Apiary Inspectors of America

2019 AIA Meeting Minutes

States and Provinces represented:

Arizona – Jack Peterson
Delaware – Meghan McConnell
District of Columbia – Natasha Garcia-Andersen
Florida – Brandi Simmons
Indiana – Kathleen Prough
Kentucky – Tammy Horn Potter
Maine – Jennifer Lund
Maryland – Cybil Preston
Massachusetts – Kim Skyrm
Michigan – Mike Hansen
Montana – Alyssa Piccolomini
North Carolina – Don Hopkins
North Dakota – Samantha Brunner
Ohio – Barbara Bloetscher
Pennsylvania – Karen Roccasecca
Tennessee – Mike Studer
Texas – Mary Reed
Utah – Steven Stanko
Vermont – David Tremblay
Virginia – Keith Tignor
Wisconsin – Elizabeth Meil
Alberta – Medhat Nasr

USDA National Survey

- Want to send a letter regarding feedback about the survey.
- Send copy to National Plant Board as well.

AIA Website

- Members only site would include:
- Requirements for beekeepers moving into other states, inspection procedures, informational/fact sheets

Reading of the resolution

- Combined three previous resolutions into one.

Research topics to discuss with AAPA

- Nosema issues
  - Identify a new threshold
  - Test new probiotics to determine how they are impacting Nosema levels
  - Alternative treatment methods
- Viruses
  - Cost of analysis
  - How do the viral results help beekeepers?
  - Is there a way to improve honey bee immune system to manage viral infections
  - Is there a way for a honey bee to overcome a viral infection
- EFB disease characterization
  - Better understand pathogenesis of disease
  - What levels of the disease are damaging to a colony?
- Small hive beetle
  - Are the adults damaging to the colony?
  - What diseases are they transmitting and what impact does it have on at the colony level?
  - Developing a trap for the apiary level
- Tracheal mites
  - TN seeing issues with tracheal mites within the past couple of years – not seeing as many problems this year

Standard Operating Procedures

- Should AIA make a document that is a general overview of SOPs
- Includes the elements of the standard, because there is going to be a variability among states on what they can implement
- Compile database of what each state requires from beekeepers that enter their state. Then develop a general SOP overview
- Provide on AIA website for public access the requirements a beekeeper needs to complete prior to entering the state
- Some concerns on posting the individual state SOPs to the members only part of the AIA website, thus each state is not required to post them
- Committee formed to generate SOP document: Mike Studer, Barb Bloetscher, Kim Skyrm, Brandi Simmons

501c5 status for AIA

- For agricultural organizations
- 501c5 status means:
  - Contributions are not tax deductible
  - No lobbying
  - Can be no profit to the members
- If AIA dissolves, there needs to be an organization in place that will receive all funds within the treasury.
- Suggested that inspectors seek guidance from their respective administrators to avoid any conflicts of interest
- Suggested to establish a committee to seek information from each member state for options of dis-persal of funds if AIA were to dissolve and the constitution will need to change in order to complete the 501c5 application.
- Committee: regional directors work to communicate with their own states. Chair: Keith Tignor

Increasing attendance at the annual meeting

- Develop standard invitation to send out
- Would be useful for directors to send out to states and other organizations
- Purpose and benefit of AIA, meeting details, etc.

Reading of the preceding meeting's minutes

- Suggested that they be provided to all members of AIA, by posting the pdf to the AIA website and sending to listserv.
- Motioned to not read the preceding minutes
- Supported by Steven Stanko, and seconded by Jen Lund

No Secretary report

Treasury report

- $20,615.09 (does not include cost of 2019 meeting)
- Approved and the report was submitted to Secretary

Presidents address

- Represented AIA at Honey Bee Health Coaltion (HBHC) meeting in the spring in California.
- Developed a subgroup to develop the HBHC BMPs and which have been released.
- Attended and represented AIA at the CAPA meeting.

- Represented AIA at the ESA Pollinator field tour in North Dakota.
- Goal: To develop better relationships between growers and beekeepers and develop wild land for pollinators.

Announcement and appointment of committees

- Jennifer Lund will be representing AIA at the National Plant Board meeting.
- Brandi Simmons has been appointed the new Chief Apiary Inspector for Florida.
- Committee was created to establish a 501c5 status for AIA.
    - Chair: Keith Tignor, members: Mike Hansen and the AIA Directors (Kathleen Prough, Mike Studer, Meghan McConnell, Alyssa Piccolomini, Andy Joseph, Paul Kozak).
    - Suggested that a report from the AIA vice president is included in the annual meeting.

Special Committee report

- Sites Committee
    - Barbara Bloetscher, Natasha Garcia-Andersen, Alyssa Piccolomini
    - Suggested to coincide with ABF to follow the typical 3 year rotation of AIA.
    - 2020 meeting in Chicago
    - Motioned to meet with ABF by Don Hopkins, seconded by Kathleen Prough.
    - Motion passes vote.
- **Newsletter Committee**
    - Tammy Horn Potter, Mary Reed, Samantha Brunner, Kim Skyrm
    - Will work to issue a newsletter to AIA on a quarterly basis.
- **Standard Operating Procedures Committee**
    - Chair: Mike Studer, members: Barbara Bloetscher, Kim Skyrm, Brandi Simmons
    - Make a repository on AIA website to post SOPs.
    - All states concerned about posting SOPs can send them directly to Mike Studer.

Report of the Auditing Committee

- Moves to pass the treasury report.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

- Consolidated three previous resolutions into one.
- Read out loud for the second time.
- Motioned to approve by Mike Hansen, seconded by Steven Stanko.
- All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Report of Awards Committee

- Need to go through records to see who is retired or has passed away.
- Awards needed for Dave Westervelt, Kenneth Calcote, Wade Stiltner, Paul Cappy, Medhat Nasr.
- Requested that any change of positions should be notified to AIA, as well as the posting of new inspector position.

Old business

- AIA listserv
- Directors should work to receive state reports from all states in the individual districts prior to the annual meeting.

New business

- Suggested to develop APHIS committee to assist on adjustments need to National Survey project and receive up-dates.
- Need to meet with APHIS first to determine what their needs are exactly.
- AIA representative for HBHC
    - Mary Reed, Jennifer Lund, and AIA President
    - Committee not formed, only appointments.
- Send out a reminder to committees two weeks prior to the annual meeting so there is sufficient time to develop the appropriate reports and updates.
- Send out a reminder prior to meeting about reviewing the AIA constitution.
- Mike Hansen has been added to Nonprofit Committee.
- Request to receive state reports from the states that cannot attend AIA.
    - Directors should work to receive state reports from all states in their designated areas.
- 2020 meeting
    - Requested to adjust the meeting so members can attend talks at the coinciding meetings.
    - Tour day is preferred and would like to keep it included. Optional for states that have limited travel.
    - Meet with ABF in Chicago, January 7-11th, but may be 6th-11th to include a tour day
- Scholarship award
    - Purpose of the award: to provide money to be used for travelling to the ABRC meeting.
    - Should submit an abstract of their work prior to the meeting as part of the application process.
    - Research should be applied research.
    - Must be invited to speak at ABRC meeting.
    - Motion to have the Awards Committee fine tune the submission process. Award $500 for one student.

Report of Nominating Committee

- Election of officers
    - President: Samantha Brunner
    - Vice president: Kim Skyrm
    - Secretary: Mary Reed
    - Treasurer: Keith Tignor
- Directors
    - North: Kathleen Prough
    - South: Mike Studer
    - East: Meghan McConnell
    - West: Alyssa Piccolomini
    - At large: Andy Joseph
    - Canada: Paul Kozak

Motion to dismiss by Steven Stanko, Jennifer Lund seconds.