August 5th. The 2023 EAS conference will be held July 30th to August 5th in Amhurst, Massachusetts. Jeff also suggested that members go to the local county Ag Boards for bee support and consider joining our local county Ag Board which meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (next meeting will be on September 20th).
6. New Business: A Scholarship Fund is forthcoming. Full time students ages 12-22 will be eligible to apply to attend a beekeeping course sponsored by NJBA.
7. Presentation by Farm Bureau's Ed Wengryn: Ed Wengryn has been associated with the Farm Bureau for 23 years. The farm bureau works with associations to establish state regulations in municipalities. The Farm Bureau represents all agricultures including the Blueberry Association, Vegetable Growers Association etc., and handles state wide issues. They are responsible for extending hours for teens during the week and summer and have streamlined this process so that students can register with the Dep't. of Labor and work with verification from the employer instead of verification from a school administrator. The Farm Bureau handles labor issues, wildlife

issues, livestock issues and farmland assessment (use of land to support bees). Ed works closely with the state legislature and strongly suggests that beekeepers introduce themselves and reach out to our state legislators for support. Regarding the Cottage food law: If you are challenged in your sale of honey, let the Farm Bureau know and the Dep't. of Health will amend the rule. The Cottage food law (removing raw honey from the list), has been accepted by the Assembly and must be passed by the Senate. Jeff Burd will send an email to the beekeepers for support when this bipartisan bill (#2697) is presented to the Senate. For a list of state legislators, go to:

www.njleg.state.nj.us. Our state senators will be at the Monmouth County fair (July 27 – 31), in the Ag tent. Stop by and introduce yourself!

A CJBA member expressed his concern about his municipality limiting beekeeping. According to the Right to Farm Act, a municipality cannot prohibit beekeeping and towns cannot pass ordinances to regulate beekeeping. All registered hives are protected by state law.

Ed encouraged beekeepers to become a member of the Farm Bureau.

Among the “perks” of the membership is farm-family insurance (which covers equipment, barns, etc.), car rental, grain delivery, \$500 savings every 5 years, hotel discounts, and others. Thank you Ed, for this informative presentation!

8. Raffle Drawing (50/50 cash prize, donations, new member items): Pete VanMater won the 50/50 drawing which was \$58.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Juffey, CJBA Secretary